

Miss Corrie Broughton
State Library

CRIME GAINING IN WARREN COUNTY

Record of Recorder's Court Show Large Increase in Number of Cases

225 TRIED DURING YEAR

There has been a considerable increase in crime in Warren county during the past five years, according to the files of The Warren Record which newspaper has each week given an account of the proceedings in Recorder's court.

During the past year, The Record discloses 225 persons were tried before Judge Taylor and Judge Rodwell as compared with 108 before Judge Taylor in the year 1931. Members of the white race added materially to this increase in crime, there being 111 tried in 1936 and 32 in 1931.

Whiskey was the common cause which led the wayward into the toils of the law. Fifty-one persons were arrested and tried as a direct result of booze. Of these 51, 20 whites and 8 negroes faced trial for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of whiskey; 6 whites and 9 negroes were tried for possessing whiskey for the purpose of sale; and 2 whites and 6 negroes were tried for being drunk and disorderly.

Assault came second among the causes for those violating the statute to be brought before the jurist. Twenty-one whites and 21 negroes were tried on this charge.

Thirteen white persons and five negroes were tried for reckless driving. In addition to the reckless driving charge, two whites and two negroes faced trial for driving school buses too fast; two whites and seven negroes for driving with improper brakes; and one negro was tried for passing a school bus while unloading.

Three whites and four negroes went into court on a charge of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license; one white and one negro were tried for driving before reaching the age of 16; one white for driving with a straight exhaust; and one white, a resident of this county, was tried for driving with a Virginia license on his automobile.

Assault and resisting arrest brought one white and three negroes into court. Other cases are listed as follows:

Larceny, 5 whites and 11 colored; non-support, one white and four negroes; destroying public property, two whites; immorality, one white; speeding, three negroes; affray, two whites; concealed weapon, eight negroes; receiving stolen goods knowing them to have been stolen, two negroes; disturbing public worship, two negroes; worthless check, one white, one colored; disturbing public gathering, two negroes; escaping from an officer, one negro; obtaining a marriage license under false pretenses, one negro; breaking jail, three negroes; peeping in a window of a room occupied by a woman, one negro; cruelty to animal, one negro.

Various causes are attributed to the crime increase which has been apparent for some time to those who frequent the court room from year to year. Some of those who opposed the setting up of liquor stores in this county point to the court room to bear out their contention that conditions are worse under legal sale. Others say that the increase in crime is due to the fact that economic conditions are much better than they were a few years ago and as a consequence more people are driving automobiles, getting about on the highways more and mingling with different crowds in different sections, and that they have more money to buy booze—legal or illicit—than they had a few years ago. The activity of the State Highway Patrol, which has men on the roads day-in and day-out looking for violators of the traffic laws is given as another reason for more transgressors being brought into the court rooms today than was the case a few years ago.

Accused Of Theft, Young Boy Jailed

Accused of pilfering articles from three stores here during the Christmas season rush, a young negro named Suite of Manson was picked up and placed in jail by officers this week to face trial in Recorder's court Monday on charges of larceny. The negro is alleged to have stolen a flash-light, a harp, stamp pad, and a few other items from W. A. Miles Hardware Company, Boyce Drug Company and Rose's 5 and 10.

Wishing You A Merry Christmas



Negro Speeds Pass Unloading School Bus; Is Arrested

Passing a school bus at a high rate of speed while it was unloading cost Percy Bullock, negro, \$5.00 and court costs on Monday morning when he was tried in Recorder's court before Judge T. O. Rodwell.

George Schuster was found guilty of operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes and was taxed with court costs.

Laura Alston, negro, who was accused of stealing some pins from Rose's 5 and 10 cents store here, was found guilty on a larceny count. Judgment was suspended on the condition that she pay the court costs.

The case against Sam and James Vanlandingham, negroes, charged with receiving stolen goods knowing them to have been stolen, was continued until next week in order that the evidence may go before a jury.

The case against King Perry, negro, was also continued. He is charged with receiving stolen goods knowing them to have been stolen.

Staggering Into Car Leads To Arrest

Walking on the wrong side of the road and staggering into an automobile being driven by Johnnie Robertson was responsible for Howard Thornton, negro of near Oakville, being arrested and convicted on a charge of public drunkenness. He was not hurt by the automobile.

