

Continual Rains Reported During Sixty-Two Hours

Rains Fall In Seventeen Of First Twenty-One Days In Month

While no record rainfall has been reported in this immediate section, the earth is about as wet as it has been at any other time in recent years. Falling slowly and often the rains have for the most part saturated the land. Starting last Friday afternoon about 4:30 o'clock a slow rain fell without more than a few minutes' interruption until almost 7:30 Monday morning, a period of almost sixty-three hours. The total fall for the period, however, was less than one inch. Up until late Monday afternoon, 3.83 inches of rain had fallen here since the first of this year, according to Hugh Spruill, keeper of the weather bureau's rain gauge on Roanoke River.

During the first twenty-one days of this month, rain has fallen in at least seventeen, Mr. Spruill said. Not one of the daily falls exceeded one inch, but on two days the precipitation missed an inch by a very narrow margin. The Roanoke is in flood stage here at the present time, but the water, now about six inches over the banks, is not as high as some predicted it would be. The stream went on a stand here yesterday at 10.6 feet. Heavy rains were reported over the week-end in the upper regions of the Roanoke basin, but they are not expected to influence the stream very much at this point, other than delay the fall of the water.

A report from the State Weather Bureau in Raleigh late Monday stated that the stream will likely fall slowly beginning today and continue until the latter part of the week when another rise is to be expected. It was too early at that time to predict the size of the rise expected this week-end.

The frequent rains have interrupted work on the river bridge here during recent weeks, but the contractors continue to make fair progress. High water forced workmen out of the river yesterday, but they were assigned tasks on other parts of the bridge and the work continues.

More than half of the bridge over the swamp has been widened and several piles for the enlarged center pier in the river have been driven. Staging around the pier is now covered by water, and additional piles cannot be sunk until the river falls.

Changes In Bear Grass Faculty

Mrs. Allie R. James entered upon her duties as a teacher in the Bear Grass School last week, succeeding Mrs. Raymond Cherry, Jr., who resigned last month. Mrs. Luther Britton had been substituting until Mrs. James accepted the position.

H. M. Riddick, teacher in the school, has tendered his resignation which is to become effective just as soon as his successor is named. A report from the office of the superintendent this week stated that just as soon as the legislature takes action on the teacher salary increase it is believed that more teachers will be available, that the position in Bear Grass can be filled.

France Has Big Population Loss

The latest national census in France shows that the French population is now about 40,500,000, as compared with 41,900,000 in 1936, the last previous official census year. The decrease is 3.30 percent in the ten years. (The French military dead totaled 165,395; civilian deaths from all causes, including executions under the Nazis, were 339,620, or a total war dead of 505,015. This does not include 25,000 more believed put to death by the Nazis but not represented in the official figures.) Paris has lost 105,000 inhabitants since 1936 but it now counts 114,000 foreigners. Another interesting disclosure is that Toulouse, in southwestern France, is now the fourth largest city in France, pushing Bordeaux to fifth place.

Increased Borrowing For Crop Production Reported

Despite the favorable markets prevailing during recent years and in the face of a period in which adjustments are almost certain to be made, more Martin County farmers are borrowing money for the production of crops this year than in any other recent period, according to reliable reports coming from several governmental lending agencies.

The seed-and-feed type of loan, ordinarily limited to those farmers who do not have sufficient collateral to enter the regular loan market, is proving popular again this year. Not since the depression years have so many farmers applied for seed-feed loans, it was learned. Ranging from just a few dollars up to about a \$100 average during the depression, the loans are now averaging about \$250. The seed-feed loans,

handled heretofore by an independent agency, are now under what has been known for a number of years as the Farm Security Administration.

Along with the increase in the number of applications filed by low-income farmers there has been a fairly steady gain in the number applying to the Farm Security Administration for aid in financing their 1947 operations. Over 100 such loans have already been made, and at least 35 applications are pending. The loans are averaging around \$750, it was learned.

