

## NUMBER ARRESTS MADE IN COUNTY OVER WEEK-END

### Twenty-two People Placed In Jail Local and County Officers During Period

Local and county officers shattered all previous records of activity during last week-end when they made 22 arrests. The officers made a clean sweep Saturday evening and night when they lodged in jail more than a dozen white and colored men for minor alleged violations of the laws. Twelve of those jailed were charged with public drunkenness, the other cases charging either assaults, disorderly conduct, non-support, and drunken auto driving. Three of those jailed—two colored women and one colored man—were held for investigation in an alleged flim-flam case. No charges were brought against the trio in this county, and they were turned over to Pitt County authorities. They were Mabel Hudson, Willie Johnson, and James Redmond.

The cases, booked for hearings in the county and justice of the peace courts, are being handled from day to day, Mayor Hassell explaining that the trial calendar was so crowded that it will require the greater part of the week to clear the docket in his court.

The large number of arrests locally followed a period of little activity in the courts here, Justice Hassell stating that up to last week-end actions in his court were few and far between.

## Mrs. Abernathy Is Freed in Hopewell

Katherine Phelps Abernathy, young woman whose marriage in Williamston last month was founded on a Hopewell jail romance, was found not guilty in the Virginia City last week in the case charging her with the killing of her brother-in-law there last August.

Her husband, C. P. Abernathy, was turned over to Blackstone, Va., authorities following his arrest in Oak City the early part of this month. He was found guilty of passing bad checks and is now serving a two-year sentence, his wife explaining that she would not have married him had she known he gave worthless checks to finance their wedding trip. Abernathy is also wanted in Halifax County, where he is alleged to have passed worthless checks just before his marriage to the Miss Phelps, daughter of Mrs. J. A. Johnson, of Goose Nest Township.

## Auto Tag Sale Here Leads Records Established in 1936

The local Carolina Motor Club license bureau located in the Williamston Mortor Company building has sold 4,585 automobile, truck and trailer tags to date, Miss Huldah Roberson, bureau secretary, stated this afternoon. A large majority of 3,610 of the tags were sold to Ford and Chevrolet owners.

Approximately \$58,615.30 has been collected by the bureau, the tag sale and receipts running considerably ahead of the 1936 record up to the same date, it was pointed out by Miss Roberson.

## Plan Operation Poultry Car in County Next Week

Arrangements were announced almost complete for the operation of a cooperative poultry car in the county next week, County Agent T. B. Brandon said this morning. The market has slightly weakened since the first cooperative shipment was made, it is understood.

## Members of the Methodist Church Meet Tomorrow

An important meeting of the local Methodist church membership will be held in the church tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock, Pastor R. R. Grant announced today. Plans for reconditioning the church will be discussed and all members are urged to be present, the pastor said.

## Lumber Mill Operating Again After Long Idleness

Idle for almost a month on account of high water in the Roanoke and its swamps, the Saunders and Cox lumber mill here resumed operations yesterday.

Another rise in the stream will likely force the mill to close down again, reports stating that operations were now being handled under handicaps.

## Clean Sweep Is Made by Bear Grass in Basketball Tourney

The Bear Grass basketball teams successfully turned back all opposition last week to gain double honors in the Martin County basketball tournament, the boys winning, 26 to 17 over Jamesville, and the girls defeating Robersonville, 23 to 10, in the finals.

Stuck in knee-deep mud, Farm Life was unable to appear and assert its rights to championship claims, and the Bear Grass girls sailed right into the finals with Robersonville. Rogerson took charge of the goal for Bear Grass and scored nearly half of the winning team's points to turn the victory. Robersonville, supported strongly by M. Everett, turned back Williamston's

sixtet in the semi-finals Friday night to gain a place in the last round-up with Bear Grass Saturday evening.

The Bear Grass boys turned back Robersonville, 17 to 11, Friday night to earn the right to contend for county honors in the finals. Jamesville defeated Williamston, 23 to 15, in the semi-finals, and the two strong teams were set for action the following night. E. Rawls registered 8 points to figure in the 26-17 win for Bear Grass.

It was the second successive year that the Bear Grass girls annexed the loving cup, the Robersonville quint yielding ownership of the boys cup after holding it one year.

