

Charge Abe Martin With Violating the Slot Machine Laws

Released Under \$1,000 Bond Following His Arrest Sunday Morning

Abe Martin, at one time a representative of the McCormick Vending Machine Company, was jailed here Sunday morning for the alleged violation of the slot machine laws in this county. Arrested in Greenville, Martin was released several hours later under a \$1,000 bond posted by L. B. McCormick, owner of the McCormick Vending Machine Company. He is slated to appear before Judge H. O. Peel for trial at the next Monday session of the recorder's court.

Martin's trial is expected to throw added light on the case tried in the county court two weeks ago when McCormick denied ownership of certain gambling machines and maintained that they were placed in this county by Martin without his (McCormick's) knowledge. During the trial, McCormick stated that he did not know where Martin was, that he had made personal visits to New York in search of him and had offered a \$100 reward for information as to where he was located at that time.

According to the evidence offered during the McCormick trial, Master Mechanic Jasper, an employee of the McCormick Company, prepared four "race horse" machines for locations in Martin County, the defense pointing out that the gambling feature had been stripped from each of the four machines. The defense maintained that the machines were loaded on Martin's truck, that instead of delivering those machines, Martin exchanged them for four others and then placed them on location in this county. The devices were in operation only a day or two before they were confiscated by the sheriff's office and charges were immediately brought against the McCormick Company.

The warrant recently drawn by the sheriff's office charges Martin with having placed five of the gambling machines on location in the county, and he will be tried on all five counts, it is understood.

After the machines were confiscated and before the trial was finally held, Martin seemed to have mysteriously disappeared. McCormick claiming that he had been unable to locate him. A short time ago he was reported to be working in Craven County, presumably for the McCormick company, and his arrest was effected last Sunday morning by officers in Pitt County.

McCormick appealed from the judgment calling for a \$500 fine and payment of the costs in the case against him here week before last. Bond was fixed in the sum of \$2,000.

Cars Crash At Mobley's Mill Saturday Afternoon

Receiving his first call since entering upon his new duties at this point, Patrolman W. E. Saunders investigated a minor wreck at the Mobley mill on the Hamilton Road late last Saturday afternoon. No one was hurt in the accident, but considerable damage resulted when two cars crashed there.

Applying the brakes on his car just as he was entering the mill bridge, Henry Lewis, colored, swerved into the Ford driven by Frank Williams. Fenders were smashed and front wheels were torn down, reports stating that the chassis on the Lewis car was bent. The damage to the Chevrolet car was estimated at \$100 and that to the Ford at \$35.

Lewis was said to have agreed to fix the damaged cars.

Highway Accident Record

No comparative review of automobile accidents, highway killings and resulting property damage has been offered since September, but the dastardly business continued in a big way during the period with the exception of a short time during the latter part of that month when no accidents were reported on Martin County highways. A shift in the patrol personnel and duties away from assigned posts, made it next to impossible for the patrolmen to offer a week-by-week record of accidents. Patrolman W. E. Saunders, entering upon his new duties the first of this month at this point, is offering his cooperation in the collection of accident records, and the people of this county can again get a word picture of the costly accident business in this county.

Since the last report was made public, a life has been lost, 14 accidents followed in due course at scattered points over the county, 15 were slightly injured, maimed or critically injured and \$2,000 damage was done to property. The property loss, not to even mention the human suffering and loss of life, represented an amount almost equal the money spent in advancing relief to the hungry and needy.

Details on the accidents are not immediately available, but in at least fifty per cent of them it is estimated that carelessness and negligence proved the main contributing factors.

The record prior to October 1 and the record since that time are, as follows:

Period	Accidents Injured	Killed	Property Damage
Period ending Sept. 30	43	37	\$ 8,815.00
Period ending Oct. 31	14	15	2,000.00
TOTALS	57	52	\$10,905.00

Town Considers New Street And Sidewalk Paving Plans

A new program calling for the paving of several sidewalks and streets is being considered by the town of Williamston in cooperation with the Works Progress Administration, a report released at a regular meeting of the board of commissioners last evening stating that final plans would be made ready for submission to the State office of the WPA within the next few days.

