

Big Car Plunges Through Detour Bridge Railing

No One Believed Seriously Hurt In Last Saturday Night Accident

Four persons miraculously escaped death last Saturday evening about 8:45 o'clock when their large Buick sedan plunged through the guard rail on the Roanoke River detour bridge here and landed bottom side up in the swamp twelve or fifteen feet below. One person, Miss Charlotte McNair of Plymouth was badly hurt, but her injuries are not believed serious. George Hill McNair, 6020 Sewell's Point Road, Norfolk, suffered back injuries and shock and was bruised and scratched, but he was able to continue his trip after receiving first aid treatment in the local hospital. Miss Rebecca Armstrong and John Shyle, both of Plymouth, were bruised and scratched, but they, too, were able to continue to their homes after receiving examinations and treatment in the hospital here.

Miss McNair was later removed to a Rocky Mount hospital, but no direct report on her condition has been received since she went there.

Driving the large car in the direction of Windsor, McNair said he saw all the signs, including the 15-mile speed limit warning. A torch light was burning within ten feet of the spot where the car plunged through the railing. A blinker light was operating fifteen or twenty feet away, and a short distance beyond that was a stop light. McNair, apparently running thirty miles or more an hour, declared that he applied his car brakes after crossing the river span, that the machine skidded on the wet boards and tore through the railing. The bridge guard rail in the curve was torn out for a distance of about twelve or fifteen feet and the car went through, landing on its nose and coming to a stop with all four wheels in the air.

The victims were brought up a ladder and removed by car to the hospital.

Wrecked beyond repair, the car was lifted out of the swamp early Sunday morning by special salvage equipment.

The accident was the first one on the detour bridge. Patrolmen declare that the detour is one of the best, that every safety precaution is provided and that it is difficult to assign reason for accidents there.

Only two motor vehicle accidents were reported in the county last week and both of them were right in Robersonville, including a minor one at the stop light.

Local Jaycees Hold Meeting

Three new members were inducted into the local chapter of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at its regular meeting Friday night, held at the Woman's Club. The new members are Messrs. John C. White, James Collins and Walter Hamilton, and the induction ceremony was handled by the chairman of the membership committee, J. Paul Simpson.

Among those present at the meeting, as special guests of the club, were those local people who had contributed of their time and talent to help give the recent home talent comedy, Pep Parade. These guests included Mrs. Mary B. Gurganus and Mrs. Sallie Halberstadt, Misses Angela McLawhorn, Ethel Taylor, Gertrude McLawhorn, Burnell White, Dorothy Leggett, Alice Wynne, Marilyn Fussell and Wilbur Jackson.

Jaycee John H. Gurganus read the petition that will be presented to the citizens of the community in regard to changing the present convention election of municipal officers to a primary type, and members of the organization signed it. The club's Civic Improvement committee members started its circulation throughout the community immediately.

President Mears made several announcements of interest to the club. The attendance prize was won by Jack Manning. Bud Crockett led in the singing and invocation was offered by E. L. Ward, Jr. The ladies of the Methodist church served the dinner.

Circulating Petition For Election Change

NURSES

Its services greatly limited by a personnel shortage for several weeks, the Martin County Health Department is resuming a full schedule of activities following the employment of two nurses.

Mrs. Edna Ballard Roth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ballard, who served nineteen months in the Nurse Corps, U. S. Navy, and Mrs. W. E. Decato, a nurse in the Plymouth clinic until she and Mr. Decato moved here to make their home, are now with the county department, Dr. John W. Williams, health officer, announced.

Attendance Holds To A High Figure In Local Schools

Out of Nearly 900 Pupils Enrolled, 426 Were In Perfect Attendance

Out of a total of approximately 900 pupils enrolled in the local white schools just about one out of every two or 426, to be exact, attended school regularly during the first six weeks of the current term, according to a report released a few days ago by Principal G. B. Stewart.

