

## NIGHT COP FOILS ATTEMPT TO ROB WHOLESALE FIRM

One of Two Robbers Taken  
By Officers Saturday In  
Perquimans County

An attempt to rob the Harrison Wholesale Company store here last Friday night about 11:30 o'clock was foiled by Night Officer John Roebuck, when he found two white men pounding on the back door to the store. The robbers had cut their way through a lattice door to the driveway, where trucks are loaded and were working on an entrance to the main building when the officer discovered them while making one of his regular inspection trips.

The two young men, J. E. Bateman and Clyde Baker, dodged the officer and fled. Giving chase, Roebuck trailed one of the men a short distance, but was unable to overtake him. The officer fired five shots in the general direction of one of the robbers, but each shot caused the man to increase his speed. Bateman and Baker sped right on by their borrowed car at the plant of the Williamston Supply Company, traveled around the edge of town and wallied across the river fill. The boys boarded a bus in Windsor the following morning and went to Bateman's home, near Elizabeth City, where Baker was arrested Saturday by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, Chief W. B. Daniel, and Officer John Roebuck from this county, assisted by members of the State Highway Patrol. Bateman tarried at his home only a short while and could not be located by the officers.

Baker, admitting his part in the robbery attempt, maintains that Bateman, former dishwasher in a local cafe, planned the robbery more than a week ago. Baker borrowed Ellis Williams' car about 8:30 last Friday night and drove over here with Bateman, but the plan for "easy pickings" did not materialize just as Bateman had pictured it to Baker. Ownership of the car was traced through the state license bureau, and when Williams was questioned, he maintained his car had been stolen. When officers threatened to jail him, he admitted lending the car to Baker, who was arrested a short time after that near the Bateman home in Perquimans County.

Lives of the officers were threatened by Willford Bateman, father of one of the alleged robbers, when they went to the home in search of the boy.

Both Bateman and Baker are said to have prison records, unofficial information received here indicating that Baker was a regular employee at a liquor still located near Elizabeth City.

## Two Are Hurt in Wreck Last Night

Miss Kate Stallings was painfully bruised and her sister, Miss Edith Stallings, was cut on the chin and suffered a severe ankle injury in an automobile crash at Corey's Cross Roads on Highway 17 last Sunday night. Driven by Miss Kate Stallings, the car slipped off the hard surface and went out of control, crashing in to a car parked on the shoulder. Owned by R. C. Coward, of Ayden, the car was damaged to the extent of about \$75, it was estimated.

It will be several weeks before Miss Stallings is able to leave her West Main Street home, it was reported.

## W. Tom Crawford, Local Young Man, Takes To Air

Wm. Thomas Crawford, local young man, working for a private airplane operating license, piloted a ship over his home town last Saturday afternoon for quite a while before returning to the flying base at Rocky Mount. Crawford is the first local man to apply and work for a private operating license. He has about 35 flying hours to his credit already, and hopes to meet all requirements within the near future.

Crawford and Gen. H. Gurganus recently flew with an instructor from Atlanta to Rocky Mount, the trio encountering heavy weather a greater part of the way.

## Skewarkee Lodge Masons To Hold Meeting Tonight

There will be a regular meeting of Skewarkee Lodge of Masons to-night at 7:30. J. C. Manning announced this morning. All members are urged to attend and visitors are invited.

## Watson Hearing Before Gill Set for Friday of This Week

Mrs. B. W. Watson will appear in person to address a plea of mercy to the pardon commission in Raleigh on Friday of this week in behalf of her son, Alvin W. Watson, convicted in this county last December of the murder of Thomas Holliday, young Robersonville man last November, it was learned this week. Friends of the Georgia mother are raising funds to finance her trip, it is understood. She will be accompanied by another one of her sons from their rural home near Jefferson, Ga., according to information received by Henry D. Hardison, the convicted man's attorney.

## Revenue Bill Gets Past First Hurdle in Senate

CLUB PRESIDENT



D. E. Johnson, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Johnson, of this county, was recently honored at Wake Forest College by his election to the presidency of the Barriers' Club.

