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VOLUME XLIV—NUMBER 8

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, January 28, 1941.

ESTABLISHED 1899

Three Persons Are Hurt In Dance Hall Explosion Saturday

Fifty Or More Crash Windows And Doors In Rush From Building Here

Three persons were slightly hurt and others were jarred in a Washington Street dance hall dynamite here last Saturday night about 10 o'clock, many of the group escaping with their lives all because the explosion was improperly planted.

Made happy by fortified wines and beer, the crowd estimated to number fifty or more persons was settling down for a night of merriment and rowdiness when the charge of dynamite interrupted the program.

Sensing the seriousness of the crime, local officers went into action immediately and rounded up three suspicious characters.

Police have not yet announced a motive for the serious crime, but rumors maintain that a jilted lover or lovers were out for revenge against Cherry, operator of the joint.

Native Of County Dies Near Roper

Samuel Henry Hopkins, native of this county, died at his home near Roper Sunday morning at 5:50 o'clock following a long period of declining health.

The son of the late Joel and Louisa Lilley Hopkins, he was born in Williams Township 57 years ago.

Besides his wife he leaves the following children, Mrs. Theda Sykes, Mrs. Madeline Tetterton, William, Rufus, Samuel Henry, Jr., and Roger Hopkins, all of Plymouth; Mrs. Gladys Peel, of Jamesville; Misses Myrtle, Delmarine and Evelyn Gray Hopkins, all of Roper.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon in the Riddicks Grove Baptist Church in his old home community by Rev. P. B. Nickens, pastor of the Plymouth Baptist Church, assisted by Rev. O. L. Hardwick, Plymouth Methodist minister, and Rev. W. B. Harrington, Martin County Baptist minister.

Colored Volunteers Leave For The Army Yesterday

Four colored volunteers, filling out Martin County's January draft quota, left yesterday for service at Fort Bragg.

First 1940 Soil Conservation Payments Are Made in County

The first checks earned under the 1940 soil conservation program are being delivered to Martin County farmers this week, a full two weeks ahead of announced schedule.

Representing the first 97 applications filed for payments, the 136 checks amounted to \$7,751.65. With the exception of those cases where farm operators overplanted their peanut acreages, the checks call for larger amounts than they did a year ago under the 1939 program.

Man Seriously Cut in Fight Saturday Night

FIRST HERRING

Tilghman Coltrain, the son of a real fisherman and a fisherman in his own right, found the key to Martin County's smoke-house yesterday morning when he dipped four nice-sized herrings from the Roanoke at Jamesville.

Last season the young man's father, Mr. Ira Coltrain, officially opened the herring fishing season on the Roanoke, but the catch last year was not made until February 16.

The herring, regarded as a real delicacy on thousands upon thousands of breakfast tables, is eagerly awaited by many hundreds of families along the Roanoke each spring.

Man's Legs Broken By Hit-Run Driver

John Hyman Revels, 54-year-old Martin County farmer, was critically hurt about 9:15 last Saturday night when he was run down by a hit-and-run driver in Williams Township, near Nurney's store.

Late reports from the hospital state that one of Mr. Revels' legs was so badly crushed that there is some doubt if it can be saved.

Getting off a passenger bus in front of the home of his sister, Mrs. John Moore, he started to cross the highway as a car traveling toward Williams town bore down on him.

Aged Negro Dies At Home Near Everetts

John L. Reeves, one of Martin County's oldest colored citizens, died at his home near Everetts last Tuesday morning. He was 97 years old and despite his advanced years he was unusually active up until a short time before his death.

GREEK FUND

The local fund for the relief of embattled Greeks and suffering civilians in the war territory is gradually being increased, the committee reporting a total of \$78 in hand at the present time.

Recent donations: Mrs. Jim Stator \$10.00, W. J. Hodges 1.00, Previously Reported 67.00, \$78.00

Wrangle Continues Over Bill For Aid For Great Britain

Rumors of Rioting in Italy Heard; Germany Moves To Help Mussolini

The wrangle over the lease-lend bill, the proposal to give Great Britain and other nations support in their battle against barbarism, continues in Washington where several strong teeth in the aid program are now likely to be knocked out by the opposition.

While Congress hasn't yet reached first base, Hitler is moving his forces into the fight against the embattled Greeks in Albania, and is believed to be making preparations for an attack on British forces in Africa.

Alton Lilley Again In The Courts For Attack With Knife

A bloody climax to a week-end crime wave in this county was reached last Saturday night when Alton Lilley, young county white man, cut Carlton Reason, resident of the Dardens Community, almost to death with a pocketknife near Clarence Taper's store in the Piney Woods section of Jamesville Township.

With his back ripped open and seven other cuts on his body, several of them deep ones, Reason was said yesterday to still be in a critical condition at his home.

Cole, wearing an aluminum cast to protect an injury suffered to his body while working at the pulp plant in the lower part of this county some time ago, escaped with an eight-stitch gash on the side of his face.

