ESTABLISHED 1899

VOLUME XLIV-NUMBER 8

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

## Three Persons Are **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 ex-plosive was improperly planted.

Rated as one of the most serious crimes reported here in many months, the explosion ripped sever-al boards from the dance hall floor and splintered a small section of weather boarding on a side wall of the beer garden and dance hall op-erated by Buck Cherry on William-ston's "Rowdy Row."

Made happy by fortified wines and mite interrupted the program. A flying piece of timber struck one per-son and two others were thrown into the ceiling. A climax was reached when a mad rush to get out of the building was started. Some crashed through the windows without hesitating, but the mob pushed toward the main entrance where the doors were stripped from their hinges and trampled under heavy Washington Street traffic was virtually blocked while the smoke was clearing and the members of the crowd sought safety nooks near-

by.
Sensing the seriousness of the crime, local officers went into action immediately and rounded up suspicious characters. formal charges have been brought against anyone, but the police are holding Albert Wilson, 22; C. B. Williams, 23, and Richard Butler, 23, for investigation. Butler is Portsmouth Negro, and the other two are natives and frequent patrons of the beer garden. Wilson and Butler have been released, but two others, Robert Powell, about 16 years old, and Johnnie Powell, 21, were arrested late last night in connection with the explosion. It is thought by police that the younger Powell bought the dynamite, but that it was planted under the building by another party or parties.
Police have not yet announced a

The dynamite really blew the lid Late reports from the hospital off the crime front and pushed Wilstate that one of Mr. Revels' legs liamston into the spotlight as the was so badly crushed that there is county's most evil center. The habit- some doubt if it can be saved. ual drunks were loose here in greater numbers during the week-end front of the home of his sister, Mrs. than at any other time in recent John Moore, he started to cross the weeks. Raids were in progress highway as a car traveling toward against the illicit liquor business. Williamston bore down on him. He And to add to the activities a fire was knocked about ten feet to the

## **Native Of County**

Roper Sunday morning at 5:50 o'clock following a long period of declining health. He had suffered several strokes during the past sev-eral years, but following a stroke about a week ago his condition was

The son of the late Joel and Louisa Lilley Hopkins, he was born in Williams Township 57 years ago. He married Miss Florine Andrews and spent most of his life there, moving spent most of his life there, moving at his home near Everetts last Tuesto Washington County a few years day morning. He was 97 years old ago to make his home on a farm near Roper. He was an able farmer and had many friends in this and Wash-short time before his death. Owning rowed a car from S. P. Price, the same and the same and the same and the same are the old man lived to the morning that the same are the same and the same are the same ar

ington County.

Besides his wife he leaves the fol-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. He also leaves the Lord Hopkins of Page 19 of the Correspondent Association. brother, John Hopkins, of near

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon in the Riddicks Grove Baptist Church in his old home community by Rev. P. B. Nickhome community by Rev. P. B. Nick-ens, pastor of the Plymouth Baptist Church, assisted by Rev. O. L. Hard-wicke, Plymouth Methodist minis-ter, and Rev. W. B. Harrington, Mar-tin County Baptist minister. Inter-ment was in the family plot in Williams Township.

#### Colored Volunteers Leave For The Army Yesterday

Four colored volunteers, filling out Four colored volunteers, filling out
Martin County's January draft quots, left yesterday for service at Fort
Bragg. The names of the men are:
James Oliver Andrews, Charlie Ben
Williams, Daniel Williams and John
Slade. All of the four men except
Daniel Williams were subject to
draft call.

### First 1940 Soil Conservation Hurt In Dance Hall Payments Are Made in County

1940 soil conservation program are direct mail when to call for their being delivered to Martin County to Tom Pritchard, a tenant on the farm of Mrs. Minnie Fagan in Jamesville Township.

Representing the first 97 appareations filed for payments, the 136 signatures before claims to payments can be considered.

