



Greetings

Holiday Observance Is Without Incident Here

Series Of Highway Wrecks Reported During the Holiday

According to unofficial information received here this week, Martin County will be asked to send very few white men to an Army induction center in January. The call was said to be the smallest received in this county in many months. It is quite likely, however, that a few fathers will be included in the list since only a very, very small number of eligible 18-year-olds will be available when the call is to be answered some time during the latter part of the month.

It could not be learned if a call for colored selectees had been received.

Mrs. Clara Ayers Dies Near Dardens

Mrs. Clara Ayers, widow of O. T. Ayers, died at the home of her brother, John Swinson, in the Dardens community at 1:15 o'clock last Monday morning following a lingering illness. While she had been in declining health during the greater part of three years, she was confined to her bed for only two days before her death.

The daughter of the late David and Lucy Johnson Swinson, she was born in Martin County on March 25, 1876. Some time after her marriage she made her home in Suffolk, living there until about three years ago when she went to live with her brother.

She leaves one son, O. T. Ayers, Jr., of the armed forces believed to be stationed somewhere in Italy. She also leaves besides her brother with whom she made her home three sisters, Mrs. S. F. Davis, of Dardens; Mrs. W. W. Sullivan, of West Norfolk, and Mrs. Cephus Meads, of Norfolk.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. Lee A. Phillips, Plymouth Baptist minister. Burial was in the Cedar Hill Cemetery, Suffolk. Mrs. Ayers was a faithful member of the Baptist church in Suffolk for a number of years.

Two Holiday Fires Are Reported Here

With one exception the holiday season came and went without serious property loss by fire locally.

Its origin unknown, fire spread quickly and burned down the home of Jonah Bryant, retired colored school teacher, on the little-used street running from the Washington Highway to Cox's Antique Shop, about dark Christmas Eve. Most of the contents were lost, and no official estimate on the loss could be had.

Tuesday afternoon, the firemen were called to a small grass fire just off Main and Sycamore Streets.

Local firemen were called to Windsor early Monday afternoon when fire threatened a portion of the business section in Windsor.

Another fire call was received Thursday morning at 10:30 o'clock when a gallon jug, partly filled with cleaning fluid, exploded and fired several magazines, a few newspapers and a fruit jar case on the back porch of the F. M. Mannings' home on North Smithwick Street. Some smoke filtered into the house, but firemen had the fire out before it caught any woodwork.

Fire Destroys Store In Windsor Monday

Williamston firemen for two hours early last Monday afternoon aided in battling a stubborn store fire over in Windsor. During the greater part of the time, Williamston volunteers poured tens of thousands of gallons of water on the two-story building in the town's business section. The building, owned by a Mrs. White, was used in recent months as a U. S. O. center.

At one time, six streams of water were being poured on the fire, but it was not brought under control until part of the roof had caved in. Personnel and some prisoners of the War Prison camp in Windsor aided the fire-fighters.

Serious Wreck Mars Holiday Season In One Part Of County

Many Persons Ill with Colds And Influenza; Few Arrests Made

The Christmas holiday season, reflecting the strain of war nerves and the absence of loved ones in the armed services, was quietly observed throughout this area. While the observance was without incident locally, a serious auto accident in the Robersonville area marred the holiday season there. Several deaths were reported in the county. There were two fires, only one serious, however. Few arrests were recorded and the general behavior of the holiday crowds was unusually good.

A union religious service in the Presbyterian church was well attended for Christmas eve and considering the general prevalence of colds and influenza.

Locally, people possibly by the hundreds were held at home by common colds and influenza, and the shortage of doctors aggravated the situation. The local hospital was filled to capacity and quite a few victims of influenza went without medical attention. One or two business houses were almost forced to suspend activities when owners and clerks fell victims of influenza.

The holiday business was good for the most part, but shopping habits were in marked contrast with those prevailing in past years. So many Christmas items were missing from the shelves that shoppers were forced to "fill in" with other articles. No complete report could be had, but war bond sales were unusually large during the period, many using them as gifts. The purchase of available durable goods exceeded general expectations despite higher prices in many instances.

