

## Operators Of Slot Machines In This County Lose Money

### Owners Lose Machines and Are Ordered to Pay Sizeable Fines by Court

Slot machine owners and distributors are finding it a bit costly to do business in this county, reports coming from the courthouse yesterday stating that a second \$500 fine with costs of more than \$100 attached had been imposed by Judge H. O. Peel.

Abe Martin, at one time an employee of the McCormick Vending Machine Company with headquarters in Greenville, was charged in the county court with violating the slot machine law. Entering a plea of not guilty, Martin, through his attorney, H. G. Horton, maintained that the machines were not illegal. The machines were the same ones that McCormick was charged with owning and distributing in this county. When McCormick was tried for alleged violation of the law a few weeks ago, he maintained that the machines belonged to Martin, that Martin, his agent, had switched the machines for others without his (McCormick's) knowledge. At the first trial, McCormick was adjudged guilty, the court imposing a \$500 fine upon him. It was the opinion of the court that any machine that could be easily converted into a gambling device was illegal, and the defense admitted that it had ordered the machines of the race horse type to be placed in this county.

Martin, admitting that he had switched the machines without the knowledge of McCormick, claimed the machines for his own, explaining that he had stored the McCormick race horse machines and substituted five of his own in their places.

The state offered five witnesses, Messrs. Linwood Johnson, of Gold Point; Lewis Johnson, Latham James and Warren, of Robersonville, and Tobey Rogers, of Bear Grass. They told the court that Martin had placed the race horse machines in their places of business with the instructions to keep the "pay-off box" locked. When a customer won anything, the owner or operator of the business where the machine was located was to unlock the box and pay it to the winner or he could pay it out of his own pocket and be reimbursed from the machine later.

Judge Peel fined him \$500 and taxed him with the cost. Notice of appeal was given, but just before the court adjourned there was some talk of withdrawing the appeal if the court would have the fine include the costs which were in excess of \$100.

The machines, valued at possibly \$300 each, were ordered confiscated. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck stating that he did not know what he was going to do with them. There is some doubt if they can be sold legally and it is likely that the expensive machines will be wrecked.

It was the third time that a case charging violation of the slot machine laws had been called in Judge Peel's court. In the first case, the defendant, the owner of the property where the machine, a one-arm bandit, was found, was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost, the county getting an additional \$28 in nickels found in the machine.

## Three Implicated In Thefts From Autos

Two persons were arrested here and a third was taken into custody in Greenville a short time later in connection with a series of thefts from automobiles parked on local streets yesterday.

Fred Whitley and Lewis Sheppard, colored men of Bear Grass Township, were jailed for allegedly receiving stolen goods. "Crip" Davis, Greenville Negro, was reported to have been arrested in the Pitt capital for the alleged theft of a number of articles.

Davis was said to have stolen a lady's coat from Hildreth Mobley's car, a suit of clothes from the car of Dean House, Charlotte man and several bundles from other cars. An overcoat recovered has not been reported stolen, the local police station reported this morning.

The thief was said to have established a bargain center in the union bus station rest room. He offered the stolen goods for sale at drastic reductions, the prices running as low as one-tenth the actual value.

Chief W. B. Daniel, accompanied by Sheppard, went to Greenville shortly before noon this morning to identify Davis.

## Barnhill, Evans And Moye Have First Sale Friday

To make available space for the storage of redried tobacco, the firm of Barnhill, Evans and Moye are holding sales only in the Farmers Warehouse here, the Planters house being used by the redrying plant. Under this arrangement, the first sale on Friday, November 17, will be held in the Farmers warehouse instead of the Planters, as formerly announced.

## Tobacco Sales Approach the 10-Million Pound Mark Here

With floors blocked yesterday and a fairly sizable sale underway today, the local market is fast approaching the ten million-pound mark today, Sales Supervisor K. B. Crawford stating that the total for the season would run well in excess of the ten million-pound mark.

The block yesterday was cleared this morning shortly before eleven o'clock, the market selling Monday 227,204 pounds for an average slightly in excess of 17 cents a pound. The season average is ranging above 15 cents.

After ranging up to the twenty-cent level a few days ago, the price trend has been slightly downward and is now holding to about 17-18 cents. Possibly the quality of the tobacco has influenced the price trend, but farmers apparently sensing a weakening of the general price average throughout the belt are changing from one market to another.

Quite a few have wandered away from the local market during the past few days, but a large portion of the group have already returned, declaring they were "burned up" by wandering here and there. Some few said they made money by hauling their tobacco fifty miles or more, but several explained that the difference was not worth the cost. While some have wandered from this market, others have wandered here from other markets, and the warehouses here have already sold more tobacco this season than was sold in a single season before. Block sales this late in November were seldom or ever heard of before this season.