## Bear Grass Honor Roll for 5th Month

Fifty-eight pupils in the Bear Grass school forged ahead in their scholastic activities during the fifth month recently ended, Principal Hickman reporting 58 names on the honor list for the period, as follows:

First grade: Mattie Faye Brown, Christine Harrison, Evelyn Clyde Harrison, William Rogerson, Polly Peele; R. L. Leggett, Joseph Marshall Boyette.

Second grade: Joseph Melton Terry, Susie Gray Taylor, Ruth Hazel Whitaker, Betty Ray Leggett, Peggy Jones, Eugene Rogers, Ralph Ross Bullock, Magolene Bowen, L. B. Wynne, Edna Earl Harison, Alice Ward Cherry, Louise Taylor.

Third grade: Mildred Norris, Anna Lou Leggett, Mandy Bullock, Reginald Peele, Dillon Cherry, Atung Bullock.

Fourth grade: Baby Gray Cherry, Brownie Roberson, Lorraine Rogerson, Harry Ayers, Cecil Whitehurst.

Fifth grade: Luke Mizelle, Vernon Roebuck, Gilliam Rogers, Haywood Mobley, Herbert Hyman.

Sixth grade: Sybil Peele, Olivia Rogerson, Ruth Evelyn Terry, Edward Bullock, Rufus Gurganus.

Seventh grade: Nine Lee Britton, Mary Lou Hodges, Rebecca Roberson, Elbert Harris, Claude S. Griffin.

Eighth grade: Carrie Dolly Terry, Rachel Ayers, Ronald White.

Ninth grade: Atla Britton, H. D. Harrison, jr., Amanda Wynne, Charlie Harrison.

Tenth grade: Effie Davis Britton, Ruby Wynne, Mildred Ward.

Eleventh grade: Bessie Mae Terry, Elizabeth Bailey, Leon Rogers.

### CORRECTION

Acknowledging the flood relief contributions made by Williams Township citizens and turned in by Mrs. T. A. Peed, The Enterprise made another one of those errors and gave the amount donated by Mr. Mamie Lanier, as \$7 when it should have been \$8. As usual, the error is gladly corrected.

## Nash Farmers To Try System Crop Rotations

Five Nash County farmers have agreed to run five-year crop rotations on their farms and to keep records on the results.

## Strawberry Growers Haul Straw To Mulch Fields

Columbus County strawberry growers are hauling pine straw from 10 to 15 miles to mulch their fields.

## Revised Bill Calls For Tax on Building Materials and Meals

\$25,000,000 Road Bond Issue  
Slated For Discussion in  
Session Tomorrow

Bucking the administration for once and bent on wresting every cent possible out of the people, the North Carolina Senate last evening passed on first reading the \$25,000,000 revenue bill calling for a tax on meals and building materials besides the countless other items. It was virtually agreed in the beginning that the sales tax would not include meals and a few other items, but the money-cravers apparently had in mind only a banker's budget—a budget that is to be balanced whether or not people starve or freeze as a result.

The administration and the highway commission apparently have a big headache in the proposed Halstead bill calling for a bond issue of \$25,000,000 for improvement of secondary roads. Those opposed to the bill are already hiding behind the constitutional amendment passed last November, limiting public bond issues to certain amounts. Figuring they are safe, the boys are said to be ready to compromise and scale down the amount to nine or ten millions or to a "reasonable" bond issue to be effected by the governor and council of state "if and when needed." The prospects now are believed brighter for secondary road improvements than earlier in the session when a decrease was recommended in the appropriations for secondary roads.

In a short session last night, the House passed a bill authorizing the State to erect a \$100,000 gasoline terminal "if necessary." No location for the terminal is specified. The county option liquor bill was at last ratified last night, ending 28 years of state prohibition. Under the terms of the measure, 81 dry counties may hold liquor elections on or after Tuesday, April 13.

The question of homestead exemption from taxation is before a subcommittee of the joint finance group today. Requests have been filed for a \$300 exemption instead of the \$1,000 limit allowed by an amendment to the constitution voted last November.

The fertilizer law in all probability will be amended, the general opinion being that an open formula would prove impracticable.