## Aftermath of Flood Is Vividly Described

### LEAF COMPACTS

The future for a state tobacco compact is far from a certainty, reports stating the proposed combine has struck a big snag down in Georgia.

Georgia is yelling for the compact to include the State of Florida, where a million or so pounds of the weed are harvested annually. Briefly stated, Georgia has a small tobacco base acreage and is not so strong for blocking its tobacco program, but it is now trying to shift the blame for the almost apparent failure of the compact legislation on the shoulders of Florida.

## January Narrative Summary of Work By Home Agent

### Program During Period Is Interrupted by Roads And Bad Weather

By L. E. Sleeper, Agent

Home Demonstration club women contributed to the happiness of the county home inmates during last month by making each member at the home a stocking and filling it with fruit, candy and nuts. Approximately 50 bags were carried to the home on January 3. A short worship service was conducted by Rev. R. R. Grant and members of four home demonstration clubs with inmates joining in the devotional period.

The home agent travelled 833 miles during the month, spent 21 1-2 days in the field, and 3 1-2 days in the office, visited 36 different homes, held 10 meetings with girls and 9 with women, and assisted by being on the program at four other meetings.

The regular planned program for the adult women was upset during the month by bad weather. The subject of demonstration was "transplanting of shrubs." This was possible at only two meetings. Methods of transplanting were given these two communities. In all other club meetings pictures and bulletins had to take the place of the real demonstration.

Regular work for the girls' clubs was carried in all groups. Approximately 35 garments were made during the month and girls reported making and giving of gifts as suggested by the home agent. Girls in all clubs are required to make three pieces of clothing, 1 piece of handwork, 1 piece of knitting and 1 piece crocheting during the year besides their work in canning.

The home agent spent one day in the poultry project, securing two new demonstrators. This will make a total of nine farms where poultry records are kept under the home agent and State college, for from six months to one year. Plans for a colony laying house were given out from the office during the month and also plans for a brick brooder. One home constructed such a brooder during the month.

Nine women selling through the curb market received \$92.72 during the month. Cakes were the leading items on the list of products sold.

The home agent attended the meeting held in the interest of rural electrification at the school house in Macedonia and announced a school which would be held in February for all interested in the correct wiring of their homes.

## Williamston Native Says "The Beautiful Ohio" Now Mockery

### Savings of Life Time Will Not Be Recovered by Many Thousands

Recently flooded by the Ohio, towns and cities in the Ohio Valley are now taking an inventory of their losses, reports stating that possibly thousands of people will never be able to recover the things accumulated in a lifetime. Writing about the flood toll and the rehabilitation task in Ripley, Ohio, Mrs. Calno Loudon, formerly Miss Carrie Dell White, of Williamston, says:

"You have heard and read of our 'Beautiful Ohio' River, but I'm here to state that adjectives are inadequate to describe the catastrophe. 'The Beautiful Ohio' has left in our community, neighboring towns and cities. Of course, I shall mention only the existing conditions of our town, Ripley, Ohio.

"As the entire business district was completely submerged and three fourths of the residential section under water, we are stumped in figuring a comeback from a half million dollars' damage wrought by the flood here. There is nothing left—nothing but a thickly deposited coat of mud with its terribly offensive odor—not only on our streets, trees and buildings—from top to bottom, inside and out—but also on people and their clothes. Every window, door, wall, floor and fixture in business houses, as well as residences, including furniture, are wrecked beyond repair. House after house off foundations, some swept miles down the river, others upside down. Porches and kitchens shattered; then, again, the entire brick walls of homes caved in, while others are completely demolished. There isn't an outside building, such as garage, barn, or chickenhouse, left. One, the tobacco warehouse, was totally wrecked. In fact, a tornado could not have made a cleaner sweep of things. Our streets are blocked with debris.

"Oh, the horror of it all before the crest was reached. There was a constant downpour night and day for over a week and family after family, drenching wet, moved out by boat loads and were sheltered by a few who were left on the higher part of town; some were forced to take refuge in near-by towns. The suffocating fumes of gas and oil on the water, due to floating tanks of gasoline and fuel oil, added to our discomfort. Shrieking cries deafen us with, 'Don't dare strike a match; no smoking or fires allowed; otherwise the town will go up in flames.'