Those farmers receiving the first Monday were well pleased in larger amounts than they did a year ments. No accurate estimate on the ago under the 1939 program. Additotal amount expected under the

The first checks earned under the | pleted. Farmers will be notified by

Up until last week-end hardly 1,farmers this week, a full two weeks 200 of the approximately 1,600 farahead of announced schedule. While mers in the county had filed applica-the first check in the county was tions for the payments. Hundreds of made out to Farmer Calvin Ayers, applications were carried into sev-the first one was delivered Monday eral districts last week-end and the signatures were affixed by a large number of farmers. The unsigned petitions are now in the office of the

farm operators overplanted their checks Monday were well pleased in peanut acreages, the checks call for most cases with the size of their paytional checks are expected from time 1940 program by county farmers is to time until the payments are com-

**Alton Lilley Again** 

In The Courts For

**Attack With Knife** 

Preliminary Hearing Delayed

Pending Outcome of Carl-

ton Reason's Condition

A bloody climax to a week-end

rime wave in this county was reach-

ed last Saturday night when Alton

Lilley, young county white man, cut Carlton Reason, resident of the Dar-

dens Community, almost to death with a pocketknife near Clarence

Taper's store in the Piney Woods section of Jamesville Township. A

second knife attack victim, Nathan Cole, Washington County man, was

With his back ripped open and even other cuts on his body, sever-

al of them deep ones, Reason was said yesterday to still be in a criti-

of Reason's kidneys. Approximately

fifty stitches were necessary to close the eight knife wounds scattered all

over the main part of the man's

Cole, wearing an aluminum cast

to protect an injury suffered to his

Godard was working on the alumi-num plate, Cole was said to have de-

livered a few telling blows full into

tion. During the meantime, two wo

(Continued on page four)

Clarence Gurkin and his seven

youth, a member of the second grade in the Farm Life School, would lose

his sight, but later reports state that

Seriously Hurt In

his assailant's face

body

fight against the two men,

## beer, the crowd estimated to number fifty or more persons was settlnig down for a night of merriment and rowdism when the charge of dyna-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 smokehouse yesterday morning when he dipped four nice-sized herfrom the Roanoke at Jamesville.

Last season the young man's father, Mr. Ira Coltrain, official-ly opened the herring fishing on on the Roanoke, but the eatch 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 hun-dreds of families along the Roanoke each spring.

### Man's Legs Broken By Hit-Run Driver

John Hyman Revels, 54-year-old Police have not yet announced a martin County farmer, was critical-said yesterday to still be in a critical distribution of the serious crime, but ly hurt about 9:15 last Saturday cal condition at his home. Dectors rumors maintain that a jilted lover night when he was run down by a at the Plymouth clinic where he was or lovers were out for revenge hit-and-run driver in Williams Townagainst Cherry, operator of the joint. 
Ship, near Nurney's store. Both of the rumors, his legs were broken and his head alienated the affections of more than was injured. In a dazed condition, Lilley is said to have punctured one one young buck's sweetheart, and the man was brought here for firstsuch action the jilted agreed must aid treatment and later removed to be stopped even at the expense of a Washington hospital where his condition is still regarded as serious.

Getting off a passenger bus And to add to the activities a fire alarm was heard at midnight. In addition to the program here there were dastardly crimes in other parts of the county.

Native Of County

Williamston bore down on him. He was knocked about ten feet to the was

The accident was the second one of a serious nature reported in Wil-

Dies Near Roper liams Township within a week.

Revels, a man of modest means Samuel Henry Hopkins, native of this county, died at his home near his county, died at his home near highway, near Williamston, and was going down to visit in his sister's men, Bertha Morgan, 22, of Pamhome during the week-end.

### Aged Negro Dies At ing held in the county jan and linesses. They were arrested along with Godard and Lilley at the God-Home Near Everetts and home shortly after the attack by Deputy J. H. Roebuck and Tom

John L. Reaves, one of Martin County's oldest colored citizens, died short time before his death. Owning a small acreage, the old man lived peacably with his fellowman and was highly respected by members of

### **GREEK FUND**

The local fund for the relief of embattled Greeks and suffering civilians in the war ter-ritory is gradually being increased, the committee report-ing a total of \$78 in hand at the present time. Touching reports are coming from the battle lines where numbers of Greek sol-diers have lost their feet and legs as a result of frost bite and the bitter cold and snow which they have stood in for days without letup. The committee hopes to have \$100 for the fund within

the next few days.
Recent donations:
Mrs. Jim Staton
W. J. Hodges
Previously Reported not complain a great deal. \$10.00

## 67.00

## Wrangle Continues Over Bill For Aid

The wrangle over the lease-lend bill, the proposal to give Great Brit-tain and other nations support in their battle against barbarism, con-tinues in Washington where several strong teeth in the aid program are now likely to be knocked out by the opposition. The House Foreign Affairs Committee has completed its public hearings, and now the corresponding committee in the Senate is re-hearing the evidence of-fered by recognized diplomats, othhigh government officials and the self-appointed experts. The wran gle is fitting in well with Adolf Hit ler's plan, and while our nation ar