Centering its attention on the revenue bill, the Senate is expected to pass the measure on second reading this afternoon. Amendments to the bill include a \$250 tax on peddlers displaying goods for retail orders, and a tax of \$4 for each gasoline pump in operation. The building material tax, opposed by Senator R. L. Coburn along with the tax on meals, will exempt rough and dressed lumber but will include brick, millwork, sand, rock and metals.

Once the revenue bill is handled, the legislature is expected to look toward adjournment which is expected to follow about the middle of next month.

Escapes Uninjured When  
Car Turns Over Near Here

Miss Lela Brown Barnhill miraculously escaped serious injury last Saturday evening when a large Buick car turned over with her just this side of the Martin County home. She was slightly bruised and shocked, but her injuries were only minor ones.

Forced off the road by an unlighted horse-drawn vehicle, the car skidded and turned over, causing damage to the machine estimated at \$250.

## ANNUAL MEET OF GROUP I BANKERS IN SESSION HERE

Dr. John B. Woosley Makes  
Feature Address To  
100 Financiers

Speaking before the annual meeting of Group I bankers of the North Carolina association in the high school here yesterday afternoon, Dr. John B. Woosley, University of North Carolina economics professor, said "We are in a stage of maturing prosperity," the university man adding that he believed it was on a sound basis and due to the government's pump priming.

His address, featuring the afternoon program before an assembly of nearly 100 bankers, Dr. Woosley interestingly reviewed the "Recent Trends in Bank Assets," explaining there had been decided shifts from commercial loans to bond accounts. In 1914 only 17 per cent of all national bank assets were represented in bonds, the speaker said. The ratio increased to 24 per cent in 1929, and last year 40 per cent of the assets were in bonds. Commercial loan accounts dropped in size from 56 per cent of the total in 1914 to 49 per cent in 1929 and then to 26 per cent of the total assets in 1936. The shift in assets was far-reaching, banks all over the nation and in foreign countries reporting increases in their bond accounts and decreases in commercial loans.

Five strong forces caused the shift, Dr. Woosley explaining that the increasing power and resources of a few big corporations had enabled those concerns to raise money by the favorable sale of stocks and bonds. Since 1909, the big corporations have earned 6 per cent annually while other business had to be satisfied with a 2 percent return. If this ratio is maintained, the big corporations will own 70 per cent of all the corporate wealth by 1950 and all of it by 1970.

Improvement in transportation facilities and resulting quick deliveries made possible reductions in inventories and made unnecessary many bank loans by thousands of retailers, the speaker continued.

Better internal business management has decreased dependence upon the bank in many instances. The American people are acutely security conscious, and those who never heard of bonds learned of them during the big war issues and they are in the market in a big way right now. And then the government debt makes bonds plentiful, and a big force in the shifts from commercial loans to bond accounts.

Dr. Woosley predicts some big investments in the future, explaining that 60 per cent of the locomotives on the rails today are 20 years old or older. Electric output is far from a saturation point, and sales are still far from a normal point. The banks can accommodate the demand for credit and without a great increase in interest rates.

The professor warned of danger areas that might interrupt the march of recovery and that the government might have to step in and effect changes in discount rates. Runaway speculative activities on the markets and a runaway stock market and inflation in either or both will disturb the balance, he said.

Banker J. T. Greenleaf, of Elizabeth City, was elected to head the group during the coming year. D. R. Everett, of Robersonville, was elected vice chairman and A. G. Small, of Elizabeth City, secretary-treasurer.

Last evening the bankers and a number of their friends were entertained at a banquet in the Woman's club.

## Car Crashes Into Parked Oil Truck on Street Here

Joe Keel escaped injury but wrecked his car when he crashed into an oil truck parked on West Main Street here early last Saturday evening. A passenger was thrown part of the way through the windshield, but he was not badly hurt. The engine of the car was driven several inches from its moorings.

## A. and T. Glee Club To Sing Here Thursday Noon

The A. and T. College glee club will appear in a concert in the colored school here Thursday of this week at noon, it was announced today by Principal Hayes. There are 32 members of the club and the public is invited to hear them.

## Smokehouse in Bear Grass Robbed Sunday Evening

Breaking into Toby Rogers' smoke house in Bear Grass Township last Sunday evening, a thief stole five nice size hams and carted them off in a sack on his back. No arrests were made, officers having failed to find any trace of the meat after a long search along the Beaufort-Martin boundary line.