RETURNS FROM MEETING

Edward G. Cobb, representative in charge of the Warrenton office of the Henderson Productive Credit Association, has returned from Columbia, S. C., where he attended a conference held from December 14 to 19 by the Production Credit Corporation of Columbia. The Conference was held, he said, for the purpose of studying methods of rendering more efficient service in the agricultural service to farmers.

WILSON GIVES HOG WEIGHTS

Seventeen hundred and thirty-three pounds was the total weight of six hogs dressed by S. G. Wilson, prominent farmer of near Warrenton. Four of the hogs were 12 months old and the other two were six months old. Their weights were submitted as follows by Mr. Wilson: 194 lbs., 195 lbs., 392 lbs., 330 lbs., 342 lbs., and 280 lbs.

Mr. and Mrs. John Rodgers will spend Christmas in Salisbury.

OLD HOMES OF WARRENTON

A Reprint of V. L. Pendleton
Articles

HON. TASKER POLK'S HOUSE

Mr. Tasker Polk's handsome residence was built by Major Green, and was just finished at the time when I came here to school in 1850. He had three children: two sons, Willis and Sol, and one daughter, Fannie.

Major Green moved to Tennessee to live but soon Fannie returned to live with her cousins, the Somervilles. She married their only brother, Mr. Jimmy Somerville.

They were an admired couple and very much beloved. Mrs. Mary K. Williams bought the place and moved here from her beautiful country home. She had one daughter who married Mr. Hawkins and was the mother of several boys and the Misses Hawkins who have so long conducted a successful school in our midst. Her son married and lived in Halifax county. Her daughter, Lucy, who was a great belle, married Col. William Polk, a brother of President James K. Polk, and went to Tennessee to live.

After her husband's death, she came back home with her two little boys, William and Tasker, to live with her mother, taking an active part in every good work for the uplift of the people.

After her mother's death she owned the house, and was ever actively engaged in helping the community in which she lived.

She was honorary President of the daughters of the Confederacy, and it was through her instrumentality that the Confederate monument at Fairview Cemetery was erected.

This cemetery itself owes its existence to her untiring efforts. The old cemetery was low, far from town, and the soil unsuited for the cultivation of flowers, so she brought before her friends the advisability of a new one. Soon the land was bought from Mr. Nat Norwood, she helping to select the spot. It was surveyed, plots laid off, and the name Fairview Cemetery given to it. Now many are sleeping there, their sleep, and she is among them.

Her son, William, went South, married and died without children. The house is now owned by Honorable Tasker Polk, a successful lawyer who married Miss Lillie Jones, a very lovely character. They have four very promising children.

Miss Pattie Egerton is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Alston.

Carolina Power & Light Company Reduces Rates

The Carolina Power & Light Co. rate reduction announced a few days ago by the Utilities Commissioners will become effective on all bills rendered on and after January 26, it was learned at the local office this week.

Under the new rate schedule all residential, farm and commercial customers are granted definite benefits without exception and regardless of the amount of electricity used in the past or consumed in the future, and will mean an estimated saving of more than \$700,000 for patrons of the company during the next twelve months, it was stated.

Following are the residential and commercial rates, with the former being listed first:

5c per KWH for first 50 KWH used; 3c per KWH for next 50 KWH used; 2c per KWH for next 150 KWH used; and 1.5c per KWH for all additional KWH used.

It is understood that the latest rate reduction has been brought about by the ready reception which the public has given cheaper electricity.

State Employment Officer Visits Here

A representative of the North Carolina State Employment Service is making regular schedule visits to Warren county each month to take the registration of those persons who wish to register with the Employment Service.

The regular scheduled visits to the county are on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. The representative will be in the court room from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. on these dates.

The next will be Wednesday, December 30th.

CARS WRECK NEAR NORLINA

Thomas Burton of Norlina and Herbert Taylor, negro of Warrenton, escaped serious injury when their automobiles hooked-up on a short distance from Norlina on U. S. Highway 1 this week. Both automobiles were damaged but neither overturned.