While attendance figures lagged considerably during the pearly harvest, they have held to a higher level than in other recent years. School officials are pointing out the necessity of regular attendance, and the parents and other patrons have been cooperating splendidly, the principal declared.

A list of names of those pupils attending regular during the first six weeks of the current term follows:

Miss Baker's first grade: Jimmy Batey, Billy Ray Bowen, Dorothy Jean Bowen, Carlyle Brown, Billy Carstarphen, Dianne Cherry, Rachel Cherry, Rosa Lee Cherry, Leamon Whitaker, Frosty Hardison.

Miss Hardy's first grade: Grady Coltrain, Sandra Modlin, Dorothy Moore, Larry Pate, Ray Pate, Gaynelle Pate, Mary Estier Patterson, Bobby Perry, Beth Spivey, Peggy Stevenson, Guy Thomas, Jr., Paron Wheeler, Ora Dallas Whitaker, Jessie Williams, Jean Woolard.

Miss Morris's first grade: Sue Eubanks, Hughie Council, Eugenia Glover, Gene Goff, Sally G. Griffin, Kenneth Gurganus, Roderick J. Hardison, Roberta Harrison, Carolyn Holliday, Dorothy Leggett, Lillian Manning, Betty Modlin, Alton Ray Nicholson, Ronnie Reese, Morgan Vick, Bud Whickard.

Mrs. Carstarphen's second grade: Carolyn Beauchemin, Robert Bowen, Jerry Bellowner, Jas. H. Cherry, Nancy Britton, Gene Copeland, Evelyn Council, Chas. Lee Edwards, Milton Goff, Jr., Tommy Gurganus, Janice Hardison, David Howard, Charles Hudson, Georgia Jones, Jeanette Leggett, Ann Lilley, Esther Lilley, Blanche Manning, Jimmy Mizelle, Donald Peaks, Dorothy Roberson, Melba Rogers, Elsie Grey Scott, Edna Taylor, Kay Taylor, Clayton Weston, Mary Lee White.

Miss Crawford's second grade: Sherwood Coltrain, Mary Lou Cox, Priscilla Gurganus, Henry Handy, Ann Hardison, Pattie Lee Hardison, John Lark, Mray F. Martin, Allan Modlin, Alice Ruth Price, Ben Roberson, Nancy Roberson, Wayne Rogers, Gene Silverthorne, Billy Britton Thomas, Floyd Thomas, Billy Thornton, Ann Vanderford, Robert Williams, Thomas Wynne.

Mrs. Davenport's third grade: Ronald Bennett, Frankie Bonds, Albert Cherry, Eddie Daniels, Lexine Davenport, Angelina Dickerson, Lee Glenn, Ann Holliday, John C. House, Alex Jones, Mary Lou Modlin, Alice F. Nicholson, Vivian Pate, Melvin Price, Janice Roberson, Iverson Skinner, Lloyd Vick, Maeana Willard, Jo Ann Williams.

Miss Manning's third grade: (Continued on page eight)

Names Of Several Hundred Citizens Placed On Paper

Few Choose Not to Sign the Petition But No Official Opposition Expressed

Sponsored by the local Junior Chamber of Commerce and proposing the elimination of the old convention plan and the adoption of a regular primary system for the election of town officials, a petition circulated by members of the organization is gaining wide support here. Over fifty signatures were added to the petition within an hour after it was drawn following a meeting of the Jaycees last Friday evening, and several hundred had placed their names on it by late Monday afternoon.

While a few citizens withheld their names from the petition no formal opposition to the proposed change in the town's election machinery was expressed, one report stating that officials would support the proposal.

His election certain at the polls today, C. B. Martin will be asked to have a law passed in the next North Carolina General Assembly, abolishing the convention and substituting for it a regular primary plan.

