

# DANBURY REPORTER

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No.

## MOUNT AIRY HAS BAD FIRE

**Dynamite Explosion Wrecks Buildings — Damage Was Around \$165,000—Two People Injured.**

Mt. Airy, Dec. 20.—An explosion of dynamite in the Brannock-Midkiff Hardware Company about 11:30 o'clock Saturday night resulted in the total destruction of the stock of goods and the building occupied by three stores and a restaurant in Mt. Airy's business district, considerable damage to stores located on the opposite side of the street and damage to plate glass windows and window lights for a block away from the scene, on both sides of the street. Total damage is estimated at around \$165,000.

The explosion is said to have occurred when between 50 and 70 sticks of dynamite in the basement of the hardware store exploded. Following the explosion, which tore a great hole thru the main and second floor of the building and thru the roof, fire broke out and destroyed the buildings and stock of goods of the hardware company, the L. R. Martin Grocery Company, Belton Grocery Company and the Busy Bee Cafe. Mt. Airy firemen called aid of the Winston-Salem department and Chief Harry Nissen with a crew of eight men from Company 4, East Winston, including Captain B. H. Peoples, responded. The 45 miles to Mt. Airy from Winston-Salem was made by the Twin-City fire company in less than one hour.

The Mt. Airy fire department fought the stubborn blaze for about 30 minutes before the Winston-Salem company was called. The fire was under control in a short time, the firemen continuing their work, however, until about 5 o'clock Sunday morning. The Winston-Salem department returned to their city a little before 5 o'clock but all thru Sunday a steady stream was being thrown on the smoldering blaze by the Mt. Airy company.

### Damage \$165,000.

The stock of the hardware company was estimated at \$9,000 and damage to the building is estimated at \$50,000. Damage to the extent of about \$1,500 was done to the cafe, including stock and building, about \$45,000 to the stock of the Belton Grocery Company and \$12,000 to the building, while the Martin Grocery Company was damaged to the extent of approximately \$10,000 for stock and \$22,000 for the building.

The building occupied by the hardware company and the Belton Grocery Company was owned by H. Schafer while J. E. Banner and W. G. Sydnor are owners of the building occupied by Martin Grocery and the cafe.

Damage to the extent of about \$1,000 was done to the front of the Parks-Belk Company, located adjoining the hardware store, and damage to windows and fixtures of other stores in the vicinity is estimated at about \$5,000.

Stores on the same side of the street as the hardware store which were damaged when the plate glass windows and window lights were knocked out, include A. Valentine, grocery; G. C. Lovill Company, wholesale; and the Parks-Belk Company, which has two entrances. On the other side of the street damage resulted to W. W. Thomas, grocer; John E. Fuller, market; Stewart Brothers, market; R. C. Poore, grocer; Beasley and Boone, produce; West Hill Company, feed, two entrances; M. Samet, furniture; Davis Plumbing Shop, and Thompson Furniture Company. All establishments on the opposite side of the street, with the exception of the last three mentioned, suffered damage to the interior as well as the

## WORK STARTS ON KING-PILOT ROAD

**Christmas Tree At King Christian Church — Hours For Church Service Changed.**

King, Dec. 20.—The hours for services at the Christian church have been changed to 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. on each fourth Sunday and will be continued through 1927.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Collins spent Sunday with relatives and friends at Mount Airy.

A force of state highway men are here to make repairs on the oil road between here and Pilot Mountain. Another coat of oil will be put on in the early spring.

A. F. Collins is building a new addition to his home on South Depot street.

The King high school defeated Rural Hall in a game of basket ball Friday afternoon. The score stood 17 to 4. The game was played on the Rural Hall court.

Gilmer Newsom, of Winston-Salem, is spending a few days with relatives here.

Rev. J. T. Saunders, of Rural Hall, will conduct a Junior Order service at the King Christian church Saturday, December 25th at 1 o'clock, P. M. Everybody invited.

E. M. Hauser went to Winston-Salem today to attend to some business matters.

A community tree and Christmas program will be given at the King Christian church Thursday night, December 23rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Love, of Winston-Salem, spent unday with Mr. Love's mother here.

