

Hundreds Injured Using Fireworks During Holidays

Several Lost Eyesight; At Least Hundred Twenty Hurt Seriously

At least 751 persons in North Carolina were injured, several critically, by fireworks during the period from December 10 of last year to the 10th of this month, according to a reliable report released this week by the Hospital Care Association, Inc., from its administrative offices in Durham.

The information was based on reports from 261 of the state doctors questioned by the association. In addition to the injured, an Apex doctor said, "There is something beside the physical trauma to consider in this. I don't think there has been but one Christmas in the past six that I haven't seen from one to six old people on account of the mental torture these infernal things cause."

Summarizing the 261 reports, E. M. Herndon, executive vice president of the Hospital Care Association, said:

"The survey was conducted as a service to the public and to our members. Its findings are being released to the press, state medical and hospital officials, and legislators. All physicians signed their reports in writing. Undoubtedly, there were additional cases of firework injuries but the reports of the 261 replying physicians give a clear indication as to the scope and nature of this type injury.

"Of the 751 patients reported treated, 74 were admitted to hospitals. A total of 121 patients were reported as 'seriously injured.'

"Among the seriously injured were 37 classified as 'eye injuries' including nine cases involving the loss of an eye, six cases resulting in the loss of vision of one eye, two cases resulting in questionable vision of one eye, two cases with corneal scar of one eye, and four cases of burns of eye.

"Among 50 reported arm injuries, were two cases of the loss

Postal Income Last Year Is Slightly Under 1945 High

Postal income at the local office dropped slightly under the high figure reported for 1945, according to a statement released by Postmaster W. E. Dunn this week.

"But", Postmaster Dunn pointed out, "the money order business climbed to an all-time high figure, the last quarter business falling just about \$25 short of \$100,000."

After gradually declining during the first three quarters as compared with corresponding periods in 1945, stamp sales climbed out of the slump to reach \$10,502.53 and exceed the fourth quarter sales of 1945 by \$275.03. The total stamp sales in 1946 amounted to \$35,447.78 as compared with 1945 sales of \$36,831.56, the postmaster said.

While the stamp sales were gradually decreasing last year as compared with the 1945 sales, the money order business climbed steadily, the gain averaging about \$20,000 each quarter during last year.

Money orders amounting to \$46,409.25 in the first quarter of 1945, jumped to \$68,904.21 in the

Period	1940	1946
1st quarter	\$ 5,022.70	\$ 8,354.77
2nd quarter	5,238.74	8,214.28
3rd quarter	4,698.51	8,076.20
4th quarter	7,050.16	10,502.53
Total	\$22,010.11	\$35,447.78

The following shows the marked gain in money order business in 1946 over that for 1940, as follows, by quarters:

Period	1940	1946
1st quarter	\$ 19,865.72	\$ 68,904.21
2nd quarter	17,885.76	58,053.95
3rd quarter	27,967.75	76,336.97
4th quarter	48,293.58	99,975.83
Total	\$114,012.81	\$303,270.96

corresponding period of 1946. Second quarter sales increased from \$38,211.63 in 1945 to \$58,053.95 in 1946. The third quarter money order business in 1945 was \$48,088.75 as compared with \$76,336.97 in 1946, and then in the last quarter, the business jumped from \$78,123.68 in 1945 to \$99,975.83 last quarter.

Going back to the last full year before the war and comparing it with 1946, one finds a marked gain last year in stamp sales, as follows:

Mrs. Abner Brown Died In Hospital Friday Afternoon

Funeral For Popular Young Woman Held Here Last Sunday Afternoon

Mrs. Abner H. Brown, the former Miss Mary Ann Crockett and highly esteemed local young woman, died suddenly in a Washington hospital last Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, her untimely passing coming as a jarring shock to relatives and her many friends throughout this section.

Mrs. Brown, victim of continuous and almost unbearable headaches, had been in declining health for several years and during the past two she had received treatment in several hospitals. Returning just a short time ago from a Rocky Mount hospital she insisted on resuming her work in the offices of Drs. Rhodes, Harris and Rhodes where she had most willingly and so sympathetically administered to the sick and suffering. Shortly after 11 o'clock last Friday morning her headache became aggravated and she was forced to take a sedative which, due to her weakened condition, affected her heart. Lapsing into unconsciousness she was given first aid treatment here and later removed to the hospital, dying just a few minutes after her arrival there.