Reason is confined to his home at present, officers stating that a hearing in the case is being delayed pending the outcome of his condition.

Officers In Three Liquor Raids Here

Holding the manufacturing business fairly well in control, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck with Deputy Bill Haislip and Officer J. H. Allsbrooks turned his attention to the illicit liquor retail business here last Saturday.

Seriously Hurt In Carbide Explosion

Clarence Gurkin and his seven-year-old son, Claerene, Jr., were seriously burned when a generator in a carbide plant exploded at their home in Griffins Township, near Lilley's Hall, early last Saturday night.

Jesse Roberson, young Martin County man who volunteered for army service several months ago, is recovering from a severe pneumonia attack in an Army hospital at Fort Jackson, S. C., according to a telegram received here yesterday.

R. Flake Shaw Declares Farmers Must Organize If They Are To Compete With Labor and Capital

County Rainfall—1931-'40

Rounding out a ten-year record the first of this month, the weather station on Roanoke River at Williamston has, during that period, recorded only one annual rainfall approaching a normal of 47.79 inches.

| | 1931 | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Jan. | 2.17 | 3.74 | 2.43 | 2.51 | 3.53 | 4.95 | 7.22 | 3.14 | 4.03 | 2.80* |
| Feb. | 2.03 | 3.02 | 4.06 | 4.23 | 2.35 | 4.35 | 3.57 | 1.59 | 7.07 | 1.99 |
| March | 2.84 | 3.48 | 2.75 | 4.65 | 4.78 | 4.89 | 2.24 | 2.04 | 5.16 | 2.74** |
| April | 4.62 | 1.76 | 3.04 | 4.02 | 4.70 | 4.50 | 7.03 | 6.98 | 3.31 | 2.81 |
| May | 5.51 | 3.37 | 5.45 | 5.27 | 2.54 | 1.09 | 1.41 | 6.76 | 2.26 | 1.98 |
| June | 5.11 | 2.33 | 1.94 | 3.26 | 1.57 | 7.46 | 1.62 | 9.71 | 5.40 | 1.52 |
| July | 5.26 | 3.45 | 6.08 | 7.38 | 11.41 | 9.46 | 7.29 | 6.49 | 7.64 | 4.56 |
| Aug. | 11.65 | 5.16 | 6.25 | 6.97 | 7.50 | 2.74 | 2.79 | 1.95 | 9.88 | 11.07 |
| Sept. | 4.21 | 1.79 | 2.47 | 8.73 | 3.20 | 3.16 | 2.60 | 7.50 | 9.22 | 3.24 |
| Oct. | .33 | 6.99 | .25 | .33 | .33 | 4.89 | 2.29 | 2.14 | 4.51 | .52 |
| Nov. | .34 | 4.74 | .65 | 2.51 | 4.94 | 3.11 | 3.48 | 2.81 | 3.38 | 3.57 |
| Dec. | 3.93 | 5.08 | 1.23 | 2.32 | 4.05 | 4.81 | 2.08 | 2.59 | 1.92 | 1.99 |
| | 48.00 | 44.91 | 36.60 | 52.18 | 49.99 | 55.41 | 43.62 | 53.70 | 55.48 | 37.89 |

*—4 snows including 2 traces 1.2 and 2 inches.
**—4 1-4 inch snow.

Legislative Review By County Representative

Liquor Referendum Will Be Proposed In State Assembly Soon

Flexible School Term Law Is Now Being Proposed By Lawmakers

By CLARENCE W. GRIFFIN, Martin County Representative

The work of the General Assembly is still largely in the hands of committees. The appropriations committee is staying busy hearing petitions for increased appropriations.

Another bill was introduced providing for teacher and other State employees retirement. This would be done by income from an annuity created by joint contribution from employee's salary and the state.

Two Accidents On Washington Street

Bobby Clayton, young son of Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Clayton, was slightly skinned and bruised on his hand, back and knee but not badly hurt last Saturday afternoon in a bicycle-automobile collision on Washington Street here.

JAIL VS. CHURCH

More people were confined in the county jail during the week-end than were in attendance upon the religious services in one of the local churches last Sunday evening.

BIG RUSH

Threatened with penalties and even prosecution in the courts, personal property owners are rushing to their respective list-takers to get their names on the county tax books before the end of the current week.

Real property assessors, despite unfavorable weather, are continuing their work, the board in Williamston stating last night that it had appraised the property on several local streets and all the farm properties in the township.

Five County Boys Volunteer In Army

Five Martin County young men volunteered here yesterday for service in Uncle Sam's Army, the group leaving later in the day for Fort Bragg where they were inducted into service.

Seeking Support For Ninth School Month

A small delegation from Robersonville appeared before Representative Clarence Griffin and Senator Hugh G. Horton here Saturday afternoon and urged them to support a nine-months State supported school term.

Masons To Hold Regular Meeting This Evening

Skewerky Lodge Masons will hold a regular meeting in the lodge hall this evening at 7:30 o'clock. All members are urged to attend.