Joe Goodman, of Winston-Salem, is among the business visitors here today.

## FORMER STOKES MAN PASSES

**John Smith, Who Has Been Residing In Randolph County, Succumbs To Attack of Pneumonia.**

John Smith, aged 70 years, a native of Yadkin township, this county, died Saturday in Randolph county, where he had been residing since leaving Stokes some five or six years since.

The deceased is survived by his wife, who was a sister of Mr. W. Y. Gordon, of this county, and by three sons and one daughter.

The remains were interred at Mt. Olive Baptist church burying ground near King, on Monday, Rev. Mr. Carter conducting the services.

fronts.

Insurance was held on a large part of the loss but the estimate on this has not been learned.

Injury to only two persons, and they slight, resulted from the explosion and fire. Mr. and Mrs. John Carpenter, who resided upstairs over the Martin Grocery store, were stunned by the explosion and were five minutes getting from their rooms. They crawled out of the front window and onto the awning from which they dropped to the street. Mrs. Carpenter was suffering from cuts about the face and body and Mr. Carpenter had a slight injury to his leg, besides cuts. Both were carried to the hospital where they were later released.

Ben Belton was in the cafe when the explosion occurred and had to crawl out of the building over a pile of brick when the front collapsed, falling inside the cafe. Ora Roberts, employe in the Thomas grocery across the street, was knocked several feet by the jar, it is said, but neither he nor Mr. Belton were injured.

Only a few people were on the streets at the time and none, so far as can be learned, were passing in front of the building at the time of the explosion.

## THE NEED FOR TELEPHONE LINE

**Walnut Cove and Danbury Citizens Find It Expensive to Do Without Telephone Connection Between the Two Places.**

Since the destruction of the telephone system connecting Danbury and Walnut Cove citizens in these towns are finding it rather expensive to do without this great convenience. For instance one Walnut Cove business man recently stated that it had cost him twenty-five dollars or more to attend to affairs at the county seat during the past few months, when he could have used the telephone and saved practically all this. On the other hand Danbury people are forced to make trips to Walnut Cove constantly to attend to business that could be transacted over the telephone.

It is learned here that Walnut Cove people favor selling the telephone system to the Bell company in order to get better service, and it is safe to say Danbury people feel the same way—anything to get service. It is a very great inconvenience and is expensive to do without a telephone system between these two points.

## THE FIDDLERS ARE COMING

**Another Musical Contest To Be Held In the Court House Here Tuesday Night, Dec. 28th.**

The recent convention of the old fiddlers held in Danbury having proved such a success and the fact that a great number of music lovers have requested that it be repeated, the Parent-Teacher Association has decided to offer prizes to the musicians at a second contest to be held in the court house at Danbury on the night of Dec. 28th, beginning at 7 o'clock.

The prizes offered in the second contest are more than double in amount of the first prizes offered, and the event coming as it will during Christmas week will no doubt attract a large attendance.

Already a number of musicians have signified their intention of contesting for the nice prizes.

## Rocky Mount Sales Reach 26,400,000 Lbs

Rocky Mount, Dec. 18.—With offerings aggregating 350,000 pounds Friday, total sales on the Rocky Mount tobacco market for the Christmas period reached 26,400,000 pounds. This was more than a million pounds more than total offerings up to the time the market closed for the Christmas holidays last year.

While official figures were not available tonight it was indicated that the price for the week was up to the general average or slightly in excess of 25 cents despite the heavy predominance of common tobacco in the offering.

The market, along with others of Eastern Carolina, closed for the holiday period today and will re-open January 28.

## North Carolina Takes Tobacco Production Title From Kentucky

Washington, Dec. 21.—North Carolina has won from Kentucky this year the title of premier tobacco-producing state. Revised estimates announced by the Department of Agriculture place North Carolina's production at 393,190,000 pounds, which at the average December 1 farm price of 26.1 cents a pound makes that state's crop valued at \$103,802,160. Kentucky's production this year was 374,880,000 pounds with an average farm price December 1 of 11.4 cents a pound and a total crop value of \$42,736,320.