"Oh, no one will ever know the ghastly suspense we lived through for days. Just another 24 hours' rain would have reached my house. As it was, it had only a couple of feet to go before it would have flooded my garden. In fact, there are a couple of houses and a garage lodged against my garden. They landed boats just below my front lawn.

"Now the problem that confronts us, 'What will these unfortunate people do?' It is impossible for them to return to their polluted homes for sometime, and living conditions in all our homes are none too convenient, as we have no water, lights or telephone service just now. However, we—the Ripley citizens—are most fortunate, as not one life was lost and so far God has spared an epidemic, though everyone is being inoculated against typhoid.

(Continued on the back page)

## MRS. SALLIE W. RICHARDS DIES AT HAMILTON

### Served as Postmistress In Hamilton for More Than Quarter of a Century

Mrs. Sallie Watts Richards, highly respected Hamilton woman and a member of one of this county's oldest families, died at her home early Saturday morning following an illness of long duration.

Mrs. Richards, daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. William Watts, was born in Hamilton about 70 years ago. She was the last member of the family, and lived in Hamilton all her life. For more than a quarter of a century she served as postmistress in Hamilton. In early womanhood she was married to Stephen Ewell, who died some years ago. One son, Stephen Ewell, survives that union. She later married C. S. Richards, who survives. She was a member of the Methodist church and was active in the affairs of her community until her health began to fail nearly two years ago.

Mrs. Richards' forebears located in this county prior to the Revolutionary period, and many of them were prominent in the political affairs of the county and section for a long number of years. She was a half-sister of the late Wigg Watts, of Williamston.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. R. N. Fitts, Methodist minister of Robersonville. Interment was in the Methodist cemetery, Hamilton.

## Colored Child Is Seriously Burned

Minnie Christine Moore, 2-year-old colored child, was critically burned at the home of her parents, John and Sudie Moore, on Haughton and Warren Streets yesterday noon. In the care of her 7-year-old sister while the parents were away at work, the baby fell against a heater and caught her clothes on fire. A greater part of the skin on one leg and on the stomach was burned off. Her sister, Idell, stopped the fire as it was eating its way toward the girl's neck by throwing water on her.

It was reported that the older sister poured kerosene into the stove, causing the fire to flare out the draft and catch the child's clothing on fire.

Although painfully and critically burned, the child is expected to recover, doctors stating she will be several months getting well.

## Two Cars Wrecked By Fire In County Monday

Two automobiles were wrecked by fire in Williams Township, near Holly Springs, yesterday; one burning that morning and the other going up in flames last evening.

His car catching fire as he was riding along the road yesterday morning, Haywood Cherry was almost trapped in the burning machine, reports reaching here stated. People along the road tried to warn Cherry of the danger as the fire burned toward him, but their warnings were accepted as friendly greetings and he returned with a mere wave of the hand. As the fire gained headway, Cherry felt the heat, stopped the Model A Ford and jumped out without injury.

The Ford V-8 of Lindwood Pate's caught fire while he was driving on a side road, near Holly Springs, but he soon discovered it and got out safely but not in time to put the fire out.

## Auto Supply Store Opens Here Next Friday Morning

Arrangements were announced virtually complete for the grand opening of the Economy Auto Supply Store in the Staton building, next to Clark's Drug Store, on Friday and Saturday of this week, Mr. Curtis Leggett, manager, said this morning.

A detailed opening announcement, carrying special bargains for the occasion, will be made on Friday, it was said.

## Establish Distribution Center Here for Beers

The Griffin & Coppersmith Company, of Elizabeth City, are establishing a beer distribution warehouse here, it was unofficially learned this morning. Clarence Jones, of Elizabeth City, will have charge of the operations here, it was stated. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are moving into the Tar Heel apartments today.

## STATE SENATE TO CONSIDER MAJOR BILLS THIS WEEK

### House Rushes Through Bill Calling for \$79,000,000 In State Taxes

Ending the sixth week of the session last Saturday, North Carolina's General Assembly is now rushing toward adjournment, the house having just about handled the major portion of its cut-and-dried legislative program. The senate goes into action today on the liquor bill, and, once that is handled, the upper house will begin consideration of the \$79,000,000 revenue bill which sailed through the house in less than 5 minutes late last Friday night.