The near failure of the peanut crop is partly responsible for the increase in number of loans, but the applications are no more numerous in those sections where crops were all but drowned than they are in those sections where production was near normal.

DIMES MARCH ON

The March of Dimes march on in this county to boost the current collections in the annual infantile paralysis drive to almost within one-fourth of the \$2,120 goal, Chairman L. B. Wynne announced this week.

No reports have come from the school here the drive is being centered, the chairman said, but nearly 100 of the 404 persons contacted by direct mail have replied, he added. Up until Monday morning, \$476.00 had been contributed by direct mail, the donations ranging from \$1 to \$25.

Officers Capture Still In County

Reiding in the Flat Swamp section of Robersonville Township last Friday, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel wrecked a crude liquor distillery. The plant was equipped with an oil drum, two fermenters and a doubler, but there was no beer.

Last Thursday the officers spent most of the day working in Griffins Township, but found no trace of illicit operations. One of the officers was quoted as saying that he did not think the illicit operators had suspended operations, adding that they could not pick up a track. Many of the woods paths have been covered by water for some days, making it difficult for the officers to pick up trails leading to and from stills.

Installing Heating Equipment In Gym

To relieve a condition that has been most unpleasant and at times bodily injurious, the Lindsey Ice Company installed yesterday a heating plant in the gymnasium of the local high school. During the winter months the building, which is fairly open, is usually cold and on many occasions the weather is detrimental to the holding of athletic events.

The Lindsey Ice Company will keep the heating unit, which is an automatic oil burning outfit, in the building until they hold their John Deere Field Day some time in February.

With adequate heating facilities attendance at both the high school and league basketball games is expected to increase.

TWO SETS OF TWINS

Two sets of twins were born in the same family in the county recently, giving the birth rate a substantial boost toward an all-time record for the current year.

On Sunday, January 5, Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Hardison announced the birth of twins at their home in Bear Grass. Two days later on Tuesday, January 7, Mrs. Hardison's sister, Mrs. J. D. Bullock, and Mr. Bullock announced the birth of twins in the local hospital.

All the babies are getting along just fine, late reports say.

Make Plans For Bankers' Meeting

Holding a dinner session in the George Reynolds Hotel here last Friday night, members of the Executive Committee, Group I of the North Carolina Bankers' Association, made tentative plans for the annual meeting of Eastern North Carolina bankers in Washington on Saturday, February 22. Despite the bad weather, twelve members of the committee attended the meeting and advanced suggestions for the annual session, the second scheduled since before the war. Local bankers, H. A. Bowen and D. V. Clayton, were hosts at the executive session here.

The No. 1 group of the state association is scheduled to convene its business session at 2:30 in Washington on the 22nd, and W. H. Neal, vice president of the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, Winston-Salem, is being invited to address the meeting. Following the business session a banquet is to be held that evening at 7:00 o'clock with Edmund Harding as toastmaster. A dance will follow the banquet, H. A. Bowen, chairman of the committee, announced.

"We are looking forward to one of our largest and best meetings," Mr. Bowen said.

Those attending the committee meeting last Friday evening were, Messrs. A. G. Small, G. D. Brickhouse, G. R. Little, Jr., and W. R. Ayldett of Elizabeth City, J. L. Hoffer, Jr., of Windsor, R. M. Griffin of Woodland, R. M. Riddick of Hertford, D. R. Everett and L. B. Stokes of Robersonville, and D. V. Clayton and H. A. Bowen of Williamston.

Urged To Change Pay Raise Stand

Senators Horton and Rodman, representing this district in the State Legislature, were asked last week-end to change their stand on the wage increase proposed for school teachers and other low wage earners on the state payroll. The request, according to information reaching here, was made by the Plymouth Lions Club following a discussion of the Barker amendment and the refusal of the State Senate to concur with the House in its adoption.

Resolutions were adopted by the club, directing the secretary to contact the two senators by letter and to appeal directly to John Darden, Washington County's representative in the House. Mr. Darden was said to have opposed the Barker amendment.