While a large number of streets and sidewalks are included in the tentative project list, it is understood that the work would possibly be handled in small units. If the proposed project is approved, the local authorities will possibly limit the work to the construction of sidewalks for the present, turning later to street paving work and the laying of several blocks of sewer lines. The proposed project will cost approximately \$32,000, it is estimated. It is believed that by using its present equipment, including trucks and

concrete mixers, the town will have to make no sizable cash outlay. These details have not been definitely determined, however, and if the cost is too great the town will likely forego the project in its entirety.

The proposed plans call for the paving of sidewalks on Grace Street and Marshall Avenue and paving on Warren, Elm, Hassell, Grace and Smithwick Streets and Marshall Avenue, and for a sewer line, running from Haughton up Railroad Street to Elm and south on Elm almost to Washington Street.

The meeting of the board last night was the shortest held in recent months, the only other official business being in the form of an order directing K. G. Strawbridge to tear down a shed built to the rear of the old buggy factory building on South Smithwick Street. State fire authorities have ruled that no permit could be issued for such construction, and that there was nothing for the owner to do but tear it down.

PICKER LICENSE

A warning was issued indirectly this week to all peanut picker operators in Martin County, urging them to comply with the law by procuring operators' licenses and by keeping accurate reports on picking operations.

A strict enforcement of the law requiring licenses and reports is anticipated, according to information reaching here this week from Raleigh.

The licenses are available in the office of the register of deeds along with report forms and instructions. Up until today only 42 of the more than 100 picker operators had procured proper licenses.

Hamilton Native Died Yesterday

J. W. Davenport, prominent Rocky Mount citizen, died at his home there suddenly yesterday morning from a heart attack. He had been in declining health since 1936 when he retired from active duty in the management of a large automobile business and farming operations. Funeral services are being conducted at the home this afternoon by Rev. J. W. Kincheloe, pastor of the First Baptist church of which Mr. Davenport was a member for a long number of years. Interments will follow in the family plot in the Rocky Mount cemetery.

The son of the late Clayton and Sallie Moore Davenport, he was born in this county 62 years ago. When a young man he moved to Rocky Mount and was in the employ of the A. C. L. Railroad Company. Three years later he entered business for himself, success marking his activities. In 1906 he married Miss Clarice Johnson, of Louisburg, and she with three children, Mrs. R. O. Savage, Miss Vivian Davenport and Mr. D. W. Davenport, all of Rocky Mount, survives. He also leaves a brother, Mrs. J. A. Davenport, and a sister, Mrs. R. A. Edmondson, both of Hamilton.

C. A. Harrison Continues In Hospital At Richmond

Although a bit nauseated by an almost constant dosage of medicines, Mr. C. A. Harrison was said to be showing some improvement in a Richmond hospital late yesterday. He is completing a three-weeks' stay in the hospital today, his many friends here hoping he'll be able to return home within the near future.

Family of Twelve Is Homeless Following Fire Here On Friday

Virtually All of Earthly Belongings Were Destroyed in Blaze

Starting from a defective flue, fire last Friday night left eleven colored children and their aged grandmother homeless here, neighbors stating that the victims are facing the dreary winter months with nothing more than a bare hope to keep their souls and bodies together.

The grandmother, Emma Latham Harvey, hardly had time to get the children from the burning building, and there was little aid immediately available as workers in the White Street neighborhood had not returned to their homes from work. Very few contents were saved, the grandmother to whom all the children looked for support, stating from a sick bed in a neighbor's home the following morning that only three old mattresses, a trunk and chair or two were removed and that considerable damage was done to the few articles saved from the fire.

Catching the dry shingles around the old flue, the fire spread rapidly through the attic of the two-room house and its "L" a delay was experienced in sounding an alarm, and by the time the call was answered and the apparatus placed in operation, the main part of the house was virtually burned down. The Harvey woman is looking longingly at the virtual ruins with a hope of being able to throw a few pieces of tin over the old roof and patching up the walls for a place of refuge during the coming winter. Friday night, the few contents removed from the burning home were placed in a nearby church, the eleven children and grandmother being placed in about as many homes scattered throughout the community. Overcome by exhaustion, the grandmother fell ill and was ordered to bed by a doctor. With the savings of a lifetime virtually wiped out and with thoughts of a dark future preying on her mind, she was still in a high nervous state Saturday following a sleepless night.

