

Doctor's 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 where 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 tanks 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.

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Make Garments For Red Cross

(Robersonville Herald)

Under the direction and supervision of Miss Queenie 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.

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Complete Busy Year Noted In Illicit Trade In County

Over One Hundred Liquor
Manufacturing Plants
Are Destroyed

Motivated possibly by an ever-increasing demand, the scarcity and high prices of the legal brands, illicit liquor manufacturers in this county are apparently striving to stage a comeback, according to a report released a few days ago by ABC Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck for the year of 1946. The upward trend in the illicit business is especially noticeable in the latter part of 1946 when fifteen plants were wrecked as compared with only three in the month of December, 1945.

During 1946 the enforcement officer and his assistants wrecked 136 distilleries valued at approximately \$12,000. Only 102 plants were wrecked in 1945. The officers last year poured out 15,930 gallons of beer valued at about \$4,000. Very little sugar beer was found, but the molasses concoction was increased from 11,425 gallons in 1945 to nearly 16,000 gallons. The raiders confiscated 121 gallons of illicit liquor, carrying a value of about \$10 a gallon, reports declaring that the poorest grades of the white lightning has commanded that amount in recent months. In 1945 the officers confiscated 117 gallons of illicit liquors.

Of the seventeen persons arrested for alleged liquor law violations, fourteen were convicted. Fines, amounting to \$1,600, were assessed against those convicted, and sentences, calling for forty-four months on the roads and in jail were imposed in the county and state courts.

Without a regular assistant, the enforcement officer worked in close cooperation with the sheriff's office and exchanged services. He was aided mainly by Deputy Roy Peel, and the two of them handled an effective work during the year. In maintaining a close watch against the illicit business and holding it to a minimum, the officer drove his car 14,452 miles last year as compared with 14,451 in 1945.

The effectiveness of the enforcement work in this county is evidenced in the fact that manufacturers in other counties were called on to help supply the trade. Even the effort made to import illicit liquor met with little success, and the imbibers and "sots" (Continued on page six)

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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.

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.

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; Harney, 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; Roberts, 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.

Tourist Homes and Hotels: Grade A—Dunning Place, 95, Williamston; Kozy Korner, 95, Williamston; Oak Tourist, 95, Williamston; Travelers Rest, 95, Williamston; Wilcox Hotel, 94.5, Robersonville.

Grade B—Geo. Reynolds, 85, Williamston.

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 brought about when tobacco plant owners curtailed operations and the peanut marketing season gradually came to a virtual stop during recent days. Observers, however, frankly pointed out that the hey-day for the indifferent laborer is rapidly fleeing, that employers from now on will be in a better position to bargain.

Sudden drops in employment figures have also been reported in other sections, particularly in the Elizabeth City area where an influx of workers was recently reported.

In his message to Congress this week, President Truman appealed to the nation to maintain its employment figure at 58 million workers. It was pointed out that many goods are still in big demand, that employment will have to continue at a high level if the demand is to be met.

Veteran Of World War II Appointed Sheriff's Deputy

Murray Holloman Enters
Upon His New Duties In
County This Week

Murray (Buck) Holloman, veteran of World War II, was named deputy sheriff for Martin County a few days ago and entered upon his new duties last Tuesday, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck announced.

Subscribing to the oath of office before Clerk of Court L. Bruce Wynne, the young man drew assignments immediately, reports declaring that the new officer passed the first tests with colors flying. He accompanied ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck on a raid in the upper part of the county Tuesday and picked up and followed a trail into a thick woods. Darkness was falling and after following the trail for almost a mile he returned and joined the other officer for the trip back home. Last Wednesday he delivered a patient to the state hospital at Goldsboro and yesterday he was in line to take another inmate to the same institution.

Twenty-eight years of age, Deputy Holloman attended the local schools, working at various tasks during his high school years and later with a cleaning and pressing establishment until he entered the service in 1943. A member of the military police force, he served in the Pacific theater for two years. Following his return home last April he has been in the employ of the G and H Builders Supply Company in Williamston most of the time, and was planning to enter business for himself when the position was offered him.

The young man's record in the service and the particular work he handled well fitted him for his present job. His commanding officer in the Pacific Theater highly recommended the young man and expressed the opinion that he would make a splendid and fearless officer.

Deputy Holloman was married to Miss Rose Boykin Chapman of Smithfield, Virginia, last July, and they are now at home with his mother, Mrs. W. J. Smith, here on West Main Street.

Escaped Convict Taken In Virginia

Horace Platte, one of eight convicts escaping from the State Highway prison camp in this county last November 4, was recaptured in Eastville, Virginia, just above Cape Charles, a few days ago, officers were notified here this week.

Few details of his capture could be learned here immediately. One report stated that the man is being returned to North Carolina, that he will be questioned at State's Prison, Raleigh, and assigned to some camp.

Platte, a native of South Carolina, was sentenced in Cumberland County to serve from seven to ten years for breaking and entering.

His arrest reduced the number of November 4 escapees still at large to two. No word has been received from Chester Marsh or Albert Bowser.

Series Of Robberies Reported In County

Station Operator
Fires Six Shots
At A Masked Man

Three Local Business Houses Entered During Past Several Days

A second wave of daring robberies within a month was reported here and in the surrounding community during the past several days, the business reaching a climax last Wednesday night or early Thursday morning when two local business houses were entered, and when a filling station operator fired six shots at a masked man. Attempts were made to enter two local filling stations, but the robbers retreated when they were unable to batter down the doors.

After working diligently to force a front door opening, robbers broke into Roscoe Downs' filling station at Spring Green on N. C. Highway 125 early last Sunday morning. One of the door locks was cut out with a chisel, and the others were opened when the robbers broke a glass and reached through the door to get to the controls.

According to an inventory check, the robbers stole a used shot gun, a case of cylinder oil, twenty-five or thirty cartons of cigarettes, several packages of razor blades, a number of pairs of socks and some candy, and possibly a few other articles.

Officers are working on the case, but no lead has yet been established.

Forcing an entrance through a side window robbers stole several dollars in cash from the Lindsey Ice Company store some time during last week-end, it was learned this week. As far as it could be learned nothing was missed from the stock.

Officers investigated but have established no lead so far.

Following the break-ins last week-end, robbers, apparently a new group, broke into the Blue Star Cleaners and the laundry here some time during last Wednesday night. Windows were broken in both establishments. A few dollars—\$24.50, one report said—were stolen at the Blue Star Cleaners, and a few clothes were missed at the laundry where an attempt to force the safe failed.

Oliver Coltrain, operating a filling station on the Washington Highway near the W. A. Perry home in Bear Grass Township, was closing his business about 11 o'clock Wednesday night and was starting out with his money box and pistol in hand when he sighted a masked man at the window. He fired six shots at the man through the window but apparently missed his mark. Officers, investigating the incident, found widely spaced tracks leading from the station down the road.

Locally, the robbers withdrew when they failed to batter down doors and force entrances into Jack Daniels' and the Two-Way Service Station at the corner of the Jamesville and Washington Highways sometime during Wednesday night.

Little information about the robberies and robbery attempts could be had from official circles, but it is believed that amateur (Continued on page six)

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.

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 (Continued on page six)

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 \$50 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 most 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 by the untimely passing of the little girl.

QUOTA

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 \$2,263.47 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.

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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 D. 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.