Despite her suffering, she maintained a great determination to live, and seemed to get much out of life possibly because she found pleasure in administering to the sick. When the call of duty beckoned unto her any hour of the day or night, Mrs. Brown never hesitated to answer, to do all in her power for others even though her own physical condition was impaired. Hers was an unselfish life, willingly devoted to the betterment of the health of others. Serving as a member of the nursing staffs for the Pitt and Martin County Health Departments, she worked untiringly, always striving to better conditions for others, often to the detriment of her own health. It was for that ideal that she so insistently adhered to the call of duty sounded by suffering humanity. She loved her work which was so tenderly and sympathetically handled, and although her passing came at a tender age, few could have given of their talent more willingly and in fuller measure than she did for the betterment of society and for the enrichment of the lives of others.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Crockett, Mrs. Brown was born in Durham on February 23, 1912. After spending her early childhood there, she moved with the family to Virginia, coming to Williamson from Yorktown in 1927. Following her graduation from the local high school she studied at East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, and then entered the school of nursing in Mercy Hospital, Baltimore. She accepted a position as nurse with the "Pitt County Health Department, transferring several years later to the department in this county. More recently she was connected with the offices of Drs. Rhodes, Harris and Rhodes here.

On June 28, 1940, she was married to Mr. Brown and he with a son, Carroll Freeman Brown, survives. Also surviving are her parents and two brothers, Tom and C. G. Crockett, Jr., all of Williamson.

Mrs. Brown was a member of the Presbyterian church almost from the time of its organization here. A former pastor, Rev. J. W. McInnis, of Kannapolis, conducted the service at the home on West Church Street here Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. He was assisted by Rev. John W. Hardy, Episcopal minister. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Teachers In This County To Get Bonus Checks During February

Teachers In This County To Get Approximately \$40,000

While North Carolina's State Legislature continues to debate salary schedules for school teachers and other state workers for the next biennium, a special supplement or bonus will be included in the February checks, it was learned this week.

Averaging about \$198, the bonus will be paid in four installments, one-half to be placed in the hands of the teachers about the 26th of February, the remainder to be paid in three equal installments.

It is estimated that the 200 teachers in this county will receive approximately \$40,000, the bonus ranging from \$144 to \$270. The payment is in addition to a flat \$120 supplement provided in 1945 to offset the increased cost of living.

The increase for principals in the county schools will range from \$246 to \$270. Bus drivers, while failing to share in the increase on a retroactive basis, will have their pay upped from \$13.50 to \$20 per month for the remainder of the term.

School mechanics will receive bonuses ranging from \$180 to \$216. Other state employes will share in proportion.

The bonus allowed by recent legislative action is only temporary and leaves the salary schedules for the next biennium to be determined. There's no telling what the legislature will do, but the House of Representatives has taken the stand that the greatest increases should be made applicable to the lower-paid groups. It has been suggested that the low income groups have their salaries increased by 30 percent, but strong opposition was evident in the recent debate out of which the bonus came. Some observers are of the opinion that the low income groups will have a salary schedule increased by about 25 percent, while a rate graduated downward will be provided for higher income groups.

Attempts To Rob Furniture Store And Jewelry Stores Halted

Idle for two weeks following a series of break-ins, robbers renewed their attacks on local property early last Friday evening but were halted in their attempts.

Using what must have been a sizable crew bar, the robber or robbers first battered the back door to the Peele Jewelry store on Main Street. Glass was broken in the lower panels and the door facing was "cracked and partly torn off. An iron bar, securely fastened, blocked the entrance. Defeated there, the robber or robbers moved on down the block to the McLawhorn Furniture Store back door after ripping the screen from a back window. The window glass was not disturbed, but the door was badly battered and almost torn from its hinges. Only a wooden bar, securely fastened at both ends, blocked the entrance.

Returning to the store after the evening meal about 8:30 o'clock to handle some special work, the owner saw the door had been tampered with and he called police. When Mr. McLawhorn returned with Chief of Police Chas. R. Mobley he saw a foot sticking through a crack between the two back doors. Realizing that it would take some time to remove the bar, the two men left the store and ran around to the backlot. They were too late to see anyone leaving.

Two persons, one a small colored boy, were seen wandering around in the backlot a short time later. They were taken into custody, but later released when questioning did not connect them with the robbery attempts.

Since early December, sixteen robberies have been reported locally, but none has been solved along with the two recent attempts.

Sum of Money for Goods Last Year Over 127 Billion Dollars Changed Hands During The Period

American consumers last year spent \$127,000,000,000 for goods and services in 1946, the Department of Commerce reported a few days ago. The department said this was an increase of \$21,000,000,000 from 1945 and an all-time record even after the figures were adjusted for price advances. In percentage terms, the \$127,000,000,000 was about 20 percent more money spent in 1946 than in 1945; and 70 percent more than was spent in the pre-war peak year of 1941. Retail prices in 1946 were said to be about 10 percent above those of 1945, and more than 40 percent above the average of 1941, so that only a part of the increased expenditure resulted from higher prices.