For the first time in the memory of the old-time residents less than a dozen fire crackers were heard, and they were fired well outside the business districts.

Four persons, caught imbibing a little too freely, were arrested and jailed Christmas eve, but by Christmas night the hoosegow was empty and up until late Wednesday it was still without patrons.

Heavy industry came to a full stop at noon the day before Christmas, and after limited activities the following Monday resumed full-scale operations along with general business following a three-day holiday.

While the holiday spirit was in evidence, indicating that there'll always be a Christmas, it was far many the first real war-time Christmas.

Native Of County Killed By Train

Samuel Mobley, native of this county but for five years a resident farmer of Washington County, was killed instantly near Plymouth last Monday afternoon when a train ran over him. His head and legs severed, the man never knew what happened. He was last seen about 3:30 that afternoon, and the decapitated and badly mangled body was found about two hours later along the Norfolk-Southern tracks on the edge of Plymouth. No details of the accident could be had here.

The son of the late J. S. and Louise Clark Mobley, he was born in the Cross Roads section of this county 59 years ago. He married Miss Millie Coburn of this county on July 16, 1910. Some time ago the family moved to the Jamestown section, and five years later located in Washington County. He was a member of the Cross Roads Christian Church for about 35 years.

Besides his wife, he leaves seven daughters, Mrs. Veatrice Crumpler, of Hampton, Va.; Mrs. Thelma Sawyer, Mrs. Annie Sawyer, Euzellia, Grace, Vel Gray and Louise Brown, all of Plymouth, and five sons, Grover, Biscoe, Cleo Elvert, of Plymouth; Thurman Mobley, stationed with the Army in Camp Howze, Texas, and McLean Mobley, of Jamestown. He also leaves two brothers, Ed Mobley, of Everetts, and Claude Mobley, of Jamestown, and a sister, Mrs. Henry Rawls, of Robersonville, and a half sister, Mrs. Bessie Davis, of Williamston.

Funeral arrangements are being delayed pending word from the son in Texas.

Local Boy With One Of Most Active Fighter Units In War

Fifteenth Army Air Force—(Delayed)—Sergeant George L. Roberson, son of Mrs. Annie Roberson and the late Theodore Roberson, is a member of one of the most active fighter groups in the war. Serving with an Army Air Force P-40 Warhawk group in the Mediterranean theater, young Roberson is a crew chief, and is one of twenty-three North Carolinians who have made such a formidable record.

A record of having escorted more than 1100 medium bombers over Pantellerian, Tunisian, Sicilian and Sardinian targets without the loss of a single bomber due to enemy aircraft action is only one of the outstanding feats of the group.

On its 100th mission flown on the 100th day of operations five victories brought the group's total of enemy aircraft destroyed in the air to 102.

During the Pantellerian campaign the group made thirty-two raids on the island with twenty-eight of them performed in five days. Often as many as six raids a day were flown.

On a fighter-bomber mission over southern Sardinia, 25 enemy planes attacked the group and 17 of the enemy planes were shot down. This record was topped a few days later when 20 Warhawks shot down 21 enemy planes.

Mrs. James Riddick Dies at Home Here Wednesday Evening

Mrs. James H. Riddick, respected local citizen, died at her home on Beech Street Wednesday night at 10:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Injured in an automobile accident about eleven years ago, Mrs. Riddick had experienced feeble health since that time, but she was able to be up and attend to a few duties in the home until Wednesday morning when she suffered a stroke and her condition was recognized as critical.

The daughter of the late Dan and Martha Taylor Jones, Mrs. Riddick was born in Pitt County 66 years ago on the 13th of last May. When a young girl she moved with her parents to this county, locating near Williamston. About 1900 she was married to Mr. Riddick, for many years one of the leading justices of the peace in this county. She lived in Williamston until about ten years ago when she moved with her son to Williamston. She joined the Riddick's Grove Baptist Church and was its oldest member, remaining faithful in its service as long as her health permitted.

