

Office Damaged By Fire Tuesday Morning

For First Time People Run Away Instead of To A Fire Here

Fire starting from a burning trash pile caused a storage tank containing cleaning fluid to explode and spread rapidly to the apartment-office building of Dr. and Mrs. J. T. Llewellyn on South Smithwick Street just off Main here last Tuesday morning shortly before the noon hour.

Very little damage was done to Alpha Cleaning establishment 1 Willard's Shoe Shop, buildings adjoining the lot where the fire started, but considerable damage was done to the exterior of the apartment-office building. The door and window frames on one side of the building were nearly burned away and the wood work on a second floor porch of the building was almost charred before firemen could bring the fire under control. Windows in the building were broken by the heat, but the fire did not reach the interior. However, smoke and water did some damage to the furniture in the apartment and to the doctor's office equipment. No estimate on the damage could be had immediately. The Llewellyns had left the day before for New York and insurance adjusters had not arrived early today to settle the claim. Unofficial estimates indicate that the loss will approximate \$2,000.

The fire alarm was sounded about 11:30 that morning apparently when the trash fire went out of control and caught the staging upon which the 300-gallon storage tank rested. A minute or two later the tank, containing only a small quantity of solvent, exploded, throwing burning fluid on the apartment-office building and sending up black smoke in volume. Burning fluid flowed down the street gutter and smoke poured through the porch.

One line of hose was connected in less than three minutes after the alarm was sounded and a second was throwing water a short time later. The building burned possibly no more than five or six minutes.

When the explosion was heard spectators, rushing to the fire, turned and fled, firemen declaring that it was the first time they had ever seen them running away instead of to a fire.

Colored laborers were working on the streets at the intersection of Main and Smithwick when the tank exploded. John L. Powell was stooping over at the time and it so happened he was in front of several other workers. Before he could raise up and run the others had flattened him on the concrete and trampled over him, breaking two fingers on his right hand in the rush. Asked which way the men ran, Powell said, "I don't know. When I looked up they were out of sight." Powell said he started running in some direction, met some one running and turned and followed him.

No damage was caused by the explosion itself, but its report rumbling through the business section caused much excitement.

Make Garments For Red Cross

(Robersonville Herald)

Under the direction and supervision of Miss Quencie McGowan, home economics teacher in the local schools, the Junior Red Cross girls have made an enviable reputation in making garments for foreign relief. Ever since school opened last fall the girls have been working on the special project and several shipments of clothes have been shipped abroad.

Making jumpers for foreign relief are: Bettie Lou Taylor, Gladys Ayers, Naomi Allen Haislip, Mary Louise Crisp, Doris Hollis, Ruby W. Harrison, Maggie Stalls, Evelyn Hardison and Lois Roebuck.

Dresses—Evelyn Martin, Mildred Cannon, C. Marie Wynne, Martha M. Rawls, Ann Barnes, Mavis Mathews, Cecile Harris and Frances Keel.

Trousers—Emma Gray Whitehurst, Thelma Hardison, Jean Mobley, Lorraine Wynne, Elva Hardison, Mary Frances Whitehurst, and Willie Louise Crawford.

Complete Busy Year

Upward Trend Is Noted In Illicit Trade In County

Injuring no one but wrecking about \$1,000 worth of property, motorists on Martin County highways were off to a good start to equal if not beat the shameful and costly record established in 1946. The happenings in the first five days of this year were not as bad as those a year ago when one person was killed and two others were injured in highway accidents.

Accidents In'd Killed Dam'ge

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend; first, by corresponding weeks in this year

1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
1947 2	0	0	\$ 950
1946 3	2	1	400

Making Repairs To Streets Here

Williamston's principal business streets, wrecked and battered when ditches were dug for underground telephone cables, are gradually being repaired, representatives of the company handling the contract stating this week that they planned to complete the repairs by the middle or latter part of next week, weather permitting. However, one report stated that asphalt was not available in this section and that repairs in their entirety may not be handled for some time. It was pointed out at the same time that possibly small rock would be used until the asphalt is made available, that traffic would not be interrupted.