An estimated \$14,000,000,000 was spent in 1946 for durable goods, such as furniture, household appliances, automobiles and jewelry. "Despite relative shortages of certain hard goods, these expenditures were half again as large as in the peak year of 1941 and four-fifths more than in 1945," the department said. "Nevertheless, expenditures for durable goods were still considerably below the amount which consumers would have spent on the basis of their high incomes if more of these goods had been available." Almost all the unspent but available money for durable goods, the report stated, was in automobiles and parts, although there was a \$2,500,000,000 gain in this category from last year.

For non-durable goods such as food, clothing, tobacco and gasoline, \$77,000,000,000 was spent, \$12,000,000,000 more than in 1945. "Expenditures for food, including alcoholic beverages, and clothing increased about 17 percent over 1945. These constituted more than four-fifths of all expenditures for non-durable goods," the report said. For housing, medical care, recreation, and similar services, \$37,500,000,000 was spent, a 10 percent increase from the year before. Housing expenditures, including rent, accounted for \$8,500,000,000 of this sum, a 5 percent rise from 1945. Retail store sales totaled \$96,000,000,000, a gain of 25 percent in the year and almost 75 percent higher than in 1941.

TAX LISTING

Warned that no extension had been provided for handling the task, property owners started forming long lines at the listing places this week to get their names on the tax books before the listing time expires on Friday, January 31.

Although the listing work is further advanced than usual, it will tax the list-takers to capacity to complete the task in the allotted time.

New building and increased inventories are said to have pushed values up this year over those of 1946, but no definite figures are yet available.

New Mill Work Plant Is Nearing Full Production

Sullivan and Edwards Firm Installing Last Of Its Machinery

Hampered by delayed machinery deliveries for several months, the Sullivan and Edwards Manufacturing Company is installing the last of its equipment and plans to go on a full-time operating schedule within a short time, J. G. Sullivan, one of the manager-owners, announced this week.

"While some items will continue short for a while, we plan to turn out mill work and building supplies in quantity very shortly," Mr. Sullivan added.

Located on Washington Street just across the way from the Blue Star Cleaners, the plant is the first in this immediate section to specialize in the manufacture of all types of building materials and mill work on a large scale. Its output is certain to help relieve the shortage existing in windows, doors and similar building items.

While the owners have installed several new and modern machines, the owners went out and made parts for rebuilding others to fully equip the plant. A machine for making molding of all kinds has been rebuilt from top to bottom and is being placed for operation. In addition to the molder-planer, the plant is equipped with rip saws, mortise, tenner, joiner, shaper and other types of machines found in the modern mill-working plant.

Doors are being made in fairly large numbers at the present time, and other material will soon

Prowler Given Hot Reception

Imbibing too freely of strong drink, Jule Page, colored man, lost his way and received a hot reception when he started prowling around the premises of Farmer Fred Taylor near Robersonville shortly after midnight Sunday.

The farmer heard some one prowling around his chicken coop where others had made costly visits in the recent past. Armed with his shot gun and a lone shell, Farmer Taylor went out and fired on the prowler. The shot was small and the target was so far away that the blast did very little damage, but they pierced the skin at the stomach. Instead of retreating, Page dodged around a house and charged on the farmer. His ammunition exhausted, the farmer shifted ends of his gun and attacked Page with the stock end. Before the attack was over, the farmer had shattered the stock and bent the barrel.

Taken into custody by Officer Ross of the Robersonville Police Department, Page's wounds were treated and he was later placed in jail where he was given further treatment. He was released under bond to relatives late Sunday.

Car Runs Off The Fill Near Creek

No one was hurt but the occupants narrowly escaped drowning when their car, a 1941 Chevrolet, went out of control, turned over on the Sweet Water Creek fill and plunged into several feet of water last Sunday evening shortly after 7:00 o'clock. All occupants, including Peter Smallwood, Jr., colored, of Washington, Simon Gorham and a colored woman and her young baby, were immersed, but they crawled out the upturned side of the car without injury.

Smallwood, driving the car at about 40 miles an hour said the machine skidded on the highway just this side of the creek bridge, that he lost control and before the machine stopped it made a complete turn when rolling down the embankment and continued rolling, coming to a stop on its side. The car was traveling from Jamesville in the direction of Williamson.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman W. E. Saunders, assisted by Cpl. W. T. Simpson, estimated the property damage at \$200.

Family Of Eight Burned Out Here

Hezekiah Bell, his wife and eight children were burned out of their home on Griffin Street just back of the Jenkins Motor Company here last Thursday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock.