The signature to a contractor's advertisement appearing on an inside page of this paper, reads, "Albert Perry and R. O. Martin". It should read, "Albert Perry and J. C. Martin." The correction is gladly noted.

## Bill Introduced To Provide Ten Million Dollar State Bond Issue For Making Refunds To Counties

## Finals of Building and Loan Essay Contest Held Monday

The finals of the annual essay contest, sponsored by the Martin County Building and Loan Association, were held at the local high school yesterday afternoon, with Miss Nancy Glover presiding. Three contestants from Williamston High School, two girls and one boy appeared before the judges to present prepared essays pertaining to thrift, saving, and home ownership as exemplified in building and loan associations. The first prize of fifteen dollars was awarded to Edgar Gurganus, and second and third prizes of five dollars were awarded to Mary Helen Boykin and Mollie White Ray. The winner will represent Martin County in a district contest to be held in Rocky Mount next month.

The cash prizes were given by the Martin County Building and Loan Association, sponsor of the contest, and were presented by Wheeler Martin, secretary. Thomas Blount, of Jamesville, won first prize in the first of the contests which was held in 1935, and Bolton Cowen, of Williamston, was second. No contest was held last year on account of the forced closing of the schools. All county schools are invited to participate each year, but only Williamston sent contestants this year.

## COUNTY RETAIL SALES TOTALED \$3,584,000 IN 1935

Survey Just Released Shows  
There Were 215 Stores  
In This County

The 215 retail stores in Martin County reported a business of \$3,584,000 during 1935 or approximately one million dollars more than in 1935. On an average, each person in this county bought \$158 worth of merchandise of one kind or another. The 215 stores employed 395 clerks, paying them \$241,000 or an average salary of \$50 a month.

In 1935, the 29,642 stores in the State handled a business valued at \$463,210,000 compared with \$363,111,000 in 1933 according to a survey of retail trade released through the University of North Carolina News Letter recently. The per capita sales for the State as a whole in 1935 was \$136, the 60,207 employees receiving an average salary of \$736 each.

Martin County ranked 21st in the list of per capita sales, Pitt and Beaufort Counties leading by very small margins in this section. Mecklenburg, with a per capita average of \$265 in sales, led the State. Avery County, with only \$70 spent by each of its inhabitants—on an average, trailing the list of counties.

Probably the most startling feature advanced by the survey comparing 1933 sales with those for 1935 is found in Tyrrell County. In 1933, Tyrrell reported only \$73,000 worth of merchandise sold compared with \$437,000 for 1935. That county ranked 100th in 1933 and 64th in 1935.

## Winslow To Talk On Farm Program

Recent developments in connection with the farm program will be reviewed by J. E. Winslow, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, at a meeting in Scotland Neck Thursday afternoon of this week at 2 o'clock and again that evening at 7:30 o'clock in Tarboro. County Agent T. B. Brandon announced here today. A special invitation is extended all Martin County farmers to attend either one of the meetings.

Mr. Winslow has just returned from Washington, where he was a member of farm leader groups holding conferences with President Roosevelt with reference to the national farm program. He is expected to offer information on the latest developments in state and national farm programs.

## Windsor Rector To Speak In Church Here Tomorrow

The Rev. William Latta, rector of St. Thomas Episcopal church, Windsor, will be the guest speaker at the Church of the Advent Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

## Firemen Called To Everetts Sunday

Williamston volunteer firemen were called to Everetts Sunday afternoon at 2:50 o'clock, when fire threatened the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Barnhill there. The large truck and pumper was carried there, but the fire was under control when the volunteers reached there and no use was made of the equipment.

Starting in an upstairs room at a chimney outlet, the fire burned a bed and other furniture and filled the upper story with smoke. It was thought at first the large home would be destroyed and that the fire would spread to near-by buildings, including a filling station. Local help hurried to the fire and brought it under control with water carried in tubs, buckets and other containers.