Addressed to Mr. Martin, the petition reads: "The undersigned citizens and residents of Williamston, N. C., respectfully request of you, as representative from Martin County in the next General Assembly, that you have a local law passed by the State Legislature dividing the Town of Williamston, N. C., into wards and providing for the nomination of the officers of the town of Williamston, N. C., the same being the Board of Commissioners and the Mayor, by a primary with secret ballots as the county officers are now nominated. The Town of Williamston has outgrown the convention system of nominating officers and we feel that this is a progressive step in the forward march of Williamston, N. C."

According to the plan proposed by the Jaycees, zones will be established, possibly five with nominations being limited one to the zone. At the present time, commissioners are nominated and elected on a town-wide basis.

The petition provides for no definite primary and election plans, other than the abolishment of the convention or mass meeting. It is possible to set up the two-party plan or provide for the election of officials in a single contest.

It has been pointed out that the movement to create a primary is not directed against any individual or group, but the proposed change will make it possible for more local people to participate in the nomination and election of their town officials. It has also been pointed out that unless candidates offer themselves or are drafted, the proposed change will make little difference.

Commodity Prices Forty Years Ago

A Baltimore firm, circularizing its stock items, explained that prices had advanced, but added that its quotations were as low as any.

The best granulated sugar was \$4.40 per hundred pounds. Coffee was selling for ten and one-half cents a pound. Sugar syrup was 24 cents a gallon. A barrel of flour cost from \$3.75 to \$4.95. Choice extra Virginia hand-picked peanuts were selling for three and three-eighths cents a pound, and choice roasted peanuts were 85 cents a bushel. Sweet cider sold for fourteen cents a gallon. Corned beef sold for seven and one-half cents per pound can, and chipped beef sold for about eleven cents a pound. Pure lard was listed at eight cents a pound, and butter sold for twenty-three cents a pound. Cheese was marked twelve and three-quarter cents a pound. And chocolate candy drops sold for about eight cents a pound.

Doctor Questions Recent Criticism Of Medical Plans

Coppridge Says Opponents Should Have A Better Plan To Offer

Recent criticism of the Medical Care Commission's Health Plan for North Carolina by Dr. W. S. Rankin of the Duke Endowment and Dr. W. C. Davison, Dean of the Duke University Medical School, was sharply questioned last week by Dr. W. M. Coppridge, president of the State Medical Society, in an address before an organizational meeting of the Good Health Association at Durham.

After paying high personal tribute to Dr. Rankin and Dr. Davison for their respective accomplishments in the fields of hospitalization and medical education Dr. Coppridge stated that "it is of more than passing interest to the people of North Carolina that both of these gentlemen should find themselves in opposition to the plan recommended by a committee of national experts, by the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina and by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission."

"Why should representatives of the Duke Endowment and Duke University find fault with a plan designed to spread better medical care over this state? Is their opposition to this program motivated by a sincere desire to promote better medical care among the people of North Carolina?" Dr. Coppridge questioned. "Do they have within them that inner knowledge and honest belief that 20 years from now North Carolinians will have better health facilities without this program than they might have with it?"

Dr. Coppridge declared that only when "these distinguished physicians can impress the people of this state that it is their honest belief, that by opposing this medical care program, they and the institutions they represent believe that they are contributing to the future health and happiness of the average North Carolinian, then, and then only will our people consider seriously their opposition."

Doctors and others who oppose the program, Dr. Coppridge concluded, "should have a better one to offer, because the health and well being of the people of North Carolina is the matter of prime consideration."

The program offered by the Medical Care Commission was described by Dr. Coppridge as "a program of cooperation and coordination of all the medical facilities of the State, one seeking to give the average citizen better medical attention. The program, he asserted, proposes to interfere with the prestige and influence of no existing medical institution."

County Boy Graduated By Army Finance School

Pfc. Ellis G. Keel of Everetts and Pfc. Johnnie A. Manning of Robersonville were graduated last week from the Army Finance School at St. Louis. The two young men have been together since they entered the service.

VOTING SLOW

Voting in the general election was off to a slow start in this county early today, and observers expressed the opinion that not more than 1,200 and 1,500 would participate in the off-year contests. Less than a dozen votes were cast the first two hours the polls were open in the two precincts here.