Besides her son, N. S. Riddick, with whom she made her home, she leaves two children, Mrs. Leo Roberson, of near Williamston, and Mrs. Otis Hardison, of Jamestown. She also leaves two step-children, C. B. Riddick, of Everetts, and Mrs. Hubert Roberson, of Williams Township, and two brothers, Sam and Robert Jones, of Williamston.

Funeral services are being conducted in Riddick's Grove Baptist Church Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. W. B. Harrington and Dr. W. R. Burrell. Interment will follow in the church yard.

Martin County Man Writes from England

Writing from somewhere in England, Gracie B. Hardy, Martin County young man, briefly reviews his army life over there. "The censor is very strict," Hardy said, "but I can say that life over here is quite different than in the States. When we get a pass and go to the village you can hardly tell when you get there for everything is blacked out. We have to use a torch or flashlight to see how to get around."

"There are plenty of beautiful women over here and they seem to go for the American soldier. In fact, some of the boys are marrying English girls. The greatest things we miss when we go to town are the lights. There is ample food here, but it is quite different from that at home. I was in London a while back. It is quite a city and reminds one of New York in many ways."

Navy Recruiter Will Be Here January 4 and 5

Navy Recruiter D. R. Taylor, of the New Bern Navy Recruiting Station, will be located at the Post Office Building in Williamston on January 4th and 5th, to accept applications for the Waves, V-8 (Naval Aviation), SRUs, and general service in the Navy open to 17-year-old young men.

BAPTIST SERVICE

Dr. W. R. Burrell will preach Sunday morning and evening, using the subject, "Seeking the Good Life" at the 11 o'clock service, and "A New Year Resolution" that evening.

"Let us begin the new year by going to church, the pastor urges."

More Men From The County Accepted By The Armed Services

Departure Is One of the Most Appealing Witnessed In Many Months

Fourteen Martin County white men, most of them married and with children, were accepted for service in either the Army or the Navy during the month of December, it was officially learned from an audit filed with the draft board this week.

A fifteen man, James Epps Bullock, was placed in I-A for limited service by the induction center examiners, and he is scheduled to return to the camp the latter part of January, possibly on or about the 25th.

The six men accepted by the Navy reported for active service before Christmas. Their departure did not attract very much attention, but one of the boys leaving from Williamston choosing to bid his wife and little child good-bye at home. Last Monday morning, a bleak time under normal conditions, several fathers all but had to break away from their loved ones at the bus station as the large holiday crowds, returning from their Christmas visits, milled around. The men had been granted a delayed leave for Christmas, but even that consideration did not seem to relieve the tension as they made ready to start active duty with the Army. One of the men who was accepted with the group early in the month, chose not to return home from the induction center at all, and he escaped the pangs of the delayed departure.

Lions Carry Good Cheer to the Needy

The true Christmas spirit was carried into the homes of ten blind and 23 needy or sick persons in the community this Christmas when the local Lions Club sponsored its Christmas Cheer program.

A committee of Lions John W. Manning, K. P. Lindsley, Roy Ward, Roy Overby and John H. Edwards, assisted by several other members of the club, investigated and determined the needs of most of the various families during the first of last week.

On Christmas morning these Lions visited the different homes and delivered the gifts, which consisted of blankets, sheets, groceries, fruits, candy, fuel, cash money and miscellaneous articles. These gifts were the result of an expenditure of \$167.38, but the appreciation displayed by the recipients was several times that much.

The money for this project was taken from the club's blind and charity fund, which is supported mainly by the club-sponsored ball chewing gum machines. Donations, including one for ten dollars sent from England by Lion Sgt. Fred M. Taylor, also help to support this fund.