## Measure Is Sent To Committee on Roads In House Last Week

Doubtful If Proposed Bill  
Will Ever Get Out of  
Committee Room

The claims entered by a number of counties for refunds of money advanced for the construction of state highways were mentioned in the legislature last week for the first time since the Ehringhaus commission filed its report that has been held in secret. Representative H. G. Jones, from way up in Swain County, introduced a bill calling for a \$10,000,000 appropriation with which to settle the claims. The bill was sent to the committee on roads where some believe it will die a natural death. Representative H. G. Horton, while not fully acquainted with the details of the bill, stated while at home this week that he believed it would be reported out of committee.

## Young Man Admits Dardens Robbery

Leman James, young colored man, was arrested at his home in Jamesville Township yesterday afternoon by Deputy J. H. Roebuck for the alleged robbery of Haywood James' store, near Dardens, the night before. James is said to have admitted the robbery and is now in jail awaiting action of the courts.

Borrowing bloodhounds from the Martin prison camp and their drivers, Deputy Roebuck went to the scene of the robbery early Monday morning. The dogs picked up a track and followed it across the highway and railroad to an old barn about one-quarter of a mile away. Most of the stolen goods, hidden under a pile of corn shucks, were found there. Suspicion led to young James and his arrest followed that afternoon. Going to his home, the officers found all doors locked, but the deputy saw the man in bed fast asleep. Getting no answer to his calls, the officer removed a small window pane with his knife, raised the window and crawled in to get his man.

James ripped off several boards to gain an entrance to the store and get a supply of tobacco, canned goods and other articles that would have lasted him several months.

## Name Champion 4-H Club Member

Garlon Warren, of Parmele, has been declared the club member with the best all-round record for 1936 in Martin County, and as a result will be awarded a free scholarship to the 1937 State Short Course, held at State College the latter part of July. He was selected on the basis of his production record as shown by his 4-H record books; his participation in club and community activities, such as exhibits, judging contests, fairs, achievement day programs, etc.; by his leadership in his club, community, and other organizations; by his story of his 4-H club experiences, and his high school record.

Garlon's record has been forwarded to State College, where it will be considered in connection with similar records from other counties in the state for the 4-year scholarship to the North Carolina State College of Agriculture, offered by the Chiles Nitrate Educational Bureau, to the boy who is selected as the most outstanding 4-H club member in the state.

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Prospects for a settlement of any kind are not considered very favorable, and if any consideration is shown the claims it will be the form of advancing a road-building program, it is believed. The trend of events in the current legislature is in that direction where the people are beginning to realize they are to consider themselves fortunate if they get any consideration whatever. And there is no doubt but that the people of this county would readily accept a settlement whereby they could get two or three roads surfaced and call the claim square.

The title of the bill introduced by Representative Jones and others reads as follows: "Making an appropriation to the State Highway and Public Works Commission to be used exclusively for the purpose of payments to counties equalizing cost of construction of highways within the state and providing for a bond issue in a sum not to exceed \$10,000,000 to secure funds for payment of such appropriation."

The \$10,000,000, a sizeable sum all right, is made to appear small when the lavish expenditure of \$2,000,000 on a single bridge project in the Albemarle region is recalled.

Details of the Jones bill could not be learned here, but the meager information received states that the proposed measure would authorize the governor to appoint a claim adjustment commission to determine the correct amount due any county for highway construction costs, and authorize \$10,000,000 state bonds to pay all claims. The provision is made that should the total claims exceed the amount appropriated, payments would be made on a pro rata basis. The bill further specifies that payments to the counties will be used only to retire bonds issued for highway construction.

## Young County Man Makes Record at Wake Forest

D. E. Johnson, Martin County young man, is making quite a record for himself at Wake Forest, where he is a student in the law school. In a recent issue, "Old Gold and Black" students' weekly, said, "We Wake Forest students think highly of Johnson, especially since he is active in college affairs and good in his studies, in spite of the fact that he is perhaps the only man in the two professional schools who is earning every cent of his college expenses." Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Johnson, of Poplar Point, was recently elected to the presidency of the Barriers' Club, one of the oldest and most select organizations on the Wake Forest campus.

Concluding an attendance contest last week, members of the Skewarkey Masonic lodge will celebrate with a turkey supper at the expense of the contest losers in the Woman's Club hall Thursday evening of this week. Each member will be accompanied by a guest.

Dr. Peacock will deliver the feature address.

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