No closing date for the local market has been mentioned, but the selling activities are hardly likely to continue into next month.

### UNUSUAL

One of the most unusual sweet potato freaks ever seen here was offered this week by Farmer J. J. Roberson, of the Farm Life section. One potato, falling into a U. S. No. 1 grade, grew through the center of another potato of equal grade. The "love" potatoes grew in the form of a crude cross.

Mr. Roberson has been growing sweet potatoes for more than half a century and declares he never saw or heard of one potato growing through another one. He has seen potatoes pierced by nut grass, however.

## Ministers Exchange Methodist Pulpits

### Rev. S. J. Starnes Succeeds Dr. S. A. Maxwell in This Charge

An exchange of ministers for this and the Aberdeen charges was effected at the annual conference of the Methodist church in Fayetteville this week. The Rev. S. J. Starnes succeeding Dr. S. A. Maxwell at this point. Dr. Maxwell, who has ably served the local Methodist church for the past two years, was appointed to the Page Memorial Methodist Church at Aberdeen. The people of the town, including those of all denominations, regret to see Mr. Maxwell leave. However, they are fortunate in having an able man in Rev. Starnes to succeed him.

Secretary of the Board of Church Extension for about ten years, Mr. Starnes has served the Central Methodist church in Raleigh and the church in Roanoke Rapids. He is recognized as one of the most successful builders on the conference. Dr. Maxwell says of him, "He is a man eminently fitted to carry forward a progressive program in the local church."

Rev. and Mrs. Starnes and their daughter are expected here Thursday and he will appear in his first service Sunday. They have a son who is now attending Duke University.

Dr. and Mrs. Maxwell and family are leaving immediately for a visit with relatives in Goldsboro and Charlotte before he enters upon his new duties as pastor of the Aberdeen church on Sunday.

Rev. B. Duke Critcher, Williamston native, has been transferred from Snow Hill to Enfield. Rev. C. T. Rogers, former pastor of the local church, continues at Roanoke Rapids, and Rev. R. R. Grant, also a pastor here at one time, has retired, reports stating that he plans to locate on his farm in Hyde County.

## Highway Accident Record

The highway accident record in this county was not aggravated very much last week, official reports coming from the Highway Patrol Force, Sergeant L. L. Jackson and Patrolman W. E. Saunders, showing that only one smash-up was entered on the records.

However, the favorable report for the period does not indicate, by any means, that Martin County motorists have settled down to a safe, sane and common-sense driving program. Hardly had the report been filed by Sergeant Jackson before a complaint was heard about high, wide and fancy driving of the careless type. A driver, his head hanging high and apparently day dreaming, crashed a stop sign at a speed estimated at 25 miles an hour, missing another car by inches.

Reports from the State indicate that the drunken driver is fast retaking the lead as buster-upper on the streets and highways, but in this county it is the helter-skelter, always-in-a-hurry group that is accounting for most of the wrecks. There is no inference, however, that the cautious and careful driver will not figure in a wreck at some time or another.

Martin County has seen eight lives robbed on the highways, 53 people injured and a property loss in excess of \$11,000 follow in the wake of the automobile. Will the list be increased? Every driver and pedestrian, too, can help answer that all-important question.

A comparison of records for the week ending last Sunday and for the year prior to that time follows:

	Accidents Injured	Killed	Property Damage
Period ending Nov. 5	57	52	8
Week ending Nov. 12	1	1	0
TOTALS	58	53	8
			\$11,105.00

## Alleged Violator of Tobacco Scrap Law Found Not Guilty

### Several Other Cases Charging Violation of Scrap Law Awaiting Trial

Paul Bullock, young county white man charged with buying and selling scrap tobacco without a proper license, was found not guilty in the recorder's court here yesterday, the prosecution falling down completely in proving the charge that the defendant had bought scrap tobacco from farmers in this county.

The State proved that Bullock had been seen hauling scrap tobacco on a 1931 Model A Ford and trailer, that he had sold scrap to a dealer in Robersonville, but no evidence was offered by the State to actually prove that the defendant had bought the inferior type of tobacco from farmers for re-sale. It was not established by the State how much scrap tobacco had been sold by Bullock but two witnesses said they had seen him several times while hauling scrap tobacco on the highways of the county. A representative of a scrap tobacco dealer told the court that Bullock had delivered tobacco to him on several occasions, but he did not seem to know how much or any of the details connected with the sale.

The defense explained to the court that it planned to offer evidence tending to show that Bullock was hauling the tobacco for farmers, that he had not bought scrap for re-sale. However, the defense did not take the stand, the court granting a motion of non-suit at the conclusion of the evidence offered by the State.