## WINSTON FEDERAL COURT POSTPONED

**Judge Webb Says The Few Cases On Docket Can Wait Until June.**

Greensboro, Dec. 20.—An order from Judge E. Yates Webb, of United States Court, Western North Carolina District, was received here today in the office of the clerk that postpones a term that was scheduled for Winston-Salem. This term was scheduled to open on Monday, December 2, but has been postponed until June.

The cases are few, the judge stated in his order and can wait until June. This will be the first term of the United States Court to be held in Winston-Salem.

Postponement was made because of the fact that the courthouse at Winston-Salem, where the sessions are to be held, will not be ready for occupancy on the date originally settled. Clerk of Court R. L. Blaylock today notified by mail jurors, lawyers and defendants of the postponement.

## STOKES HOME IS DESTROYED

**Harvey Swafford, of Near Walnut Cove, Also Lost All Household Property.**

Walnut Cove, Dec. 21.—Harvey Swafford lost his home and household goods Friday night when fire destroyed his place, about two miles west of the city, at 9:30 o'clock. Mr. Swafford and his wife had retired for the night and narrowly escaped death. A \$200 purse was given the victims by friends. The house was the property of D. G. Richardson.

## GIVES HINT ABOUT CHRISTMAS GREENS

**State Forester Pleads For Observance of The State Laws.**

Raleigh, Dec. 19.—Plea for observance of State laws in gathering Christmas greenery has been voiced by J. S. Holmes, State forester.

Mr. Holmes urged care in gathering Yuletide decorations so as not to destroy holly trees and evergreens. He had no criticism of the use of greens for decorations when they are legally and carefully gathered. He pointed out, however, that the law provides a penalty of a fine not exceeding \$50 or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days for persons damaging or injuring natural growths on lands of another, without proper permission, within 100 yards of any State highway.

## Madison Co-op Warehouse Sold

Reidsville, Dec. 21.—The Madison co-op warehouse was sold here December 16 at public auction by the receivers in charge of winding up affairs of the defunct marketing association, the sale price being \$18,500. T. D. Meador, of Madison, was the purchaser. The sale must be confirmed by federal court, it is understood. The warehouse originally cost the co-ops in the neighborhood of \$30,000, it is said, and has always been regarded as somewhat of a white elephant. It is a two-story building. Tobacco warehouses as is well known, are usually only one-story high. It is not known to what purpose. Mr. Meador will put the building. The Stoneville warehouse is purchased by R. T. Stone for something less than \$6,000.

## Corn Crop For 1926 Is 2,645,030,000 Bushels

Washington, Dec. 21.—Revised estimates of this year's crops announced by the Department of Agriculture place the corn crop at 2,645,030,000 bushels and total wheat production at 832,305,000 bushels.

## N. C. AUTO SALES BREAK RECORDS

**More Congestion Unless Road Building Keeps Up With Car Popularity.**

Raleigh, Dec. 21.—Automobile sales this year have eclipsed all records. Signs of prosperity, says the average man, dismissing the subject. Signs of more congestion unless road building keeps pace with the tremendous popularity of the motor car, says the more farsighted individual who believes the full advantage of automobile transportation demands the utmost in flexibility.

"There is a vitally significant note in the monthly sales reports by the various car manufacturers that should not be missed by the average motorists," says C. W. Roberts, vice president of the Carolina Motor Club.

"That note," says Mr. Roberts, "is the ever-growing need for more and better highways. Of course, with the States spending nearly \$650,000,000 yearly for highways, it may strike the casual observer that there is not much room for extension. From an economic standpoint, this is not the case. Good highway are among the best of public investments. They have been a tremendous factor in America's march to the position of the richest nation in the world.

"The American Automobile Association, with which this club is affiliated ever since its inception has made good roads its primary objective. Good roads have made the motor car the marvelous adjunct that it is to our national life.