Local people and traffic were caused considerable inconvenience by the work, and one or two vehicles got stuck while at least one tire blew out when a car hit one of the poorly kept ditches.

No cable has been pulled into the underground conduit, and installation of equipment for the local exchange automatic telephone system is said to be waiting for technicians. Some, if not all, the equipment has been delivered here for the automatic system.

Positions Open To Young Men

Positions as conservation aids are open to young men in the soil conservation service in this and other states, Henry O. Handy, local secretary of the United Civil Service Commission, announced this week.

Applications for the position which pays \$1,954 to \$2,644, must be filed on or before the 28th of this month. Applicants, in addition to experience and training, must pass written tests. Applications and other information may be had from the commission's local secretary at the post office.

Duties of these jobs include laying out simple contours; collecting soil samples; assembling information from field notes; applying soil conservation practices, such as terracing, contour cultivation, tree planting, woodland improving, farm drains, irrigation and land preparation; and supervising the work of assistants.

COURT INCOME

Nearly \$8,000, representing fines and costs, was paid into the county treasury by the county and superior courts during the month of December, according to a report submitted to the Martin commissioners at their last regular meeting by Clerk L. B. Wynne.

The county court reported fines and costs in the amount of \$2,454.65. The superior court reported \$108.70 in fines and costs, and \$297.23 was derived from miscellaneous accounts, making a total of \$2,859.98 for the month of December.

Sanitary Ratings Listed For Cafes In Martin County

Nearly One-Third of Eating Places Have Rating Of Grade A

Sanitary ratings for the twenty-nine cafes, clubs, the twenty-nine meat markets and seven tourist homes and hotels in this county were released a few days ago by County Sanitarian W. B. Gaylord, Jr. The ratings, based on inspections made during the past three months, are said to be somewhat better than those listed in a previous report.

Nearly one-third of the cafes or eating places rated A, but only six of the twenty-nine meat markets were above the B class. All the hotels and tourist homes but one rated A, the sanitarian pointed out in his report.

The ratings follow:

Cafes: Grade A—Griffin, 94, Williamston; Swanee River club, 93, Gold Point; Central, 92.5, Williamston; City Lunch, 92, Robersonville; Sunny Side Oyster Bar, 91, Williamston; Leggett, 90.5, Williamston; Mickey Oyster Bar, 90, Williamston; Friendly Coffee Shop, 90, Robersonville.

Grade B—The Martin, 87, Williamston; Big Apple, 86.5, Robersonville; G & C, 86.5, Williamston; Sumara & Co., 86, Williamston; Roberson, 85.5, Williamston; Geo. Reynolds, 85, Williamston; Raynor, 85, Hamilton; Chimney Corner, 84.5, RFD 3, Williamston; Harris, 84.5, Williamston; Hollywood Inn, 83, Williamston; Clark, 81, Jamesville; Cotton Club, 81, Williamston; Corney, 81, Robersonville; Andrews, 80.5, Williamston; Taylor, 80, Robersonville.

Grade C—City, 79, Oak City; Rogers, 78.5, Williamston; Farmers, 78.5, Robersonville; Jernigan, 75, Williamston; Washington St., 72.5, Williamston; Little Savoy, 70, Williamston.

Markets: Grade A—Colonial (Pender's), 93, Williamston; Ward, 92.5, Williamston; McClees, 91.0; Williamston; Everett and Warren, 90.5, Robersonville; Hardy, 90.5, Williamston; Page, 90, Robersonville.