While Congress hasn't yet reach-ed first base, Hitler is moving his forces into the fight against the em-battled Greeks in Albania, and is believed to be making preparations for an attack on Birtish forces in Africa. The opposition, including Nazis, Nazi sympathizers and appeasers and possibly a few conscien ious ones, is making progress in its fight against the lease-lend bill. Efforts are well advanced for knock ng strong teeth out of the bill by limiting the grant of power to a def-inite period and by prohibiting the convoy of supplies to England. Germany is continuing its plans of ag gression with the apparent belief that the Congress will not have concluded its arguments in time to start aid in sufficient quantity to be of any material benefit to Britain and the Greeks.

A mysterious inactivity marks the air warfare over Britain, but a con certed movement is believed under way toward Greece and Africa. The Greeks state that Nazi planes are operating against them in Albania and the possibility of a concerted at no so badly cut when Joe Lanier Godard, Sr., Jamesville Township man, joined Lilley in a ferocious tack on the British fleet in the Med-iterranean is seen. After a lull of over a week raids have been resum-ed over London. Four attacks, the longest in day time since last Sep-tember, were made this morning,

but no great damage was reported. A serious threat is again facing England on the seas, one report stat ing that shipping losses last week mounted to 58,000 tons. Britain has appealed to the United States seeking to stop important leaks in its blocade against Germany. Hitler is now claiming that Britain is fast losing supremacy on the seas, that a blocade is rapidly forming against British shipping.

During the meantime, the Greeks are holding their own against the Italians in Albania, but they are do-ing it at a great sacrifice. Reports state that many Greek soldiers have 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 lost their feet as a result of frost bite. The British forces continue face. Officers declare that had it not been for the cast, Godard postheir mopping up operations in Afri-ca on all fronts. The Greeks are now sibly would have carved out Cole's heart. The man's coat over the shield said to be launching an offensive along the coast of Albania in a strong was cut to threads, and Godard's knife point was badly dented. While bid for Valona important Italian

Rumors of uprisings in Italy are being heard, but such accounts are (Continued on page four)

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

turned his attention to the illicit li-quor retail business here last Satur-Brown and Whit Saunders of the Highway Patrol. day. While Williamston's Railroad Street still is recognized as the main The story, according to the Morretail center, it is fairly apparent that the business forms a fairly complete circle all around the town.

Five pints of illicit liquor were found in the home of Jim Davis or Griffin and Sycamore Streets Sat Morgan girl's regular fellow and to urday morning. Jim's wife, Mary whom she is said to be engaged. A admitted ownership and her trial is slated for next Monday in the visit to Carolina was planned, the ounty recorder's court. Martha Brown, White Street resi-

dent, is to face the court for the al-leged possession of illegal liquor, the officers having found about four Carbide Explosion pints of the spints in the line of War-Raiding Joe Wilson's home on War-Raiding Joe Wilson's home on War-

ren Street about the time the lid

#### Volunteer Improving After Pneumonia Attack

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 to Ward's Wood and Coal Comhe and his father are getting along very well. A few hours after the accident the two victims of the explo-sion were unable to see, and despite the severe burns, they apparently did

## R. Flake Shaw Declares Farmers For Great Britain Must Organize If They Are To Rumors of Rioting in Italy Heard; Germany Moves To Help Mussolini 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. The annual precipitation has fallen to a low of 36.60 at times and reached a high of 55.48 inches in 1939. The table below, taken from the records of Hugh Spruill, bridgekeeper, gives a monthly picture of the rainfall in this county for the past decade. Possible old 1940 was the most hectic in the weather bureau's history. Following several snows in the early part of the year a dry spell set in to threaten the crops. Then in August one of the largest rainfalls in the decade was recorded. The worst flood in history followed, but despite the rains and floods, 1940 was one of the dry years in the decade.

The table below, pasted in a convenient place, will serve as a guide to those dry and wet years in the past:

	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	ú
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	.92	2.34	
Oct.	.33	6.99	.25	.33	.32	4.89	2.29	2.14	4.51	.52	
Nov.	.34	4.74	.65	2.51	4.04	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	
	49.00	44 91	26.60	59.19	10.00	55.41	12.69	52.70		22.00	

\*-4 snows including 2 traces 1.2 and 2 inches

## Legislative Review By CountyRepresentative

### 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 Assem-bly is still largely in the hands of committees. The appropriations committee is staying busy hearing petitions for increased appropriations.