Its origin not definitely known, the fire swept through the one-story, cheaply constructed five-room house in a matter of a few minutes and before hardly any of the furnishings could be saved. Several of the children, the oldest about 12 years of age, were at home, but they could not explain the origin of the fire.

When volunteer firemen reached there, the interior of the house with its paper walls, was burning from front to back and before the fire could be checked little more than a charred hull was left. Firemen fought the fire for nearly half an hour before bringing it under control.

Best lost just about all his earthly belongings and carried no insurance.

No estimate on the damage done to the house could be had from the Wilson estate, owners.

Return Fugitive Here For Trial

James Bannerman, wanted for an assault with a deadly weapon and failing to comply with a judgment of the county recorder's court, was returned here Sunday from Duplin County for trial. He was sentenced to serve 18 months on the roads by Judge J. C. Smith in the court Monday.

Bannerman, fined \$500 in the county court some months ago for nearly cutting Josh Rascoe to death, got into more trouble here last December and ran away, leaving much of the fine unpaid. He settled in Calypso and was arrested last week-end by officers in Kenansville.

Vehicle Tag Sale Gains This Year

The sale of motor vehicle tags at the Carolina Motor Club Bureau in the office of Harrison and Carstarphen here is well ahead of the 1946 issuance, according to a comparison of sales released this week by W. H. Carstarphen, one of the bureau managers.

While the sale reflects an increase in all types of vehicles, the largest gain is traceable to automobiles. In 1946, up until January 26, 3,358 tags were sold to car owners as compared with 3,710 issued up until the 26th of this month for 1947. The sale of truck tags jumped from 591 to 663. There was an increase of four in the number of licenses sold to farm truck operators. Car trailers increased from 501 to 548 and commercial trucks increased from 57 to 59, making an over-all increase in all types of motor vehicles of 477.

Owners operating motor vehicles on and after Saturday of this week without displaying the new 1947 tags will be subject to arrest and convictions in the courts.

Jas. Goss Victim Of Local Attack

James Goss, colored man, was painfully but not seriously hurt when he was attacked near Hollywood Inn on Washington Street here last Saturday afternoon. Few details of the attack could be had immediately, but one report said that his assailant left an ugly gash wound on Goss' head.

James and Lafayette Pearsall were arrested and jailed, each declaring that the other planted the bottle on Goss' head.

Week before last James Wannamaker, colored, was nearly cut to death at the inn. He has been released from a Washington hospital where several knife rents in his intestines were sewed up. His assailant, William Speller, has not been apprehended.

Mercury Climbs To High Reading

After dropping to the low twenties or the lowest point of the season the early part of last week, the mercury started climbing and Monday afternoon stood at 104 in the sun and a good 70 in the shade. With the exception of one or two cold snaps, this section has had no winter so far, but there are nearly two months left for Old Man Winter to assert himself.

Freakish storms were reported in this part of the State Sunday afternoon when hail fell in the Bear Grass and Hamilton sections. The pellets were small and the quantity was limited. In the Wilson area considerable hail was reported. The electrical storm was of short duration and very little rain fell in this immediate area.

The Roanoke, overflowing its banks by a few inches, was reported on a stand Monday.

ROUND-UP

After a period of little activity, crime activities increased in this area over the week-end, the records showing that seven persons were arrested and jailed here during that time. Four were detained last Saturday and three others fell into the hands of the law on Sunday. Three were charged with assault, one with trespassing, one for drunkenness and two for being drunk and disorderly.

Two of the seven were white, and the ages of the group ranged from 22 to 57 years.

Few Respond To Library Appeal

The recent letter sent out by the Williamson Public Library asking the community to assist in its operation for the coming year has had about a twelve and one-half percent response. The nearly two hundred letters sent out has shown through the checks received and amount promised about a twenty-five dollar per month income. This does not represent the interest of the community, but the directors are anxious to get larger returns so the plans of expenditure for books, salary, and maintenance can be worked out. The Library Board appeals to all who have gotten letters and those who did not to rally to one of the support of this important part of the community life.

College Seniors Teach In The High Schools

Miss Peggy Hopkins of Oak City is one of 47 seniors in East Carolina Teachers College who are doing practice teaching in various high schools in the State. She is teaching in the Greenville High School.

Miss Margaret Eatmon of Roseboro, another senior, is teaching civics and American history in the Bear Grass School in this county.

OPPORTUNITY

By oversubscribing the recent TB fund quota, Martin County people, white and colored and old and young, gained the opportunity to have chest x-rays taken. Mobile units, equipped with x-ray equipment are to tour the county and take x-ray pictures of all desiring them. A schedule for the mobile units has not been released, but they are to come here sometime during the year. The pictures will be taken without cost to the subject, Chas. Manning, chairman of the fund drive, explaining the money raised during the year will be used to purchase