RETROSPECTIVE

News of Interest, Five, Ten,
Fifteen Years Ago

The Warren Record said on December 25, 1931:

Whiskey was responsible for the biggest part of the more than 100 cases tried in Recorder's court this year by Judge W. W. Taylor, a survey of the files of The Warren Record shows.

Representative John S. Davis' model T Ford was stolen from his home Sunday night.

Mrs. G. H. Macon and Mrs. Bennett Stackhouse escaped injury in an automobile accident at Wake Forest this week.

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. McGuire, Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Lawson and Mrs. R. B. Boyd Jr. spent Monday in Richmond.

On December 24, 1926, The Warren Record said:

The John Graham High School has been placed upon the accredited list in North Carolina.

Tasker Perkinson of Wise is recovering from bruises and cuts he received this week when thrown from his wagon which was struck by a truck.

Miss Lillie Belle Dameron will spend the holidays in New York where she is studying voice.

Misses Mary Parker and Virginia McCraw of Gainesville, Fla., are spending the holidays in the home of Captain and Mrs. E. C. Price.

Miss Olivia Burwell, who teaches at Converse College, Spartanburg, has arrived to spend the holidays here.

Mr. Robert Davis arrived in Warrenton on Wednesday to attend the funeral of his uncle, Mr. W. K. Barham.

Mr. George Davis is spending the Christmas holidays here with Mrs. Davis and the children.

December 23, 1921, The Warren Record said:

A child left by a strange man at the home of C. E. Harris has been adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Whit Haithcock.

More than 60 per cent of the 1922 tobacco crop of Warren county has been consigned to cooperative marketing, according to John B. Davis. Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Kidd, says to Santa: Bring me a doll with eyelashes and moving eyes, a story book and a doll bed.

The market has sold 2,811,426 pounds of tobacco this fall, averaged (Continued on Page 5)

Wise Boy By Aiding Unfortunates Gains Honorable Mention

The efforts of a Warren county boy to aid those who are down on their luck has gained for himself and his native town of Wise national publicity. Under the heading "Honorable Mention," the January issue of The Reader's Digest, widely read magazine of condensed articles, tells the story as follows:

U. S. Highway 1, which carries the bulk of the auto traffic to Florida from the North, also carries large numbers of thumb-and-foot travelers, most of whom are honest and industrious but down on their luck. Young Bradley King, whose father's farm is on U. S. 1 near Wise, North Carolina, sought a way to help these transients. Nine years ago he built two cabins which cost, in addition to his own labor, and materials which were available on the farm, \$1.75, not including furnishings. Each cabin contains a bunk, a homemade dresser, a stove, a lamp and a chair; bedding is changed and the cabin disinfected after each guest. It is beyond King's means to furnish food or loans except in the most extreme cases, but down-and-out travelers can always count on a night's rest and a shave. A reporter's reference to his roadside shelter as "Hobo's Haven" once brought a sharp rebuke from King. His guests are not hoboes by choice, he says, but are victims of circumstances.

Skinner Boosted For Position On Road Commission

John L. Skinner, executive secretary of the State Association of County Commissioners, and a member of the Local Government Commission, is being boosted for a place on the State Highway Commission, it was learned this week.

The former county commissioner is being recommended for a place on the board by the Halifax county Board of County Commissioners which has adopted resolutions stating Mr. Skinner's qualifications and requesting that he be appointed by the Governor. The Littleton's Lions Club is also endorsing Mr. Skinner.

When seen in Warrenton this week, Mr. Skinner said that the recommendation of the Halifax county board came as a complete surprise to him. He also stated that should he be appointed there was some doubt about whether he could serve due to his other duties.

Littleton Lions To Hold Charter Night On January 12th

Littleton, Dec. 22.—The Littleton Lions Club, which was recently organized, will hold its Charter Night on January 12, it was announced this week. Lions from clubs in surrounding towns are expected here for the occasion.

The club was organized here by Larry Slater from Lions International Headquarters, Chicago, on December 10. The organization meeting was held in Toppings Cafe.