Suicides Still Top Homicides

The Public Health Service reported a few days ago that there were nearly twice as many suicides as homicides in the United States in 1945. A total of 14,782 persons killed themselves, while 7,412 were killed by others. This followed the same pattern as in 1944—when there were 13,231 suicides and 6,553 homicides. Heart disease and cancer continued the nation's top killers, accounting for 601,792 of the 1,401,719 deaths recorded.

Local People Are Hurt In Accident Saturday Evening

Pedestrian Run Down Between Here and Windsor Early Same Day

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Sullivan, West Main Street, Williamston, were badly hurt in an automobile-truck crash one mile out of Bethel on the Greenville Road early last Saturday night. Suffering a concussion, abrasions about the face and head and severe shock, Mrs. Sullivan continues quite ill in the hospital here. Unconscious for some hours, she was said late Monday to be able to understand others but could answer only by nodding her head. His head and face painfully but not deeply cut, Mr. Sullivan was able to leave the hospital after treatment which included the 27 stitches necessary to close the wounds. Others in the car were not injured, except for minor bruises.

Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, accompanied by Robert Jones and Finley Allen and their two companions, were driving in the direction of Greenville when the car, a 1942 Mercury, crashed into the rear of a truck parked on the highway. Reports state that Mr. Sullivan was driving between 35 and 40 miles an hour, that he was meeting a car and could not tell the truck was parked in the curve until he was almost on it.

Given first aid treatment in a Bethel doctor's office, the victims were removed to the hospital here.

The Sullivan car was damaged beyond repair. Very little damage was done to the truck.

The accident was one of three (Continued on page eight)

Record Business Handled By County License Bureau

The Martin County marriage license bureau set an all-time activity record for one day last Saturday when eleven licenses were issued, six to white and five to colored couples.

"I don't ever recall that any where near the number of licenses had been issued in a single day before," Register J. Sam Getsinger said. Business developed so rapidly that unmarried clerks in the office became a bit nervous when it was intimated the supply of license forms would be depleted.

No reason for the unprecedented spurt in the bureau's business could be definitely advanced, but it was noted that Cupid had been working night and day promoting matches. It isn't believed that the proposed 48-hour waiting period prompted the business spurt.

The number of marriage licenses issued in the one day is far greater than the total for entire months in years past. Few of the marriages following the re-

Funeral Services Monday Afternoon For Wreck Victim

Truck Driver Held In Jail For Manslaughter And Drunken Driving

Funeral services were conducted in the Presbyterian church at Bear Grass Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for James Garland Bailey, young Martin County white man who was fatally injured in an automobile-truck accident at the intersection of U. S. Highway 17 and the Bear Grass Road early last Saturday evening. Rev. M. Luther Ambrose, Maple Grove Church pastor, assisted by Elder A. B. Ayers, Primitive Baptist minister of Bear Grass, conducted the last rites. Interment was in the Bailey family cemetery near Bear Grass.

The son of James G. Bailey and the late Mrs. Mary Leary Bailey, he was born in Bear Grass Township 29 years ago. He farmed all his life and in slack seasons on the farm he was engaged in mechanical work. He was an accommodating person and had many friends in his home community.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Kathleen Martin and she survives with four children, three sons, Hubert, Jimmie and Freddie, and a daughter, Mary Bailey, all of the home. Also surviving are his father; five sisters, Mrs. Roy Bailey of West Main Street, Williamston; Mrs. W. A. Bailey, Mrs. Johnnie Knox, Misses Hazel and Rachel Bailey; one brother, Frank Bailey, a half-brother, Walter Bailey, all of the Bear Grass community; and two half-sisters, Mrs. Roy Beacham of Washington, and Mrs. James E. (Continued on page eight)

County Man Fatally Injured In Accident

Four Others Hurt When Truck Plows Into Car Saturday

James Garland Bailey Dies On Way To Hospital After Accident

James Garland Bailey was fatally hurt and four other persons were injured, three of them badly, when a truck driven by John Frank Green and owned by Leslie Hardison of Jamesville plowed into their car near the intersection of U. S. Highway and the Bear Grass blacktop road in Bear Grass Township last Saturday evening about 7:30 o'clock.