The social security bill and labor proposals are yet to be acted upon, but, if they are handled after the pattern followed in executing such measures as revenue and liquor by the house, they can be disposed of at one of those Saturday sessions.

Opposition to features of the revenue bill fell by the wayside, and those who would have had the sales tax lifted, altered, or radically changed, threw up their hands in surrender and watched the machinery wheels turn at full speed ahead. Just what the revenue bill calls for as passed by the house will probably come to light in the senate.

The liquor bill, up for consideration in the senate today, is not expected to pass by as large a majority as some first believed. The latest estimate is that the wet forces will carry the county option plan by at least three votes. The bill now before the senate members would set up a state board of control for county-operated stores and would allow any county to hold a referendum on whether it wanted the stores.

Reports from Raleigh indicate that the revenue bill will come up for consideration in the senate tomorrow. In the meantime the house is marking time with an eye on early adjournment.

## Negro Is Arrested For Store Robbery

George Blount, colored man, arrested in Rocky Mount last week for drunkenness, was formally charged Saturday with the robbery of J. S. Ayers store in Everetts the 28th of last month. Blount, a native of Creswell, Washington County, will be brought to the county for trial just as soon as he completes a 30-day road sentence in Nash County, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said.

The clothes worn by Blount at the time of his arrest in Rocky Mt. were identified as those belonging to Mr. Ayers.

Blount, serving time on the roads in this county, escaped just 12 days before his term expired. Taking his leave without permission while the road force was working in the Spring Green section of the county, he went by Everetts, broke the \$42 plate glass front of the Ayers store and stole a pair of trousers, pair of shoes and a few other articles. Arrested in Rocky Mount he was fingerprinted and the prints showed he had escaped from the road gang.

## Oliver Grimes Waives Hearing In Killing Case

Oliver Grimes, arrested in Philadelphia last month for killing Richard Smith, colored man, in this county 14 years ago, waived preliminary hearing yesterday. He was returned to the county jail to await trial in the superior court next month.

Grimes was returned to this county by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck from Philadelphia last week.

## Parent-Teacher Group To Meet Here Tomorrow

The local parent-teacher association will hold its regular monthly meeting in the high school building tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, Mrs. J. F. Thigpen, president, announced today. The high school band will appear in concert before the meeting, and a large attendance is urged.

## Son of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Whitaker Died Saturday

Linwood Mayo Whitaker, two months old, died at the home of his parents, Thomas M. and Elizabeth Bowen Whitaker, near Jamesville, Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. Funeral services were held at the home Saturday afternoon and interment was in the Bowen cemetery, near Everetts.

## Figures on Homestead Exemption Prepared

### SCHOOL CLOSED

Unfavorable weather and bad roads continue to interrupt operation of schools in this county, the office of the county superintendent announcing this morning that the plant at Farm Life was still closed. Heavy rains early today made it necessary to postpone the reopening planned there this morning. As far as it could be learned, all other schools in the county had their doors open this morning, the unofficial reports stating that attendance figures were very low.

It could not be learned when Farm Life planned to reopen, action depending upon the road and weather conditions.

## Car Stolen Monday Recovered in New Bern in Few Hours

### Two Runaway Youths from Pennsylvania Arrested And Jailed Here

The Ford sedan stolen from James E. Griffin on the streets here yesterday morning was recovered in New Bern a few hours later, the Craven officers arresting Eber Kurtz and Raymond McKay, two young boys traveling from Pennsylvania south. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Officer J. H. Allsbrooks went to New Bern late yesterday afternoon and returned the youths here for trial.

Kurtz, 16, and McKay, 17, said they ran away from their homes in Coatsville, Pa., Sunday morning. Reaching Williamston they stopped thumbing and looked around for private conveyance. Finding the Griffin car parked in front of the telephone office on Smithwick Street, the two boys increased their speed south. A parked bakery truck in New Bern attracted their attention, and they were arrested by officers there for the theft of bread and other bakery products. Kurtz and McKay admitted they stole the car in Williamston and local officers were notified. It is believed the boys would have sailed on into Florida had they held their appetites in check.

