

Highway Traffic Safety Crusade Gaining Support

Extensive Program Being Planned for the Next Five-Year Period

North Carolina's Traffic Safety Crusade, a comprehensive five year plan designed to reduce traffic fatalities and accidents, was materially aided this week by two significant events. Many newspapers, cooperating in the crusade, published a special committee report for Traffic Safety, Inc., are publishing a full page account of Governor R. Gregg Cherry's personal safety letter to the people of North Carolina. In addition, certificates designating each motor vehicle owner or driver as a traffic safety crusader have been mailed from Raleigh. This designation of every automobile owner as a safety crusader, over the signature of the Governor of the State is intended to impress our citizens with the importance of joining in this program to make North Carolina highways safer.

Realizing that the State is faced with a serious condition—traffic tragedies happening hourly, Governor Cherry called a State Traffic Conference to consider this vital subject. On the recommendation of this conference he named the State Committee for Traffic Safety, Inc., to coordinate and means of enlisting the support of the public and to prepare a comprehensive traffic safety program.

This Committee, with Coleman W. Roberts, president of the Carolina Motor Club as chairman and H. Galt Braxton, publisher of the Winston Daily Free Press as Vice Chairman, is made up of a group of far thinking and deeply interested State leaders. These men have designed a five year plan which should help North Carolina lose its unenviable position as third high State in regard to traffic accidents.

Under leadership of the officers and board of governors of the State Committee for Traffic Safety, Inc., the five year plan was evolved. This program contemplates a mobilization for traffic safety, teaching adults and students how to drive, conducting safe driving courses in schools, driver testing with accurate devices, providing technical service to communities, the renewal of drivers' licenses after examination, the inspection of all motor vehicles, the building of safety into highways, the certainty of punishment for traffic violators, improvement of state and local traffic laws, increased state highway patrol and local traffic forces and recognition for the best traffic safety records.

The General Assembly, acting in concurrence with the Governor's recommendations, enacted motor vehicle legislation this year which is far-reaching and a progressive move in fighting traffic fatalities and accidents. To make this legislation effective, however, it is necessary to have the full cooperation of the people.

Now, with Governor Cherry's letter reaching the people through the cooperation of the State press and individual sponsors, a personal challenge is issued to every citizen of North Carolina. How can I aid this Traffic Safety Crusade? You can aid this program by being careful yourself, by boosting safety to others, by cooperating with county and town officials in working out local traffic safety programs and by donating to this campaign.

(Continued on page six)

MEETING

Meeting in the law offices of Critcher and Gurganus here Thursday evening of this week at 8:15 o'clock members of the executive committee of the Martin County Tuberculosis Association will outline a program for the furtherance of the fight against tuberculosis in the county. Members of the committee include, Mrs. P. B. Cone, Miss Mary Taylor, Mrs. Eva Grimes, Chas. H. and J. C. Manning, Philip Keel, John W. Williams and Edgar Gurganus.

Advertising Drive Planned

Meeting in the law offices of Peel and Manning last week-end, a special committee headed by Elbert S. Peel, chairman; A. J. Manning, vice chairman; R. Edwin Peel, secretary; and Leman Barnhill, treasurer, advanced tentative plans for an extensive tobacco market advertising campaign for the 1947 season. Much interest was expressed in the plans which call for a \$5,000 cash appropriation, personal solicitation and advertising in the market and its possibilities. The meeting was well attended by business and professional men, including representatives from each of the warehouse firms.

The committee, working in close cooperation with the market operators, proposes to go on the air over at least two radio stations, support a newspaper campaign, advance indirect advertising and back it all up with a personal interest in behalf of the market. Known as "Williamston Tobacco Market Boosters," the newly formed organization is out to get every local citizen to talk tobacco, think tobacco and invite the sale of tobacco in Williamston.

Arrangements were made to place the market on the air each day between 12:20 and 12:25, and A. J. Manning was directed to expand the program. W. C. Manning was named to head the newspaper advertising program, and Thad Harrison was instructed to advance an indirect advertising movement calling for special words to be stamped on direct mail letters and other media. J. Rossell Rogers and Urban Rogers, recently joining the market's operating personnel, were named to prepare the radio advertising programs, and they are to contact other advertisers in an effort to have them include a "plug" for the local market.