Following are the officers who were selected by fellow members of the civic organization: president, W. G. Alston; 1st vice-president, Rev. Reese Jenkins; 2nd vice-president, C. H. Lambeth; 3rd vice-president, Marvin Newsome; secretary-treasurer, P. A. Johnston; Lion Tamer, E. L. Crawley; Tail Twister, W. D. McPherson. Directors are A. J. May, L. R. Patterson, W. A. Bobbitt, A. W. Parker. Committee chairmen are: Lions Education, H. S. Capps; Program, C. R. Jenkins; Attendance, Marvin Newsome; Membership, H. P. Robinson; Finance, J. N. Moseley; Publicity, C. H. Lambeth; Constitution, D. A. Rose; Activities, T. R. Walker.

The club meets twice monthly, on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 o'clock.

One of the first projects sponsored by the club was to decorate and light Main Street for the Christmas holidays.

GIVEN 30 DAYS ON ROADS

Horton Bazemore, white man who was picked up by officers on the Warrenton-Norlina road this week, was convicted on a charge of public drunkenness and was sentenced to the county prison camp for 30 days.

NAME DAUGHTER

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Van Peit of Richmond, born Wednesday of last week, has been named Sall. Spotswood. Mrs. Van Peit was formerly Miss Lucy Baskerville of Warrenton.

CITIZENS RETURN FOR CHRISTMAS

Fair Weather Causes Yuletide Spirit To Spread Rapidly As Shopping Spurts

DANCE HERE ON 29TH

The comradeship of the holiday season is heightened as the trains and buses bring Warren folks back home from the schools and business centers, and the town takes on new life with this inroad of welcomed home folks and visitors.

Clear skies overhead which followed a rainy spell of approximately three weeks have also encouraged the Christmas spirit to spread rather rapidly during the past two days as shoppers have been given an opportunity to hurry hither and yon to make their purchases without paddling through rain and mud.

No set form of entertainment has been arranged for Warrenton until the rush of the Christmas season passes and the stores close for the holidays, but those who enjoy shaking the light fantastic are looking forward with pleasure to next Tuesday night when the Lions Club is sponsoring a dance in the armory here with music by Freddy Johnson and his Carolina Tarheels. Favors will be given the dancers and the hall will be especially decorated for the occasion. In the meantime, some of the younger set here from the colleges are enjoying renewing acquaintances and dancing at the home of Boyd Davis.

Christmas carols have already begun to ring out around the homes of those indisposed and it is expected that they will continue to be heard at night until Christmas is over.

The churches here will have special services with appropriate music and the public is invited to attend.

By unanimous agreement, with the exception of the A. & P., stores of Warrenton will be closed on Saturday as well as Christmas day in order to give employers and employees three days of consecutive holidays. Housewives are reminded to buy provisions sufficient to run the mthrough Sunday.

The tobacco market closed here last week and the schools of the county shut down on Wednesday afternoon for the holidays. Most of the teachers living in distant towns departed shortly after school recessed.

In order to keep the town quiet and avoid the embarrassment of having to take some one into custody, Chief of Police Lee Wilson again reminds that it is unlawful to shoot fireworks within the town's limits and those caught breaking the law will have to face the consequences.

Several Injured In Wreck At Ridgeway

Milton Wilson, and Baker Plummer, negro, employees of the Carolina Power & Light Company, were shaken and slightly injured near Ridgeway on Saturday afternoon around 4 o'clock when the company truck they were traveling in was in a collision with a Chrysler automobile containing several Duke University students en route to their homes in New York for the Christmas holidays.

Two of the occupants of the Chrysler, Miss Mary Cheek and Richard Burns, both of New York, received injuries sufficiently severe to necessitate treatment in a Henderson hospital. Philip Riechers, the owner and driver of the car, escaped injuries, as did the other occupants of the car.

Following the accident the injured occupants of the Chrysler were carried to a Henderson hospital and Wilson and Plummer came to Warrenton where Plummer was treated by a local physician for cuts and bruises.

The truck of the power company, which was traveling south, was turning into the dirt road that crosses the rail road in front of the home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jones when it was struck by the Chrysler as it rounded the curve on U. S. Highway No. 1. The truck occupied by Wilson and Plummer was practically off the concrete, it was stated, when the collision occurred.

Blame for the accident has not been attached. Patrolman Parks Alexander, who investigated the accident, said that both drivers had been cited to appear in court in January.

Miss Katherine Scoggin, librarian at Hartsville, S. C., will spend several days here with her parents during the Christmas holidays.