Grade B—Brown Brothers, 87.5, Jamesville; Cherry, 87.5, Everetts; B & B, 86.5, Hamilton; Ayers, 86.5, Oak City; Brown, 86.5, Williamston; Jones Community, 86.5, Williamston; Johnson, 86.5, Hamilton; Hardy, 86.5, Everetts; Shaw, 85, Williamston; Robertson, 84.5, Williamston; Bens, 83.5, Williamston; Sexton, 83.5, Jamesville; B. & C., 82, Williamston; Sunny Side, 82, Williamston; Bryan, 81.5, Robersonville; Eason & Briley, 81, Robersonville; Edmondson & Cherry, 80, Hamilton; Tiny, 80, Williamston; Williams, 80, Robersonville.

Grade C—Rogers, 79, Williamston; Lilley, 78, RFD 2, Williamston; Daniel, 76.5, Oak City; Bunting, 72, Oak City.

Hold Funerals For Child Wednesday

Funeral services were conducted at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Grover Nicholson, near here Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock for Cleveland Whitaker who died in a Washington hospital Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Diphtheria was given as the cause of the child's death. Rev. John Hardy, local minister, conducted the last rites and burial was in the Nicholson graveyard on the McCaskey Road.

Taken ill the latter part of last week, the little fellow was removed to the hospital Sunday.

He was the son of Hubert and Pattie Nicholson Whitaker, and besides his parents he is survived by one brother.

Youth Delivered To The Hospital At Goldsboro

John Hassell, 10-year-old local colored boy, was removed to the state hospital at Goldsboro this week by county officers. Although considered harmless, the less fortunate lad often got into difficulty, making his confinement in an institution necessary.

Greeted kindly by attendants at the institution, the lad voiced no complaint, but while walking across the court he would look back longingly at the officers and just before entering a building he turned to wave goodbye.

Unemployment Creeping Into Local Labor Ranks

After remaining critical during and since the war, the labor shortage apparently is easing up to some extent in this immediate section, at least. Unofficial reports state that one local manufacturing plant after filling every position Thursday morning turned away approximately forty job seekers. An individual logging contractor said he was forced to quit when he could not meet assigned tasks, the action clearly indicating that operators are rapidly shifting from the defense to the offense.

No official report has been released by the local employment office and no general trend in the employment situation could be had.

The apparent weakening of the labor market is believed by some to be only temporary, that it was

Series Of Robberies Reported In County

Station Operator Fires Six Shots At a Masked Man

Its reserve depleted and the account overdrawn by more than \$100, the Infantile Paralysis Fund in this county is to be replenished during an extensive canvass beginning on Wednesday, January 15, County Chairman L. Bruce Wynne announced. "We have been asked to raise \$2,120 this year, and if the needs are as great in 1947 as they were in 1946 that amount will not be sufficient," the chairman explained.

Six county polio victims, four of them post-care cases, received aid from the fund last year when \$2,293.47 was paid out.

Chairman Wynne is looking to the school folks to help him carry the county over the top, and he is appealing for a liberal support from the general public. Detailed plans for the drive will be announced shortly.

Awards Made To War II Veterans

According to a report just recently released, awards have been made to 40,009 North Carolina veterans of World War II, that 912 new cases were received during the month of December.

More than 34,000 were receiving institutional training and 17,508 were receiving on-the-job training in this state. More than 7,000 applied for training last month, but during the same period 2,741 quit the training program.

Disabled veterans, number nearly 4,500, were receiving special training at the end of last month, and over 1,000 men were given special physical examinations during the period. Over 200 veterans applied for hospital care last month.

Four hundred and eleven North Carolina veterans have applied for automobiles under the law allowing disabled vets automobiles. Three hundred and nineteen have been ruled eligible and 55 of the cases have been certified for payment.

John A. Cherry Dies In County

John Ashley Cherry, eight-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Cherry, died at the home of his parents near Spring Green on Friday, December 20, at 2:30 p. m.

The young son had been in ill health for approximately two years and his death was no surprise to his parents and immediate family. Born near Gold Point John Ashley was a bright lad and had many friends among the youthful girls and boys in this section of the county.