NO ROUND-UP

For the first time in months no alleged law violators were rounded up and placed in the county jail last week-end. In fact, there was only one arrest during the entire week, the law having taken one man into its clutches last Monday for alleged larceny and receiving.

The ole town was fairly quiet Saturday night when rain ran the firecracker shooters in doors. A few reports were heard late into the night Sunday, however.

Big news in the crime world came, however, late Sunday night when eight convicts broke out of the prison camp near here.

Town Authorities Outlaw Fireworks Here Last Night

Delegations Ask For Better Lighting Near School and Cleaner Town

The use of fireworks inside the town limits was outlawed by a special ordinance passed by the town commissioners in regular session here last evening, the action coming as a result of numerous complaints and after members of a special delegation supported a personal plea for relief. The indiscriminate and prolonged use of fireworks made it almost mandatory for the commissioners to take the drastic action which provides a fine of \$5 for the first offense and \$10 for the second. Parents are likely to be held responsible when minors are overtaken by the law which goes into effect immediately.

It was pointed out by a member of a Woman's Club delegation that thoughtless persons had opened front doors and had thrown firecrackers into homes, and that some had been thrown into groups of children.

Headed by Mrs. M. M. Levin, Mrs. P. B. Cone, Mrs. A. R. Dunning and Mrs. A. J. Manning, Jr., the club delegation pleaded for warning signs at street crossings used by school children, the representatives pointing out that teen-age youths were driving recklessly on the streets used by school children. "A deplorable situation exists around our high school at night," one of the club representatives declared and the group pleaded for more lighting in that area and urged that the officers patrol the section. The delegation also called attention to the trash piles and waste paper in the back lots and on the streets. The ladies also asked that something be done to relieve the parking congestion.

Street signs are to be installed as soon as possible, the board going on to order the installation of at least two additional lights in the high school area and one on New Street just off West Main. Store owners and others will be asked to cooperate in handling waste paper and trash, the authorities pointing out that an ordinance was already in the books, directing the proper disposal of trash and waste paper.

Realizing that the volume of traffic had increased in recent months, the board agreed that a stop light was necessary at the corner of Main and Haughton Streets. Purchase and installation costs are to be investigated.

Represented by counsel, Joe Mike Mitchell asked the removal of a private garage from town property back of his store on Washington Street.

A beer license was granted to (Continued on page six)

Oak City Seniors To Issue Annual

Reporting on the activities of the Oak City High School, Alton Whitehurst, secretary, reveals that the senior class is working on an annual which will be the first the school has ever had. The staff elected so far: Editor, Emma House and assistant editor, Connor Lee.

The class held a meeting last Thursday and decided on "Service, loyalty, and integrity" as its motto.

The class officers are: President, Connor Lee; vice president, Emma House; secretary, Alton Whitehurst; and treasurer, Murry Thompson.

Children Improving After Attacks Of Pneumonia

Stricken suddenly with a throat ailment and pneumonia attacks the early part of last week, the young sons of Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Caraway, of Everetts, Jimmy and Dalton, Jr., are getting along all right at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer White, here on Beech Street. They were brought here after receiving treatment in a Greenville hospital. During the meantime, Mr. and Mrs. White's son, Wayne, became ill, but his condition is also much improved.

Archie Ray Caraway, six-month-old brother of Jimmy and Dalton, Jr., died suddenly on Sunday, October 27.

Long-Term Convicts Break Out Of Camp

Believed To Have Left Section In A Stolen Automobile

Two Out of Eight Escapees Found So Far, Prison Officials Say

Eight Negro prisoners, their terms ranging from seven to thirty years, saved their way out of the State Highway Prison Camp near here late last Sunday night, officials stating this morning that two had been recaptured, and others would be taken in a matter of hours by a posse. The break, yet unexplained by the two guards on duty at the time, was the largest reported since the camp has been in operation here.