During the past week there was an

increase in the number of public bills introduced. A bill was introduced to allow the State Highway Commission to award construction contract: without competitive bidding where the commission feels it would expedite the project. This bill passed the senate but will receive several amendments before it passes House which will tend to curb the arbitrary effect of the bill.

A bill to increase the State supeven months where board of education thought such action advis-

Liquor Raids Here viding for teacher and other State employees retirement. This would be Holding the manufacturing business fairly well in control, ABC Officer J. H. Roberck with Deputy Bill Haislip and Officer J. H. Allsbrooks turned his attention to the illies it. The point from the manufacturing business fairly well in control, ABC Officer J. H. Roberck with Deputy Bill Haislip and Officer J. H. Allsbrooks mittees. A joint resolution was passitured his attention to the illies it. The young men signing up are, Henry A. Roberson, son of Mrs. Magic Roberson, of Roberson of Mrs. Tenie Gurganus, of Williams to R. F. D. No. 3; Mack H. Leggett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Magic D. Louising Support For The young men signing up are, Henry A. Roberson, son of Mrs. Magic D. No. 1; Jasper E. Jackson, son of Mrs. Tenie Gurganus, of Williams to R. F. D. No. 3; Mack H. Leggett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Magic D. Louising Support For The young men signing up are, Henry A. Roberson, son of Mrs. Magic D. No. 1; Jasper E. Jackson, son of Mrs. Tenie Gurganus, of Williams to R. F. D. No. 3; Mack H. Leggett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Magic D. Louising Support For The young men signing up are, Henry A. Roberson, son of Mrs. Magic D. No. 1; Jasper E. Jackson, son of Mrs. Tenie Gurganus, of Williams to R. F. D. No. 3; Mack H. Leggett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Magic D. Louising Support For The young men signing up are, Henry A. Roberson, son of Mrs. Magic D. No. 1; Jasper E. Jackson, son of Mrs. Tenie Gurganus, of Williams to R. F. D. No. 3; Mack H. Leggett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Magic D. Louising Support For The young men signing up are, Henry A. Roberson, son of Mrs. Magic D. No. 1; Jasper E. Jackson, son of Mrs. Tenie Gurganus, of Williams to R. Support For Theorem 1. The young men signing up are, Henry A. Roberson, son of Mrs. Magic D. No. 1; Jasper E. Jackson, son of Mrs. Tenie Gurganus, of Williams to R. Support For Theorem 2. The young men signing up are, Henry A. Roberson, son of Mrs. Magic D. No. 1; Jasper E. Jackson, son of Mrs. Magic D. No. 1; Jasper E.

Other bills introduced provided for a mandatory road sentence of not less than 90 days in case of second conviction of drunken driving. Another bill introduced would allow clerks of court to sign judgments on any days in the week other than

(Continued on page four)

### Two Accidents On **Washington Street**

Bobby Clayton, young son of Mr and Mrs. D. V. Clayton, was slightly skinned and bruised on his hand Clarence Gurkin and his seven-year-old son, Claernce, Jr., were ser-iously burned when a generator in a carbide plant exploded at their home in Griffins Township, near Lilley's Hall, early last Saturday night. Both the father and son were burned on their arms and faces. It The front wheel of his bicycle smash-ed, the youth started home on foot He was later picked up and carried to a doctor's office where his injur-

Mr. Gurkin was testing the suply of carbide in the plant and the
boy was standing beside him with
his hands on a pipe when the generator exploded.

monia attack in an Army hospital
to ward's wood and Control
pany crashed on Washington Street
the Haughton Street intersection
from Little Pete Fowden, a member
of the National Guard unit at the
toward's wood and Control
pany crashed on Washington Street
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pany crashed on Washington Street
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toward's wood and Control
pany crashed on Washington Street
at the Haughton Street

#### 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. "The big rush is now on," one list-taker was quoted as saying late yesterday. Some list-takers declare that even by working night and day they will not be able to complete the lists on scheduled

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

### Five County Boys Volunteer In Army

ported school term to 9 months was ice in Uncle Sam's Army, the group along with capital and labor in the introduced. This bill would allow leaving later in the day for Fort field of industry. rural localities to have not more than Bragg where they were inducted into service. The boys signed up for tion thought such action advisble.
Another bill was introduced proAnother bill was introduced proleacher and other State

Were subject to call under the selective service act, but none of them was in line for immediate call.