His neck broken and skull fractured, Mr. Bailey was pronounced dead when he reached the local hospital, reports stating that he died as he was being rushed by the Staton farm in E. D. Harrison's car.

W. A. Bailey, driver of the car and brother-in-law of the victim who was fatally hurt, was bruised and suffered shock. Roland Harrison, his eight-year-old son, Vernon, and Johnny Wynne, riding in the back seat of the Bailey car, were badly hurt, and all were brought to the hospital here.

The young boy suffered a fracture of the skull and there were numerous abrasions on his face. His father was badly bruised in his chest and was probably injured internally. Wynne was terribly cut about the face, one report stating that 47 stitches were necessary to close the wounds.

One gash, running from his forehead almost to his chin, split the eyelid but is not believed to have impaired his vision. Mr. Wynne also suffered severe shock. Sitting on the rear seat next to the left window, Mr. Wynne was knocked partly through the glass. His son, riding in the middle, was thrown to the foot of the car.

Investigating the accident, Martin County's second fatal one in a little over a week, patrolmen stated that the Bailey car driving from Bear Grass to Highway 17 had stopped at the intersection for traffic to pass. One car passed on the highway and Green, operating the 1937 Ford log truck and driving from Williamston, attempted to make a turn into the Bear Grass Road, apparently at a fast rate of speed. The truck hit the left front of the car, pushed it back quite a few feet and turned it around, the two vehicles coming to a stop in a hog pasture, 40 or 45 feet from the spot of the crash.

Officers are not certain whether Mr. Bailey's neck was broken by the impact or he was fatally hurt when he was thrown to the highway. Riding on the right side of the front seat, he is believed to have been run over by one of the vehicles.

Green, about 45 years of age, was arrested and formally charged with drunken and reckless driving. (Continued on page eight)

Germany Has Big Population Loss

Germany's present population, according to the recent census, is placed at 65,910,000. Of these, 17,313,581 are in the Soviet zone, 16,682,573 in the United States zone, 22,794,655 in the British zone and 5,939,807 in the French zone. The population of Berlin was estimated at 3,180,393. In 1939 official figures indicated that Germany, exclusive of Austria and the Sudetenland had a population of 69,622,213. The count for "Greater Germany" was 79,375,281.

Annual Meeting Building And Loan Stockholders

Stockholders of the Martin County Building and Loan Association will hold their annual meeting in the courthouse Wednesday of this week at 11:30 o'clock a. m., it was announced by Secretary Wheeler Martin. Officers and directors for the new year are to be elected, and other business will be handled at the meeting.

Personal Letter Tells Of Trials And War Fights

Radio Acquaintance Writes From Germany To Gilbert Smith Recently

(Robersonville Herald) Prior to the war J. Gilbert Smith of Robersonville talked over short wave radio to an amateur radioman, Erich Kintscher, in Germany. They learned to know each other real well, but the war interrupted their conversations and nothing was heard from the Kintscher until a short time ago when Mr. Smith received a personal letter from his former conversationalist.

Kintscher, in his letter dated December 9, tells of pitiful and almost hopeless conditions existing in the British Zone in Germany, and appealed for aid. His letter, borrowed from Mr. Smith, reads as follows:

Dammtorwall, Strungsstette Hamburg, Fernsprechtamt Germany, British Zone.

Dear J. Gilbert Smith:

I want to send you my address. The terrible war has come to an end. I am still living but I lost my home, goods and chattels and changed all this into a life of need and misery and, as it seems to me, without hope for a better future. But I am only one among millions that are not all Germans. It is only a feeble consolation for me that I can say from my conscience that I am innocent of all that happened in my country. In 1933, I was arrested by the Gestapo because of was a member of the Workers' Radio Union and the Free German Gymnastics Clubs. Because I was set free in order to and aside outrager I joined the German amateurs Transmitting and Reception Service. There I did good work for all foreign countries. Over 6000 notes (QSL Cards), I wrote to other countries.