Hamilton Youth Dies In Hospital

Wallace Reid Manseau, well-liked and respected Hamilton youth, died in a Rocky Mount hospital at 2:39 o'clock last Sunday morning. Taken ill with influenza just a short time ago, he developed pneumonia and was stricken with appendicitis. By the time he could be removed to a hospital last Friday, peritonitis had resulted.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Manseau, he was born in Gates County on August 6, 1927. He moved with his parents to Hamilton a few years ago, and was working for Mr. Asa Johnson when he was taken ill.

Funeral services were conducted at the home in Hamilton Monday afternoon by Rev. T. H. House, Methodist minister. Burial was in the Hamilton Cemetery.

Jamesville Youth Gets Appointment

Cadet Leighton Ray Stallings, young son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Stallings, Sr., of Jamesville, was recently notified of his appointment to the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.

Cadet Stallings has an excellent record prior to his appointment. At Jamesville high school, before his graduation in 1941, he was an honor student, and he made the honor roll at Oak Ridge both semesters of last year. At present, he is enrolled in the aeronautical school at State College.

LIMITED HOLIDAY

New Year's day on Saturday will be observed as a limited holiday by a few business houses and offices, including the banks, post office, liquor store. No deliveries will be made by the post office, and in order to effect delivery without further delay, The Enterprise is issuing its last edition of the year a day ahead of schedule.

No holiday will be observed by the draft and rationing board or the county offices, it was announced. The banks and post office and the offices of the Virginia Electric and Power Company will be closed.

Funeral Services To Be Held Friday Afternoon at 3 At Riddick's Grove

Mrs. James H. Riddick, respected local citizen, died at her home on Beech Street Wednesday night at 10:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Injured in an automobile accident about eleven years ago, Mrs. Riddick had experienced feeble health since that time, but she was able to be up and attend to a few duties in the home until Wednesday morning when she suffered a stroke and her condition was recognized as critical.

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Greetings Received From Pacific Area

The following Christmas greeting was received this week by Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Taylor, Sr., from Lt. Colonel J. A. Smedie, commanding officer of their son, J. B. Taylor, Jr.:

"As the commanding officer of your loved one serving overseas, I want to offer you and yours my sincere wishes for a joyful Christmas. I want to assure you that the boys of this Battalion are doing their share over here, and are not suffering by the lack of any material comforts. You have no cause to worry. My New Year wish to you is my hope to be able to bring the boys all back to their loved ones safe and sound in 1944."

Series Of Highway Wrecks Reported During the Holiday

At Least Nine Persons Were Injured, Several of Them Seriously

Driving a 1935 cloth-topped Ford sedan, Linwood Bland on Thursday, December 23, at 10 p. m., ran down and critically injured Mrs. Irving Roberson in front of the home of her father, Gus Williams, on the Robersonville-Stokes Highway. A second later, the car crashed into a tree, injuring the driver and five other persons.

A report from a Greenville hospital just before noon Thursday, December 30, stated that while Mrs. Roberson's condition was still serious, she was improving at that time. She suffered a broken thigh, a fracture of the left shoulder and internal injuries. Mrs. Roberson was thrown possibly twenty or twenty-five feet when she was struck.

Others riding with Bland and injured in the accident: Linwood Bland, driver and owner of the car, broken foot.

Mrs. Linwood Bland, three broken ribs, fractures of both hands and internal injuries.

Danford Bland, skull fracture and broken leg.

Mrs. Danford Bland, ribs broken and hand fracture.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Haislip, of Stokes, cuts and bruises.

Treated in the local hospital, Linwood Bland was discharged that night. After two days in the hospital, the two Mrs. Blands were able to leave.

Danford Brown continues in the Brown Community Hospital, last reports stating that he was not suffering much pain from his head injury, but that the leg fracture would keep him in bed for some time.

Driving toward Stokes, Mr. Irving Roberson stopped in front of the Williams home with his car off the highway. Mrs. Roberson came out of the house to give him the keys to her father's car which had broken down a short distance away. Just as she approached the car from the yard walk, Bland rounded the curve and drove between the Roberson car and the yard hedge, striking Mrs. Roberson and later crashing into a tree.