"Now, however, instead of having the automobile following the good roads movement we have, in effect, the roads movement following the automobile. The situation is being given somewhat of reverse twist.

"It is a subject upon which every motorist should do some thinking. All he needs to do is realize the need, then he will ally himself with the agencies that are backing more and better highways."

## STOKES MEN SENT TO PRISON

**Walter and Andrew Bennett and John Ed Mabe Given Short Sentences In Federal Court.**

In Federal court at Greensboro Friday Walter Bennett was given two months in prison and Andrew Bennett and John Ed Mabe were given one month each by Judge Webb on the charge of violating the prohibition laws, to-wit: Manufacturing whiskey. James Mabe, known to his friends as "Railroad Jim," was acquitted on the charge of violating the prohibition laws.

The cases against Will Smith and Charles Smith were postponed until the June term of Federal court at Winston-Salem.

## Commission Meets To Discuss Bonds

Raleigh, Dec. 21.—The State Highway Commission meets tomorrow to consider amount of money it will ask the General Assembly to provide by sale of bonds for continuation of the road program, the next two years.

It also will debate on Legislation to be recommended. Conservatives are figuring on \$20,000,000 bond issue, the liberals, \$40,000,000.

## Wilson Has Sold 67,500,000 Pounds

Wilson, Dec. 18.—Sales were suspended on the local tobacco market Friday until January 10 for the Christmas holidays with about 67,500,000 pounds sold.

## BIG JUMP IN AUTO DEATHS

**139 Killed in State in 1921, While 376 Injured Fatally in 1925—Only Florida In The South Shows More.**

Washington, Dec. 21.—North Carolina with an increase in automobile fatalities of more than a hundred per cent. during the last five years and with a constantly mounting death rate from automobile accidents, is still happily 12th among the forty states in the registration area in the auto accident death rate, according to a report just made public by the Department of Commerce.

The report shows that automobile accident fatalities in the State have jumped from 139 in 1921 to 376 in 1925 and that the death rate from this cause has risen from 5.3 per 100,000 in 1921 to 13.4 in 1925.

While the State ranks low in the death rate from this cause it occupies the 14th place among the States in the actual number of deaths during 1925. Only New York, Pennsylvania, California, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Indiana, Missouri, Florida and Wisconsin, reported more deaths than North Carolina during the year.

The reports show that in 1921 there were only 139, or 5.3 per 100,000 in the State. In 1922 the deaths reported were 169 or 6.4 per 100,000. In 1923 the number of deaths showed a big increase totalling 258 of 9.6 per 100,000. In 1924 another big increase made the total deaths from this cause 328 or 12.6 per 100,000 and in 1925 the death total was 376 or 13.4 per 100,000.

The department announced that in the registration area of the United States there were 17,571 accidental deaths in 1925 charged to automobile and other motor vehicles, and that the death rate from this cause was 17 per 100,000 population against 15.7 in 1924, and 11.5 in 1921.

As in 1925 the registration area included only 89.4 per cent. of the total population of the United States and it is estimated that the total number of deaths from this cause in the whole country, was about 21,927.

## THERE'LL BE NO SNOW FOR SANTA

**Will Have to Use Automobile Instead of Sleigh, By Forecast.**

Washington, Dec. 18.—Santa Claus may have to come to the United States next Friday night in an automobile instead of the usual sleigh if the Weather Bureau's advance notice of "Moderate temperatures" is correct for next week.

Old Man Zero was a week-end guest in New England and other northern Atlantic seaboard States, coming direct and unexpectedly from Eskimo-Land to put up advance notices for Santa.

He will leave early next week, however, according to the Weather Bureau and the United States East of the Rocky Mountains will have moderate winter temperatures right through Saturday, which is Christmas Day.

## Banks To Close Friday At Noon

The banks of the county will close at noon Friday for Christmas and will be closed Saturday, Christmas Day. Will be open Monday morning, December 27. They will also be closed Saturday, January 1.

A Christmas tree with appropriate exercises will be given at the M. E. church here Thursday night of this week.

J. G. Bradshaw was here from Moores' Springs yesterday.