I gained the first place with DIDC 1936, and 1938 for District B. Today I am penniless and besides that I am wearing on my body I have nothing. All did I lose and my family too. One daughter I lost on our flight. My family is living nearly 100 Km from Hamburg, poorly sheltered. Every three weeks I visit my family on Sundays tho I have no home in Hamburg.

I am sleeping in an office room of the exchange house. If I am allowed to work on short waves and you are still on the air I should be glad to send you notes again.

I would thank you with all my (Continued on page eight)

Drive Against Tax Evaders Pushed

The drive against tax evasions now being carried out by the United States Treasury is bringing in collections at a record rate, according to a report by Secretary Snyder. His statement, issued December 16, says that extra assessments and penalties amounted to \$546,000,000 from July 1 through October, a 41 percent increase over the corresponding months of last year. This brought to more than \$1,500,000,000 the extra assessments and penalties taken in during the approximately sixteen months of the drive. "While the \$546,000,000 of additional assessments are gratifying," Mr. Snyder said, "they must now be allowed to overshadow the \$11,695,000,000 overall tax collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue during the same four months of July-October, inclusive. In evaluating the drive against evaders, it is well to remember that the bureau necessarily and properly devotes the major portion of its energies to doing business with the honest taxpayers, who, I am proud to say, constitute the vast majority of American citizens."

Continues Quite Ill In Hospital

Mr. Wheeler Martin, local attorney, continues quite ill in a Rocky Mount hospital. However, late reports state that he was feeling some better, that he was very bright.

Mr. Martin, a patient in the hospital since the day after Christmas, suffered another attack last Friday night and was very sick Saturday and Sunday. Reports reaching here maintain that doctors are encouraging, one having been quoted as saying that the patient would be able to return home in a few more weeks, that he would be able to get out but could do very little work.

Canol Project On Auction Block

Six hundred miles of the ill-starred \$134,000,000 Canol wartime oil project, denounced in Congress as a "flaming waste," is now slated to go on the auction block March 20.

Retiring Secretary of State James F. Byrnes revealed in a report to Congress recently that an agreement permitting the sale had been reached with Canada. He said it would give the U. S. "maximum return," but expressed doubt anyone would want to buy it for use "in place." That means the project will undoubtedly be scrapped.

A Senate investigating committee sharply censured Adm. Ernest J. King and Gen. Brent Sperry for persisting in the project's construction.

NO SETTLEMENT

According to a report coming from the Triple A office in the county this week, 85 Martin County farmers who planted in excess of their tobacco allotments have not yet turned in their marketing cards and satisfied the penalties in their entirety. The farmers are being asked to turn in their cards and settle the penalty accounts, the office explaining that no 1947 quotas will be allotted until the accounts are satisfied.

ROUND-UP

Only one person was rounded up and placed in the county jail here last week-end, but officers admitted that they missed one or two others and then went on to explain that crime was all but rained out during the period.

Frank Green, 42-year-old colored man of Jamesville, was placed in jail to await a hearing in the case charging him with drunken and reckless driving and manslaughter. Green was shot through the throat several months ago when he allegedly molested a young girl in Jamesville.

Local Young Man In Fayetteville Hospital

Troubled with a leg injury received while in the Army, Wheeler Martin (Dukie) Ward returned to a veterans' hospital in Fayetteville last week-end for treatment. Reports state that he will be confined there possible for several months, and letters from friends and acquaintances will be greatly appreciated. Communications will reach him in care of Veterans' Hospital, Fayetteville.

Mayor J. L. Hassell Returns From Hospital

His condition much improved, Mayor John L. Hassell returned home last Sunday afternoon from a Washington hospital where he received treatment since December 26. He plans to spend several days in his apartment in the Lawyers' Building before returning to his office.