George Baldwin was recaptured in Edenton late Monday when he dared walk the main street in his prison overalls. Three others are believed to be in that section, and between twenty and thirty armed guards and officers combed that area. Baldwin has been returned to the camp here.

Charlie Campbell was arrested this morning about 3:00 o'clock as he slept in a home in Plymouth. Campbell continued in the Washington County jail early this morning.

Several men were reported in the Norfolk area where officers stopped the car stolen from Jessup Harrison here. The occupants snatched the keys from the ignition, jumped and ran. While the investigating officer telephoned to check the car and before he could learn the details of the theft and prison break, the escapees returned, jumped into the car and drove away. Nothing has been heard from that group since last evening.

Another one of the men, believed to be Horace Platts, was seen near Parmele late last night. The last report heard from him stated that he boarded a Chevrolet, bearing license No. 612,188, and traveled in the direction of Greenville about 5:00 o'clock this morning. After he was seen near Parmele a posse tracked him with dogs for several miles but lost his track when he reentered the highway between Parmele and Bethel.

One report stated that three men, believed to be escapees, were fired upon in the Edenton area where the main hunt continues today.

Reporting the prison break, Superintendent J. E. Elbridge stated that the men sawed out a bar in a side window and escaped through a hole measuring twelve by about nine inches between 11 o'clock and midnight. Henry Coppedge, 57-year-old guard was stationed inside the building and he was quoted as saying that he heard no unusual noise. The prisoners used a hack saw blade and a bar of soap to cut an opening. Coppedge, an old guard who had experience in guarding prisoners at the old Caledonia camp during many of the past fifteen years, was given his release by District Superintendent Jas. Thompson of Roanoke Rapids, early Monday morning or a short time after the break was discovered when the men checked short at the 6:30 breakfast. W. H. Perry, recently employed as an outside building guard, did not discover the break even though he passed the window every half hour during the (Continued on page six)

Peanuts Enter Bullish Market

Although heavy rains last Saturday interrupted the peanut harvest, the goober market was described here yesterday as being bullish. However, sales for the day were fairly light.

Unofficial reports state that approximately 3,000 bags moved in the Hamilton and Oak City sections of this county last week mainly to one company at a price ranging from ten to ten and three-quarter cents a pound.

Weather permitting, the crop is expected to start moving to markets in this county in large volume within the next week or ten days.

County Board In Regular Session Monday Morning

Tax Collector Settles 1946 Account; Insolvent List Amounts to \$4,028

Meeting in regular session Monday morning, the Martin County Commissioners did not discuss carnivals, but confined their attention matters to complete the work schedule before lunch time. The high cost of food finally broke into jail and \$1 per day will be allowed for each prisoner's board.

Tax Collector M. L. Peel submitted his 1945 county tax account, and it was accepted by the commissioners. According to Mr. Peel, he started out in the fall of 1945 with \$189,388.52 on the books. Since that time he collected \$182,394.96 in 1945 taxes. Discounts amounted to \$1,682.45 and relief orders were granted in the sum of \$152.74. Land sales represented \$702.06. Collections pending amount to \$420.15, leaving an insolvent list of \$4,028.64 on personal property holdings. The account was only \$7.52 out of balance.

The collector stated also that of the \$206,118.84 levy for 1946, all but \$98,033.47 had been collected already.

Tax relief orders were allowed the following:

Hoyt Cowan, \$2 listed in error in Bear Grass Township for the year 1945, and J. Wesley Chesson, \$2 in Williamston Township because he was in the Army. Relief in the same amount was allowed Chesson for 1946.

Albemarle Lumber Company, \$25 listed in error in Williams Township in 1946.

W. P. Hadley, \$9.15 listed in error in Bear Grass Township for 1946.

Katie Brown, 94 cents listed in error in Williamston Township for 1946.

The personal bond offered in the sum of \$500 by J. Paul Holliday, Jamesville Township constable, was accepted over the signature of the officer's father.