Her welfare did not come in for any great consideration, but the grandmother was greatly concerned Saturday over the welfare of her fatherless offspring, reports stating that the mother of the eleven is a patient in a state institution at Goldsboro for treatment. The main source of income other than that earned by the grandmother is the fund for aid to dependent children, but the head of the household pointed out it was a difficult task to feed eleven mouths on eighteen dollars a month. Buying ordinarily in bulk to save a few pennies, the grandmother had just a few hours earlier replenished the larder and all the food was destroyed.

Investigating the case, the welfare department states the family is in need of clothing, especially bed clothing and any other articles that can be conveniently spared by others. No exact estimate on the damage has been offered, but according to Fire Chief Hall, the total loss will approximate \$800 or \$1,000 with no

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STAMP TRUCK

Local stamp collectors will have their day on December 5 when the postoffice department sends its philatelic truck here for an inspection of the little stickers that give a complete stamp history. The truck, 25 feet long, carries one of the most complete and valuable stamp collections in existence. The display is certain to attract much attention from local collectors, and all school children are being extended a cordial invitation by Postmaster L. T. Fowden to view the exhibits.

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Native Of County And Young Mother Ends Her Own Life

Funeral Services Were Held For Mrs. T. C. Whitley Last Saturday

Cruel tragedy struck suddenly for the second time in a prominent Martin County family last week-end when Mrs. Mary Everett Whitley ended her own life in Northampton County, near Woodland. Using a 12-gauge gun, Mrs. Whitley, a young mother, fired a load of shot into her side Thursday evening about seven o'clock at her home, death following in a Roanoke Rapids hospital early next morning. When she was only seven years old, her father, George Everett, was accidentally drowned in Roanoke River at Hamilton on April 15, 1925.

Experiencing ill health for a number of years, and treatment in several hospitals having failed to afford her any great relief, the young woman became terribly desponded at times, and several years ago she was said to have attempted to end her life by taking an excessive dose of medicine. However, in late months she apparently enjoyed better health and never gave any indication that she was even considering such a drastic act. Following the evening meal and while her husband went to visit his father who was critically ill, she took the gun and fatally wounded herself. A small son, a sister-in-law, Mrs. Walter Johnson, and the Johnson children were at the home at the time. In a semi-conscious condition, she was removed immediately to the hospital where she died the following morning at 8 o'clock.

The last rites were conducted Saturday afternoon by Rev. James H. Smith, pastor of the Williamston Baptist church. Interment was in the Brown plot in the Robersonville Cemetery at 3 o'clock.

The daughter of Mrs. Lester Everett Brown and the late George Everett, Mrs. Whitley was born in Hamilton Township twenty-one years ago last July. She attended school there and following her father's death the family moved to the Whitmore farm, near Everett, later moving to the old Stephen Outerbridge homeplace in Hamilton Township, not far from Gold Point. About two years ago she married Mr. T. C. Whitley, and after a stay of a little over a year in the Hassell community, she moved to Northampton County. She attended the Robersonville schools but ill health made it impossible for her to continue her schooling after she completed the ninth grade.

Besides her husband and her 13-month old son, Charles, and a grief-stricken mother, she leaves five brothers, Messrs. Richard, Clayton, Grover and Robert Everett, of this county, and C. D. Everett, of Bethel, and two sisters, Mrs. James Jones, of Williamston, and Jean, of Hamilton Township. Mrs. Whitley, a devoted wife and mother, enjoyed a large friendship circle in the communities where she had made her home, and over in Northampton County she was held in high esteem by everyone who knew her.

Mrs. Jones, a bride last Tuesday, visited the Whitley home a few hours before the tragedy and found her sister getting along very well and apparently in good spirit.

Fire Destroys Cafe And Apartments at Meat Packing Plant

\$5,000 Fire at the Roberson Slaughter House Leaves Twelve Homeless

Fire, striking for the second time in two days in this community, destroyed the cafe-apartment building at the Roberson meat packing plant, near the Williamston fair grounds, late last Saturday night, burning out twelve persons and destroying all their personal effects. In a fire the evening before, Emma Harvey, aged colored woman, and her eleven orphan grandchildren were left homeless.