Jasper Williams is now facing the courts for alleged violation of the tobacco scrap license law. His case is scheduled for trial on Monday, December 4.

Warrants have been issued in several other cases, but the defendants have not yet been arrested.

It is quite evident that some farmers and possibly others are joining the alleged violators in an attempt to thwart the prosecution, but on the other hand quite a few farmers, maintaining that the sale of scrap only depresses the market for better types of tobacco, have expressed a willingness to aid the prosecution.

It is also quite apparent that the exorbitant tax—\$250 for canvassers and \$500 for handlers or re-drying plant—is not solving the tobacco scrap problem, that a number of licenses of both types have been bought in this section of the State in recent weeks. Two canvassers and two redrying plants have purchased the necessary licenses in this county to date, according to records held by the State Department of Revenue, Raleigh.

## Raiders Active In County Last Week

Following a period of little activity, Martin County officers renewed their campaign against illicit liquor manufacturing last week, Special Officer J. H. Roebuck reporting three stills wrecked and a quantity of beer and equipment destroyed.

Going into Hamilton Township above Hassell, the officers found a still in full operation. The plant, including a 100-gallon capacity copper kettle, 400 gallons of beer and 21 gallons of liquor, was destroyed. Getting a glimpse of the officers as they approached the plant, the operator took full advantage of the lead of approximately 75 yards and was soon out of sight and hearing. Deputy Roy Peel gave chase, but the operator, a colored man, soon lost himself in the swamp and escaped. Two 20-gallon kegs and one 10-gallon glass jug were confiscated.

The next day the officers went to the Edgecombe-Martin boundary line and wrecked a 50-gallon still made from a gasoline drum, pouring out 100 gallons of beer.

On Thursday, the officers wrecked a 50-gallon capacity copper still and poured out 150 gallons of beer in Bear Grass Township.

There continues little activity in the illicit liquor trade in this county, according to information coming from the enforcement head.

### Slightly Hurt In Auto Accident Early Monday

James Coburn, young colored man, was slightly injured when he walked in front of a car driven by James Williams on Washington street shortly after midnight yesterday. The driver had just about brought his car to a stop when it struck Coburn who was said to have been drinking and wandered into the path of the car.

Coburn, while quite sore, was reported late yesterday to be getting along fairly well but continued in bed.

### Parents-Teachers Meet Here Tomorrow At 3:30

Talks by the heads of the various school organizations will feature the regular meeting of the local parent-teacher association in the high school tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

## Authorities Tentatively Approve Plans for Street-Sidewalk Paving

### INSTRUCTIONS

County committeemen and farm agents from over this immediate district are receiving instructions at a meeting here today for administering the tobacco program for the coming year. Will Rogers, representative of the State Extension Service, is instructing the local authorities as to the handling of the allotments.

It is understood that the community committeemen will be asked to report shortly and that work on the allotments will get underway within the next few days.

## Bear Grass Farmer Died Late Monday

### Last Rites Are Being Held This Afternoon For W. R. Harrison

William R. Harrison, retired Bear Grass farmer, died at his home there last night at 11:00 o'clock following an illness of several years' duration. Suffering from a complication of ailments, Mr. Harrison had been confined to his bed during the greater part of the past year.

The son of the late Reuben and Mary Bullock Harrison he was born in this county 61 years ago, spending his entire life on the farm. Although he operated on a small scale, Mr. Harrison was a dependable farmer, a good neighbor and a friend to many. He was highly regarded by those who knew him, and he bore his suffering without complaint. His interest was centered in and around the farm and he did not travel about to any great extent. He was a substantial farmer, and one who appreciated the basic facts of life, holding no place in his humble daily living for false modesty and undue pretentiousness.

In early manhood he married Miss Sallie A. Gurganus and she with seven children survives. Their names are, Messrs. Roy, Oliver, Elmer, Leamer, Herbert and Simon Harrison and Mrs. Hattie Wynne, all of Bear Grass Township. He also leaves two brothers, Gideon and James Harrison, both of this county.

Funeral services were conducted at the home this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Elder B. S. Cowin of the Primitive Baptist church. Interment was in the Harrison family cemetery, near the home.

## Expectancy Marks Europe War Front

Expectancy continues to surround the European war fronts today, late reports stating that increased warfare on the high seas was regarded by some as a prelude to greater activities on land and in the air.

In apparent retaliation for the sinking of two of her merchant ships earlier in the day, Germany became unusually active yesterday when her submarines sent four British ships to the bottom. One of them was a destroyer, the sixth warship to go down since the war started.

Activities along the Western Front are mainly confined to scouting forces and the fire of heavy artillery, the Germans claiming late yesterday the capture of quite a few French prisoners.