Making his monthly report, Treasurer Dick Smith stated that the county had \$202,713.07 on deposit, \$118,461.36 in government bonds and \$66,491.56 in sinking and capital reserve funds, a total of \$387,835.10.

Jury men were drawn for the regular one-week term of superior court convening in December.

Bomb Guided By Radar For Navy

A radar-guided glider bomb which was used successfully in combat during the war will become an important, permanent part of the peacetime Navy. Having perfected the "Bat" as a full-fledged service weapon, the Navy has launched a program to train fleet aircraft personnel the technical and operational use of the weapon.

The Bat was operated entirely by specially trained Bureau of Ordnance teams in the war, and its use is being taught to pilots and aircrews at the Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Va. Two Privateer patrol bomber squadrons are being organized for service use of the missile.

Used against Japanese combatant and merchant shipping during the last year of World War II, the Bat proved to be the first successful fully automatic guided missile.

A low-angle-of-flight, self-controlled airborne missile, the Bat is capable of carrying a 1,000-pound bomb load, and has a range of 10 miles. The bomb is mounted in a glider type airframe and is equipped with a gyroscopic stabilizing unit and a servo system. The airframe was a radar transmitter and receiver to provide directional correction. The servo system moves the control surfaces of the air stabilizer.

Suspended under a wing or below the fuselage of an airplane, the Bat is about 12 feet long and has a 10-foot wing span. Its speed is comparable to that of high-speed aircraft, and its range is great enough to allow the mother plane to operate well out of the enemy's longest range anti-aircraft fire.

MARKET

With an estimated 70,000 pounds on the floor yesterday, the local tobacco market reported little or no change in prices for the day. Observers were of the opinion they were certainly no stronger than those paid last Friday when the market handled 110,914 pounds for an average of \$48.43 per hundred pounds.

The sales yesterday were the smallest for any Monday since the market opened in August, and entire communities have seen the last of the crop move, farmers said today.

To date, the market here has sold 10,617,612 pounds for an average of \$50.93 per hundred pounds.

District Office Of OPA Suspends Activities Here

Any Future Business Will Be Handled Through Office In Raleigh

Known for a long time as the rationing board, the OPA (Office of Price Administration) suspended its activities rather abruptly in this district on Monday of this week when the doors of the office in the agricultural building were ordered closed to the public. During the next twenty or thirty days, local personnel will assemble the various records and pack them for delivery either to the state office in Raleigh or to some storage for posterity.

The closing here of the office which has served this and several surrounding counties during the past twelve months is another big step in the liquidation of the OPA. Many items are being decontrolled day by day, and in a short time those few items left under control, including rents in certain designated areas, will be transferred possibly to other federal agencies.

Few details of the OPA liquidation could be learned here, but now that the local office is closed any future business related to the OPA will be handled directly with the state office in Raleigh.

There has been very little activity in the local office for some time other than the issuance of sugar ration books to a fairly large crop of newly born babies. In that connection, few ration books have been turned in for those persons who went on to their reward. Possibly one out of thirty ration books owned by persons who later died were ever surrendered to the office, and in some of those cases all valid stamps were used.

The order coming out of Washington last week closes 1,642 price rationing boards in the nation and releases 8,613 paid workers, including four in the district office here.

Administrator Paul Porter estimated that the OPA had whittled about eighty-five billion dollars off inflation and saved about 117 billion dollars in war costs alone.

Comparatively few items remain under price control which was just about wrecked by congressional acts under pressure from special groups earlier in the year and was further weakened when meat prices were decontrolled just a few weeks ago. Basic clothing and automobiles are just about all that now remain under price control in this area.

Has Leg Amputated In Duke Hospital Saturday

His left leg amputated a few inches above the knee last Saturday morning, Mr. Claudius Roberson was reported Monday to be getting along very well. In the operating room nearly three hours, he was said to have stood the ordeal all right and asked for a radio to hear the football game that afternoon. A blood clot formed in the lower leg, making the amputation necessary.