Several ambulances were called and much time was required in cleaning up the wreck. Corporal Bill Hunt stated that the damage to the Bland car would approximate \$500 or a total loss. Bland just did strike the Roberson car and the damage to it was slight. No action has been taken in the case, but it is understood that Bland will be charged with reckless driving. Reports state that he was not under the influence of liquor.

The second wreck in this area was reported by Patrolman Whit Saunders at 10 o'clock Christmas morning when Robert Wiley Wilkerson of Newport News drove his Dodge off the river fill. The car jumped the guard rail and went over the embankment, injuring no one and causing very little damage.

That evening at 10 o'clock, C. L. Whitaker, colored of Norfolk, wrapped his 1937 Chevrolet around a telephone pole on the western approach of Robersonville, breaking the pole off. The car occupants were only slightly cut, and no estimate of the damage could be had.

Last Sunday afternoon, December 26, a 1938 Chevrolet driven by Curtis Woodrow Moseley of Roanoke Rapids and a Ford pick-up truck driven by James Haywood Overton of Windsor crashed on Highway 64 just this side of No. 90 station. Overton started to pass a car and he and Moseley had almost stopped before the vehicles met. No one was hurt and Patrolman Whit Saunders estimated the damage to the car at \$100 and that to the truck at \$80. Overton assumed full responsibility for the accident, it was learned.

MORE CHECKS

Additional checks, issued under the 1943 soil conservation program, were recently distributed to farmers in this county. Representing 78 applications and amounting to \$4,682.80, the 118 checks constitute the third distribution in this county to date.

So far, 427 farmers representing 285 contracts have received a total of \$15,745.81.

County Boy Writes Home From Italy

Writing to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam E. Taylor, Pfc. Robert "Doc" Taylor states he is somewhere in Italy and getting along all right.

He went on to assure them that if they did not hear from him in a month or more, not to worry. In fact, he went on to admit that he hadn't written in six weeks.

"I haven't seen much of Italy, but so far it is O. K. Just give me time and I will be able to tell every turn in most of the roads."

"You asked me for a picture of myself. You hardly need one of me because I'm just as bad looking as I ever was."

The young man went on to say about draft calls and how some boys are deferred, "but if they can do that, more power to 'em," he said.

Wishing everyone a merry Christmas, the young soldier concluded by saying, "Don't worry about old Doc, because he is doing all right for himself."

Taylor has been in foreign service about eighteen months.

Four Cases Are Heard by Justice J. L. Hassell

Only four cases were heard by Justice J. L. Hassell in his court following the holidays.

Geo. Watson and Hubert Whitaker, charged with being drunk and disorderly, were each fined \$3 and taxed with the costs.

Willie Hassell and Charlie Williams, charged with being drunk and disorderly, were taxed with \$8.50 costs each.

Navy Recruiter Will Be Here January 4 and 5

Navy Recruiter D. R. Taylor, of the New Bern Navy Recruiting Station, will be located at the Post Office Building in Williamston on January 4th and 5th, to accept applications for the Waves, V-8 (Naval Aviation), SRUs, and general service in the Navy open to 17-year-old young men.

TOKENS

Preparatory to the introduction of tokens as a part of the rationing system, the Martin County War Price and Rationing Board is urging all retailers to file applications for the "coins." Blanks are to be had at either the banks or the rationing board office and must be filed by January 8th, it was announced.

The token will be distributed to the retailers about the middle of February, but it is not definitely known when they will be put into use.

Improvement In School Attendance Is Reported

After reaching an all-time low for the term just before the Christmas holidays, attendance figures were said to have reflected a marked improvement when the local school reopened on Wednesday of this week. However, there were 101 absences, 82 in the elementary and 19 in the high school on Wednesday as compared with 155 on the day the schools were closed for Christmas.

All teachers returned to their posts and normal operations were in order the first day.