As the warfare on the high seas became more intensified yesterday, tension shifted from the war of nerves experienced by the neutral countries, reports stating that Germany had conditionally agreed to respect the neutrality of The Netherlands and Belgium. Finland, while expecting no attack on the war front by Russia, is uncertain about its economic front with the big Bear waving a threatening stick over her head.

## Farm Bureau Campaigners to Hold Meeting Here Thursday

A final report on the activities of a program for the lowly goober next year. He is expected to explain in detail the plans now being advanced in an effort to solve the peanut problem that is almost certain to follow unless some action is taken before planting time next spring.

Farm Bureau leaders, looking to the strength of the organization and participate in the battle that is predicted when the cause of the peanut is placed before the lawmakers in Washington, are planning to attend the meeting. R. G. Arnold, southeastern director for the American Farm Bureau Federation; E. F. Arnold, secretary, and J. E. Winslow, president of the State organization, and Captain Haywood Dail, of Greenville, and J. T. Cooper, former field representative of the Farm Bureau in this section, have been invited to the meeting.

## Attractive Program To Cost \$32,000.00. Is Offered By the WPA

### Plans Are Now Before State Office in Raleigh For Consideration

Plans for the construction of sidewalks, curb and guttering and surfacing on several streets here were tentatively approved last week-end by the local town board of commissioners and district representatives of the Works Progress Administration. The proposed improvement project, considered very attractive from the viewpoint of the town and property owners, is now before Works Progress Administration authorities in the state office at Raleigh for consideration. "We can see no major obstacle in the way of the proposed program," an official of the town was quoted as saying today after district WPA authorities had given their approval to the plan.

The proposed project is slated to cost approximately \$30,000, about one-third of the amount to be borne by the town. No definite plan for financing its share of the project has been advanced by the town authorities, but it is possible for them to assess the full amount against the property owners and make unnecessary any increase in the town bonded debt. It will be recalled that the street improvement programs in the past were financed by assessing the property owners with fifty per cent of the cost and the town floating bonds for the other fifty per cent. Under the proposed plans, the WPA will figure prominently in the cost and lower the cost to the property owner and make unnecessary any obligation whatever on the part of the town.

The authorities are proceeding on a very conservative scale in that they will not use concrete for the streets. A special surfacing material is being considered at a cost running as low as 40 cents a square yard. Sidewalk paving will cost around \$1.90 a square yard, it is estimated, and curb and gutter will cost about 90 cents a linear foot.

Assuming the town will assess its proportionate cost to the property owner in its entirety, then the owner of a fifty-foot lot would be asked to pay a total of \$36.06 or about that amount as follows: street surfacing, \$10.04, based on a street 30 feet wide, curb and gutter, \$13.50 and sidewalk, \$12.54.

The program tentatively adopted follows, by streets, with the approximate cost to the town or abutting property owner:

Grace Street, special surfacing, 30 feet wide and 395 feet long, \$349; sidewalks, four feet wide and 880 feet long, \$450; curb and guttering, \$475.

Marshall Avenue, street surfacing, 26 feet wide and 1,310 feet long, \$910; sidewalks four by 1,310 feet, \$665; curb and guttering, \$710.

Warren Street will almost be a duplicate of Marshall Avenue with the exception of sidewalk already paved.

Smithwick Street, 30 feet wide surfacing one block from Simmons Avenue, \$350; sidewalks, four feet wide and 620 feet long, \$160; curb and gutter, \$225.

Elm Street from Church to Main, 24 by 424 feet, \$275; sidewalk, 4 by 424 feet, \$160; curb and gutter, \$230.

Hassell Street, the shortest in town, surfacing, 24 by 506 feet, \$325; curb and gutter, \$275.

The type of streets proposed in the program is a tar-rock-gravel combination. The base, about four inches in depth, is made of rock about one and one-half inches in size. A gallon of tar is applied to that layer and then covered with smaller rock followed by another coat of tar and fine screen rock.

It will possibly be sixty days or more before the program can be launched, provided it is approved by the Raleigh and Washington offices. There is no big hurry for the completion of the project, the town authorities explaining that even if it takes a year or eighteen months, the project will give employment to a fairly large number of men during the construction period.

### Small Child Dies In The Hospital Early Sunday

Alice Mae Bonds, eight months old, died in a Washington hospital last Sunday morning at 2 o'clock of pneumonia which followed an attack of colitis. The child had been ill for about two weeks. Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the Primitive Baptist church at Skewarkey, Elder B. S. Cowin, officiating. Interment was in the Skewarkey Cemetery.

Besides her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Fenner Bonds, she is survived by one sister, Genevieve Bonds, a pupil in the local first grade. The family lives on the Riddick farm, not far from Williamston.