Seeking Support For

mittees. A joint resolution was passed by both Houses designating January 23 to 31 as peanut week in
North Carolina.

Other bills introduced provided

ton R. F. D. No. 3; Mack H. Leggett, sonville appeared before representation of Mr. and Mrs. Mack D. Leggett, tative Chrence Griffin and Senator
of Williamston R. F. D. No. 2; Levi Hugh G. Horton here Saturday afH. Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Levi ternoon and urged them to supported
Davis, Sr., of Jamesville R. F. D. 1, a nine months State supported

It is understood that no immediate credit will be reflected in the draft quota for this county.

#### JAIL VS. CHURCH

More people were confined in the county jail during the weekend than were in attendance upon the religious services in one of the local churches last Sunday evening. It is true that the number of arrests was un-usually large, but the situation is startling even when increase arrests outnumber the church attendance.

It has been suggested that while the nation moves to defend itself against the invader, this town and county should move to protect themselves from crime and to bolster its morals. More than one crime chapter was written in this county last weekend, the subjects dealing with fallen girls, slackness on the part of the courts and the cheap-ness of human life as it is valued by some.

### Agriculture Now Facing Emergency Of Great Moment

Farm Bureau Secretary Talks To Sixty Martin Farmers Here Last Night

Agriculture must organize its ranks if it is to successfully com-pete with labor and capital in the secretary, told sixty Martin farmers in a special meeting held in the county agricultural building here last night.

Expressing appreciation for the loyal support given and the splen-did cooperation advanced the Farm Bureau Federation by Martin County farmers and other citizens, Mr Shaw while offering no bright pic-ture of the agricultural situation for the immediate future declared that he was still an optimist. "But here are some things we must keep in touch with if agriculture is to main tain its rightful place along with in-dustry and labor," Mr. Shaw said. Continuing, the bureau secretary

said, "We could spend a week dis-cussing the problems facing agri-culture and as they relate to the foreign situation, but there is little we can do in changing conditions over there. It is certain that the world turmoil is going to change the future course of agriculture especially for the South. No one knows what will he the course of agriculture after the war. There are some who believe it won't be so bad. They point out that we have ample natural resources, that we can regain a large part of our lost trade. Others are not optimistic

'It is true that the approximately 35 billion dollars to be spent for na tional defense will boost some com modity prices, but the basic crops of cotton and tobacco are facing an uncertain future. It is to meet this emergency that farmers should or-gamze and ask that agreulture be given its share Industry had to be ssured cost plus contracts and amor tization before a tap was turned. La bor was assured that its gains of the past few years would be maintained, but agriculture has been made the goat. Organized farmers must maintain that if money can be found to finance other things and agencies it can be found for financing cot-ton and tobacco farmers.

"Agriculture is the No. I problem facing the nation today. Young men ontinue to leave the farm. young men are applying for farm purchase loans Most of the appli-cants for loans are fifty years old or older. Empires have fallen be-Five Martin County young men of the United States unless agriculolunteered here yesterday for serv-ture is given a comparable rating

That agriculture is being ignored

and Therman T. Beach, son of Mr. school term. The group, led by Prinand Mrs. John T. Beach, of Williamston R. F. D. No. 2. ston R. F. D. No. 2.

Roberson and Beach signed for ity, was quoted as saying that the duty in the 36th Field Artillery, extra month would be far more benFort Bragg Jackson signed with the 8th Engineers' division at Fort Jackson, and Leggett and Davis are to only a comparatively small number go with the 22nd infantry at Fort while the extra month would reach McClellan. and prove beneficial to virtually all tool children. , Mrs. Charles Gray, Mrs. Mayo Lit-

tle and two representatives from the school faculty accompanied Mr. An-derson here for the interview with the representatives in the General Assembly.

Both Mr. Griffin and Mr. Horton attentatively heard the delegation, it was said, but reserved definite com-

According to Mr. Griffin there is some opposition to the longer term in this county. While several claim it will upset labor conditions on the farms, others frankly state that the children with the apparent approval of the parents are not taking full advantage of the educational oppor-tunities provided by the State.

The ninth month term is schedulture this week.

#### Masons To Hold Regular Meeting This Evening

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