GOOD SEASON

Experiencing unusually hot and dry weather for several weeks, this county, with the exception of one or two small areas south of Robersonville, had a fine season Sunday when rain fell and conditions turned more favorable for tobacco transplanting and the growth of all field crops.

Tobacco transplanting, delayed the greater part of these weeks, was pushed into high gear yesterday with the possibility that the crop will be transplanted in its entirety before the end of this week, leaving possibly a little resetting to be handled in early June.

Two Minor Road Wrecks Saturday

One person was hurt and an automobile was badly damaged in two highway accidents, both in the Jamesville section, last Saturday.

Will Roberson, 88-year-old colored handyman around the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hardison, fell out of a horse-drawn cart a few miles out from Jamesville on the Farm Life Road and broke one or more ribs. Roberson, said to have been imbibing a bit too freely, went to the Hardison lot where he had worked for years, hitched up a young horse to a cart and started to the country to get a hair cut. When he fell out of the cart he was a mile or more beyond the home of his friend where he was to have his hair cut. He was treated in a doctor's office at Plymouth.

No one was hurt but damage, estimated by Patrolman W. E. Saunders resulted when a 1941 Pontiac club coupe, driven by Jeff Davis McNair, colored, of Roper, and a Ford truck, driven by Arthur Godard Shepard, white, of Williamston, sideswiped each other about one and one-half miles this side of Jamesville at 4:00 o'clock last Saturday morning. The truck belonged to the Moore Ice Company of Windsor.

School Closing Tomorrow Night

Williamston's school closing program, following the commencement sermon in the high school auditorium Sunday night, will center around the senior class exercises tonight at 8:00 o'clock with the big event—graduation—scheduled for Wednesday night at the same hour.

Hugh G. Horton, local attorney, will address the seniors and special awards will be announced and presented along with diplomas.

Minor Robbery Reported At Lunch Counter Here

Tearing a panel out of the back door, a thief entered Jernigan's lunch room on Washington Street here Sunday and stole about a pound of barbecue and possibly a few pints of wine.

Victim of Attack Late Last Sunday

Eighty Small Shot Counted In William Ruffin's Foot Following Attack

William Ruffin, 28-year-old colored man, was painfully and possibly seriously hurt late last Sunday night when he was attacked by an unknown assailant on a little used street in Jamesville. Officers were working on the case late Monday but a report on their investigation was not revealed immediately.

Brought to a Williamston doctor's office for treatment, Ruffin carried eighty small shot in one foot, a report stating that a few had found their way into the other foot, most of them piercing the shoes and lodging at or near the bones. A report coming from the doctor's office stated that no bones were broken, that after receiving treatment, Ruffin was returned to his home in Jamesville.

Walking along the little used street or path, Ruffin was accosted by a man believed by some to have been white with a shot gun. "He told me to turn around and run back where I came from," Ruffin was quoted as saying. A preliminary report on the attack stated that Ruffin did as he was told, that he had hardly started running before he was fired upon at fairly close range. The man's assailant, believed to have been drinking, left the scene, and neighbors, hearing the shot, found Ruffin and delivered him to the doctor's office.

It was reported that the assailant had talked with another man at or near the same spot where Ruffin was shot, a short time later, but details of the conversation held by the two could not be learned.

Following an investigation last night, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said this morning that an arrest could be expected shortly.

Ruffin has been making his home for the past six or eight months in Jamesville where he was employed by Contractor Leslie Hardison. He told officers that as far as he knew he had made no one mad, that he had no enemies.

Rare Stamp Has Value of \$50,000

An inch-square piece of paper had special cops and the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition in a very rare tizzy recently in New York.

It was the British Guiana one-cent magenta postage stamp, valued at \$50,000, and worth that much to well-heeled collectors because so far as is known it is the only one of its color ever made.

The stamp, which King George V once vainly tried to buy, is on display at the exhibition in an expensive mounting in a blue velvet box in a glass case, guarded by a special cop. All of a sudden it vanished. After frantic search it was found—under the mounting. The heat from the spotlights had melted the glue which held it in place.

Meanwhile, the Postoffice reported that the Centenary was being observed by philatelists and others who bought 7,586,267 three-cent stamps with a value of \$227,588.01. The previous record, 80,000 less stamps, was set last February with the Edison stamps.

Minor Accident Last Thursday

Property damage, estimated at \$275 by Cpl. W. T. Simpson of the highway patrol, resulted when a taxi driven by Lloyd H. Vick and a jeep driven by Leslie Roberson, crashed on the Slaughter House Road last Thursday morning at 7:22 o'clock. No one was hurt, the patrol officer said.