Starting from an over-heated stove, the cafe-apartment fire had gained much headway on the second floor when occupants on the first floor discovered it. "We tried to climb the stairs, but were forced back by smoke and fire," a tenant said, explaining that not a single personal article or a piece of furniture could be saved from the second floor.

Called to the scene, Williamston's volunteer firemen poured water from a small tank on the fire but failed in their effort to bring it under control, and the equipment was moved and later used in keeping the fire from spreading to the packing plant, nearby. During the meantime a wild move was started by an organized salvage crew to clear the stock of goods from the cafe. Most of the smaller articles, including canned goods, general groceries and light fixtures were moved to safety without any great resulting damage. Heavy fixtures and ice-boxes

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Tobacco Prices Reach Highest Point of Season Here Monday

Tobacco prices reached a new high point on the local tobacco market when more than 300,000 pounds of the golden leaf were sold for an average right at 20 cents. Spirited bidding marked the sales and the quality of the offerings proved to be exactly what the buyers wanted.

There was a noticeable upward trend in prices paid for the medium grades, and even the inferior types were in favor. The better grades of leaf sold as high as 43 cents a pound, and individual averages in the 30- and 35-cent range were fairly numerous. While a few farmers turned their tags, most of the sales proved satisfactory.

The market blocked with possibly thirty or forty thousand

pounds unsold at the closing hour yesterday. The block was cleared early this morning, and sales will be completed today possibly a few minutes before closing time.

Reports from the market this morning indicated that while the general average will hardly reach the record of yesterday, prices for comparative grades are holding up well.

Including the sales today, the market has sold right at nine and one-half million pounds for an average of around fifteen cents or more for the season.

Farmers are fast completing their marketing activities, and indications now are that the season will end the latter part of this month or certainly in early December.

\$12,000 Appropriated For School at Parmele

R. H. Smith Named Assistant Martin County Treasurer

Commissioners Hold Regular Monthly Session Monday

A \$12,000 appropriation for the construction of a new high school building in Parmele was approved by the Martin County Board of Commissioners in regular session here yesterday, the authorities taking the action upon condition that the Works Progress Administration will participate in the proposed project. Appearing before the commissioners, members of the county board of education reviewed the need for a new building and pointed out that during the past eight years the school debt in this county had been decreased by \$160,000. It is estimated, the education authorities pointed out, that the project will effect not more than a one and one-quarter cent increase in the tax rate.

The appointment of Richard H. Smith as assistant Martin County treasurer was approved by the board. Mr. Smith is to serve in that official capacity until the return of Mr. Harrison.

Although the board was in session a greater part of the day, very little business was handled other than the appointment of Mr. Harrison's assistant and the appropriation of \$12,000 for the Parmele school building. The had condition of rural roads was pointed out by Cross Roads citizen, who appealed to the board in an effort to get the State Highway forces to drain and widen what is known as "Guss Lane," a distance of about one mile. The road begins at the W. K. Roebuck farm and runs southeasterly to a colored school.

The board also recommended that the State Highway and Public Works Commission complete the road beginning at the Halifax County line and running thence into the interior of this county via the old Hopkins, Mayo and Bryant farms. This road was deserted by the highway forces after it was staked off in February of this year.

Adjustments were ordered in the tax valuations for the Jones lands owned by J. B. Cherry in Williams Township in accordance with an established survey. The listings were reduced from 120 to 72 acres of land and the value was decreased from \$1229 to \$510, and are applicable for the tax years of 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939.

The board also ordered adjustments made in the tax values on lots in Williamston on the Critcher and Cowen and Charlie Stokes lots in Williamston. It was pointed out to the board that the properties had been doubly listed from 1929 through 1937.

Considerable time was spent reviewing the regular monthly reports submitted by the heads of the various departments, and heard a discussion centering around the confinement of town drunks and other common prisoners in the county jail. No mention of the discussion was made in the official minutes and as far as it could be learned no action was taken in the matter.

HOLIDAY

Saturday, November 11, Armistice Day, will not be observed as a general holiday here, but several business firms will suspend operations for the day. The two banks, postoffice, the Virginia Electric and Power Company offices will be closed all day, it was announced this morning.