## Roanoke Warehouse Co. Issues 2 Percent Dividend

Holding their annual meeting in the county courthouse last Friday afternoon, Roanoke Tobacco Warehouse Company stockholders declared a 2 per cent dividend and re-elected its officers, as follows: Henry D. Peel, president; S. Claude Griffin, vice president; and John R. Peel, secretary-treasurer. The dividend is the fifteenth declared by the company, the total dividends amounting to around 132 per cent.

Open bids for renting the warehouse will be received on Friday of next week.

## Attorney Coburn Returns To Richmond Hospital

Attorney W. H. Coburn returned this afternoon to a Richmond hospital for treatment. He was discharged from the hospital there last week and had been at his home on Haughton Street here only a few days when his return to Richmond was considered advisable.

## Condition of Mrs. Moore Continues About the Same

The condition of Mrs. C. O. Moore, who suffered a stroke of paralysis at her home on Williams Street here last Thursday night was little changed today, Mr. Moore stating that she was just about holding her own. Mrs. Moore is able to speak a few words, but has no use of her right side, it was stated.

## Helpful Hints on Wiring To Be Offered at Meeting

A school on wiring of the farm home will be held at Macedonia tomorrow evening, February 17, at 7:30 p. m., it was announced today by Home Agent Lora E. Sleeper.

The school has been arranged by the extension agents in the county to assist farmers in the problems involving wiring. Specialists have notified the agents they will attend the meeting. Men and women interested should be present.

## Auditor Says \$250 Exemption To Raise County Tax Rate 11c

### Proposed Exemption Will Reduce Valuation By About \$750,000

The \$250 homestead exemption now being considered by the North Carolina legislature will lower the valuation now assessed against homes owned and occupied by citizens in this county by approximately \$750,000, it was estimated this week following a hurried and preliminary survey of the tax books by Auditor J. Sam Getsinger. An accurate report will not be available until the present system of listing property for taxation is changed.

Using the \$750,000 estimate as a working basis, the accountant figures that light of \$250 from each homestead in the county will necessitate an increase of about 11 cents in the county tax rate, provided, of course, there is no variation in values on other property, Mr. Getsinger explained.

No estimate was made as to the value that will actually be lost from taxation. Mr. Getsinger said that he found very few homes valued at less than \$250 in the one township used as a basis for making the survey, which was asked for by Senator R. L. Coburn and Representative H. G. Horton for use in the legislature possibly when the homestead constitutional amendment is brought to the attention of that body shortly.

The homestead amendment is almost certain to prove disappointing to many home owners, for, while it is destined to relieve the home owner, it is expected to provide little relief unless the exemption is increased to the \$1,000 maximum allowed by the constitutional amendment passed last November. The citizen who owns a home valued at \$250 or less will get complete exemption, but the person who owns his own home with a value of more than \$250 will get a reduction in valuation and at the same time be faced with an increase in the tax rate. The amendment does provide a shifting of taxation away from a man's home to other types of property, but the \$250 proposed exemption will do very little other than to lower the valuation and raise the rate.

## Red Cross Donations In County \$611.78

A few late contributions received over the week-end advanced the flood relief fund raised by the Martin County Red Cross chapter to \$611.78, Chairman Harry A. Biggs said today. Every penny of the \$611.78 raised has been forwarded to the Red Cross headquarters in Washington City.

Mr. Biggs had no definite idea how much money had been contributed for the relief of flood victims in Ohio by Martin people, but he believes the total will exceed \$1,000 including the amount raised by the Robersonville chapter and donations made by individuals to other chapters.

Approximately \$18,200,000 has been raised in the nation by the Red Cross for the relief of flood sufferers.

## Group I Bankers To Hold Meet Here Next Monday

One hundred or more eastern Carolina bankers are expected here for the annual meeting of Group I of the N. C. Bankers' Association here next Monday, C. D. Carstarphen, cashier of the Branch Banking & Trust Company here, said today. The bankers will hold a business meeting in the school auditorium in the afternoon and a banquet in the Woman's Club hall that evening. Several prominent speakers have been invited to take parts in the program.

## Visiting Minister of Church Of the Advent Tomorrow

The Rev. C. A. Ashby, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church, Edenton, will speak at the Church of the Advent Wednesday night at 7:30. This is the first of a series of Wednesday night Lenten services, at which visiting ministers will be the speakers. Dr. Ashby is an interesting and able speaker, and a good congregation is expected to attend this service.