Roberson, according to the report, was getting ready to make a turn in front of the slaughter house, and Vick, was traveling toward the railroad when the vehicles crashed, doing \$175 damage to the Taxi, a Dodge couch, and \$100 to the jeep.

Economy Directed Against The Farm

Would Also Lop About Thirty Million from School Lunch Fund

The House Appropriations Committee, seeking ways to slash expenses in order to reduce taxes, proposes to save \$383,000,000 at the expense of the nation's farmers and school children.

It slashed this amount (or 32 per cent) from the Agriculture Department's \$1,190,000,000 budget, cutting deepest into funds requested for the school lunch program, for soil conservation, crop insurance and loans to tenant farmers.

To justify cutting the school lunch budget from \$75,000,000 to \$45,000,000, the Committee asserted that "only one child out of nine receives a free meal." Then: "It does not seem too much to suggest that the cost of school lunches for the children of America, most of whom are able to pay for them, might well be borne by the States."

To the farmers of the U. S. A., the Committee offered a New Deal, asserting that the time has come for agriculture to solve more of its problems through individual and community action rather than through "paternalistic Federal grants and subsidies."

Informed of the Committee action, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson repeated what he had said in testimony, that the proposed cut would cripple the farm program; that it would eliminate functions "which are mandatory under laws."

The cuts, if upheld by the House after debate, will boost to slightly more than \$2 billion the total reductions made by the House in its drive to lop \$6 billion from the President's 37 1-2 billion budget.

Here are the major cuts that hit the farmer:

Soil conservation: Cut from \$267,620,754 to \$150,000,000, the amount which may go in direct payments to farmers for following practices intended to conserve the soil and promote more production over a long period of time, practices which have proved themselves in the fight against erosion.

Farm Tenant Loans: The entire \$35,000,000 budget request was denied because, the committee said, present farm values are inflated and are "certain to collapse and farmers saddled with loans at current inflated values will surely come to grief." Loans for production and subsistence were cut \$90,000,000 to \$60,000,000 because "bank credit is available in abundance."

Crop Insurance: Cut from \$9,330,000 to \$2,000,000 and put on an "experimental basis until a sound and actual approach is developed."

Few Attending Typhoid Immunization Clinics

Few very persons acted to protect themselves against typhoid fever when the first in a number of immunization clinics were held in the lower part of the county yesterday, according to a preliminary report coming from the county health office.

A schedule of the clinics appears on page two in this paper, and the attention of the public is directed to it with the expressed hope that thousands will act in their own protection. Two cases of the fever were reported last year, and one of them has proved to be a carrier.

APPLICANTS

No official information has been released, but it was reliably learned this week that several persons had filed applications for the position of local police chief. Some of the commissioners, it was learned, had been contacted personally by some of the present officers and several outside the department. They were instructed to file their applications in writing for consideration possibly at the regular meeting next Monday of the full board.

Will Renovate Hotel For New Proprietor

Chas. J. Brady To Take Charge Here On June The First

New Owners Planning 45-Room Addition to Present Hotel Building

Purchasing the George Reynolds Hotel property from the Cunninghams several weeks ago, Messrs. Sid A. Mobley and Robert L. Coburn announced this week that the hotel had been leased to Chas. J. Brady and that the new operator would take over the management on June 1. The K. A. Whites, operators of the hotel for the past several years, are planning to make their home at Ocean View, it was learned.

Mr. Brady, although a young man, has had 28 years experience in the hotel business, having operated the Vance for several years in Henderson where he made many friends. Mr. Brady, coming here highly recommended as a hotel manager, will be accompanied by his wife and 15-year-old son.

The new owners announced plans for a renovation program costing several thousand dollars, for the hotel, including new furnishings and equipment. Leasing the property for five years with an option for renewal, the new manager will operate a modern dining room.

Commenting on the renovation program, one of the new owners stated that they planned to make the hotel a good, clean and comfortable one. The hotel will be operated only partially during the month of June when the owners plan to complete the renovation work, including painting and papering.

It was pointed out that no extensive modernization program would be attempted just now, the owners explaining that they are still considering plans for the construction of a 45-room addition to the present property. "We have had blueprints prepared, and we hope to build the addition at some future time," Co-owner R. L. Coburn said, explaining that no attempt to build the annex would be made until construction costs moderate to some extent.