No mail deliveries will be effected either in the rural communities or in the village and no window service will be offered at the postoffice.

County Board Of Education Holds Meeting Monday

Advance Plans For Construction of \$21,000 School Building at Parmele

Meeting in regular session here yesterday the Martin County Board of Education advanced plans for the construction of a \$24,000 high school building for the colored population in the Parmele district. Carrying their plans before the county commissioners, the board was granted a \$12,000 county appropriation with a greater part of the remaining \$12,000 to come from the Works Progress Administration. No contract has been let for the building, a representative of the board stating that action by the Works Progress Administration is now awaited.

Crowded conditions in the school has been the cause for much concern for several years, and the consolidation of high schools there has aggravated the situation. It was pointed out to the commissioners by the board of education meeting at a joint group with the commissioners.

At the present time, the school is holding classes in four different buildings. While most of the school is held in an old brick building, students are housed in the old and dilapidated building constructed years ago, and the agricultural workshop. A few pupils are housed in the teacherage.

With an enrollment of about 350 pupils in the school, the board of education proposes to construct a building 160 by 112 feet to include four large classrooms, home economics unit, an agricultural unit, office, library and auditorium. The building is to be brick veneered and one story high.

The board confined its business to the one project and offered no schedule for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays in the schools. It is certain that the Thanksgiving holiday will be observed on the 30th, and that nearly all, if not all, the schools will close Wednesday for the remainder of Thanksgiving week.

County Farmer Dies Suddenly Saturday

Archie L. Carraway, Cross Roads Township farmer, died suddenly at his home in Cross Roads Township last Saturday night at 11 o'clock. Heart trouble was given as the immediate cause of his death. In failing health for the past two years, Mr. Carraway had visited relatives in the community and had just returned home and made ready to retire when he was taken critically ill, death following a few minutes later. He was 39 years old.

He was the son of the late John Carraway and wife, and had lived in this and Pitt County, all his life. When a young man he married Miss Ibeh Clark, who survives with four children, the youngest of whom is about two months old. He also leaves three brothers and one sister.

Mr. Carraway was a member of the church at Christian Chapel, and was recognized as a successful farmer.

Funeral services were conducted at two o'clock Monday afternoon at the home by Rev. J. M. Perry. Interment was in the Clark cemetery in Cross Roads Township.

Local Man Gravely Ill In Washington Hospital

Wilton A. Knox, well-known local man, was reported gravely ill in a Washington hospital at noon today. Unconscious since yesterday, he was said to be in a weakened condition and little hope was held for his recovery.

Given a blood transfusion by Mr. G. W. Hardison, yesterday, Mr. Knox failed to show any marked improvement afterwards. Receiving hospital treatment at intervals during the past few weeks, he was removed to the institution last Thursday.

4-H Club Members Planning Achievement Program Here

The cream of Martin County's youth is gathering here on Saturday of this week for the fourth annual 4-H club achievement program, the club leaders announcing today that several hundred of the youths are expected to participate in the schedule of events. A high spot in the program which gets underway at 10 o'clock that morning in the high school building will be an address by Miss Frances McGregor, assistant state 4-H club leader. But there'll be no dull moments when the youths themselves take over the program.

Commenting on the event, Assistant County Agent J. P. Woodard said, "Special awards will be made to those club members who have gained recognition by winning cash prizes and awards. Certificates of achievement will be given to all who have satisfactorily completed this year's work. The banner clubs and banner club members will be announced. One of the main features of the day will be the club exhibits which are being put on by the individual clubs. Cash prizes will be offered for the winning exhibits.

"The program Saturday will be in charge of club members. Lunch will be served in the gymnasium by club girls. Music will be played by the club boys and the afternoon recreational program will be in charge of the boys and girls who attended the 4-H club recreational schools.

"In 1939 club work in Martin County and in North Carolina has reached a new high level. Membership in the State has increased to approximately 50,000. Martin County have over 500. More and better work has been done by individual club members.

"Every club member has been urged to come and bring his parents. An interesting program has been planned for everyone. Everyone interested in club-work is invited to attend."