Funeral services were held from the home Saturday afternoon, December 21, at 3 o'clock with Rev. J. M. Perry of the local Christian Church officiating. Interment was made in the Robersonville cemetery.

Surviving are his parents; one sister, Peggy Cherry; three brothers, Elliott, Billy and Jimmie Cherry, all of the home. Pallbearers were: Charlie Forbes, Stephen Grimes, Mack Wynne and Roland Howell.

Assistant Agent Is Not Available

The position of assistant farm agent made vacant in this county by the resignation of L. W. Cone last month has not been filled. District Agent B. Troy Ferguson, visiting the office here this week, explained that not a single agent or assistant is available at this time, and that he could not tell when the position could be filled.

"The agents and assistants are changing so fast I can hardly keep up with them," Ferguson was quoted as saying.

Mr. Cone quit the post in this county to continue his college training.

FARM BUREAU

Meeting in the courthouse Friday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock members of the Martin County Farm Bureau will hear a first-hand and detailed report on the organization's national convention held in San Francisco last month. Delegates Van Taylor, Reuben Everett and E. V. Clayton are slated to make the reports and give the low-down on the side activities.

The president, Chas. L. Daniel, states that Clayton will tell how he got lost, how he missed his train, etc., etc.

Judge J. C. Smith Has Fifteen Cases In County's Court

Imposes Fines In Amount Of \$390 At Session Last Monday

Holding the court in session hardly more than two hours and working before a comparatively small audience, Judge J. Calvin Smith called fifteen cases in the county tribunal last Monday. Several road sentences were meted out and fines were imposed in the sum of \$390.

Proceedings:

The case charging Mary E. Reed with reckless driving was again continued under prayer for judgment, the court delaying judgment until the first Monday in June of this year.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving, L. D. House was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his license revoked for one year.

Charged with disorderly conduct on two counts, D. C. Thomas was fined \$10 in each case and required to pay the costs.

Mary Davis, pleading not guilty, was adjudged guilty in the case charging her with being drunk and disorderly and trespassing on the property of another. Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs.

Charged with bastardy, LeRoy Patterson asked for a jury trial and the case was automatically transferred to the superior court docket for trial next March.

The case charging David R. Harrell with non-support was continued by agreement until next Monday.

In a second case brought against Harrell, he pleaded not guilty to the charge of reckless and careless driving. Adjudged guilty the defendant was fined \$75, taxed with the cost and had his driver's license revoked for one year.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with speeding and reckless driving, Milford Holliday was fined \$20 and taxed with the cost. The court recommended that his driver's license be suspended for thirty days.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Theodore Roosevelt Bonds pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 and taxed with the cost. The court recommended that no license be issued the defendant for twelve months.

William F. Reeves, pleading guilty of drunken driving, was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his driver's license revoked for one year.

Facing the court for the second time for alleged drunken driving, Peter Little pleaded guilty and asked the court to be as light on him as possible. He was fined \$100, taxed with the costs and had his license revoked for one year.

William Staton, pleading not guilty, was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his driver's license revoked for one year.

Express Sympathy In Realistic Way

Troubled and saddened by the tragedy that cost Little Miss Janice Ward her life the latter part of last month, nearly 200 friends and acquaintances of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Ward expressed their sympathy in a most realistic way when they made cash contributions amounting to between three and four hundred dollars.

Headed by friends and without the knowledge of the family the solicitations met a hearty response throughout the community, some giving as much as \$5 to help offset the little girl's hospital and funeral expenses. According to last reports, a total of \$310.23 was contributed.

"No one can possibly imagine how much we appreciate the contributions," Mr. Ward commented when he searched his heart for words to express his and the thanks of his family. "Everyone was so kind and thoughtful following the tragedy, and we each of them to know that we were all so graciously appreciated by all of us." Mr. Ward added that the goodness and thoughtfulness of neighbors helped the family to bear the burden of sorrow of the untimely passing of the little girl.