Man Attacked And Left On Highway

Earl Cooper Hollowell, young World War II veteran, was beaten and left on the Slaughter House Road late last Thursday night. Picked up by Deputy Sheriff Buck Holloman and local officers, Hollowell, a roof worker, was placed in the hospital here for treatment. Said to have been drinking, Hollowell was not badly hurt and was able to leave the hospital the next day.

The young man went to the Slaughter House Cafe and tried to get a check cashed. While there he was reported to have insulted patrons, several of whom were from Windsor. He was ordered from the cafe and he was found in a semi-conscious condition stretched out on the highway.

He told officers that a white man, weighing about 200 pounds, wearing a sport shirt and driving a one-seated black car, beat him. No arrests have been made in the case.

Decision Expands Authority of Law

The United States Supreme Court recently handed down a 5 to 4 decision holding that law officers arresting a man at his home on a warrant may search the premises and use against him any evidence they find of law-breaking. The four who disagreed said the court was striking down the constitution's protection against unreasonable search and seizure. Chief Justice Vinson delivered the court's majority decision. Dissents were entered by Justices Frankfurter, Murphy, Jackson and Rutledge. The decision upheld the conviction of an Oklahoma resident who was tried for draft law violation on evidence accidentally uncovered by F. B. I. agents during a search of his home in connection with another matter.

Firemen Called Out Last Night

Fire, believed by Fire Chief G. P. Hall to have started from a cigarette on the floor of the dark room, wrecked the Beddard Photo Shop on Railroad Street here at 10:50 last night. Smouldering apparently for several hours, the fire smoked up the approximately 12x12 room and wrecked all the equipment. Firemen brought the fire under control with a small hose line. No estimate on the loss could be had immediately.

Hamper Handling Of UNRRA Relief

"Steal" Food From Starving, Self It and Pocket The Money

Robert St. John, author and news commentator who has just arrived in Yugoslavia, is reporting some time in Greece, reports that "Greek officials are withholding UNRRA food from thousands of villages."

In a letter to American Relief for Greek Democracy St. John declares:

"The EAM (coalition of left parties) has just sent proof to the government that 3500 villages in Greece have received no UNRRA food for an average of six months. An UNRRA official in Athens and another at Salonika state that 'many of the villages have received no food for 11 or 12 months.' The EAM is being conservative."

One reason Greek villages get no food, St. John discovered, was that "under the law, the Nomarchia (head of the county) can issue the village's food ration only to the president (of the village). So the president posts a notice on a telephone pole that unless the people of the village call for their ration within five days, he will dispose of the food."

"Then, when they don't appear because they already have been warned to stay where they are, the president seizes the people's food and pockets the money, after spinning with various other Greek officials," St. John reports.

St. John describes his visit to the village of Avestario, with a population of 672. He writes: "The children all have sores on faces, arms and bodies. I held one in my arms. Its belly was like that of a Tammany alderman."

"Have you any food in town for the children?" St. John asked. "No."

"What are you living on?" "Roots from the forest." (St. John comments that doctors told him that the roots have no real nourishment and merely fill and bloat the belly.)

Three women stepped forward, one with five children, one with four, one with three. The three husbands were serving long sentences in exile.

One of the women said, "We would give our children away if we could be sure someone would feed them. And we love them, but we cannot see them starve."

There are no medical supplies in the village, a doctor has never been there, and there is no school. In the general store, St. John reports, "the shelves are empty except for 13 boxes of the finest French face powder I have ever seen (probably imported and forced on the shop owner by one of the 'admirable' characters known as a Greek 'importer-industrialist'), one string of rotten figs, five pounds of white beans, three one-pound boxes of mouldy chocolates, one bottle of aspirin."

Women's Age Span Is Seventy Years

American women of today, according to a survey made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, have an average life span of sixty-nine and one-half years, as compared to sixty-four and one-half years for men. The figures show a gain of sixteen and two-thirds years life expectancy since the turn of the century.

ROUND-UP

There were several fights and a gun attack, but only four persons were arrested and placed in the county jail here over the week-end. No arrest had been made late Monday in the shot gun attack.

One person was jailed for public drunkenness, one for an assault, one for being drunk and disorderly and one for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license. The ages of the group, including one white, ranged from 18 to 47 years.