

Four Auto Wrecks On Highways Of County Recently

Two Drivers Carried Into Court For Violating Traffic Laws

Occupants and drivers of four automobiles narrowly escaped injury in two automobile accidents on the highways of this county last week, members of the highway patrol said yesterday. Two of the drivers involved in the accidents were carried into the courts, one for failing to stop before entering the highway and the other for reckless and drunken driving. Property damage was estimated at about \$430.

As he was driving his 1947 Plymouth toward Hassell from Highway 125 early last Tuesday afternoon, Mr. John W. Eubanks was met by Clarence Tyson in a 1941 Buick. The patrolmen said that Tyson drove out of K. B. Etheridge's driveway apparently without stopping, that he darted into the highway, meeting the Eubanks car head on at about a 45-degree angle. Damage to the Plymouth was estimated at about \$200 and that to the Buick at \$100.

Late Thursday afternoon Henry Peel, colored, and Sam Charleston Willis of 88 Henry Street, Merrick, New York, were traveling south on U. S. Highway 17 when Peel started to make a left turn into this driveway about four miles from Williamston. Willis had pulled out to pass Peel about the same time, and the cars crashed. A front fender and the bumper on the 1940 Buick driven by Willis were bent and battered but Mr. Willis and Mrs. Willis were able to continue their trip southward with their car. Damage to the Buick was estimated at about \$30. Peel's car, an old Model A, was almost tripped in two. Patrolman Saunders stating that the machine was wrecked beyond repair and that it was possibly worth \$100 before the crash. Peel, charged with reckless and drunken driving, was cited to the courts.

No one was hurt when Jack Mobley's 1947 Ford and Reuben Lee Roberson's Dodge pick-up truck crashed on the Hamilton Highway at the Mary Cherry farm last Friday evening about 6:00 o'clock. Both vehicles were moving toward Williamston when Roberson started to make a left turn into the road at the farm. Mobley said he saw Roberson's signal for left turn too late to avoid side-swiping the truck. Investigating the wreck, Patrolman Saunders estimated the damage to the car

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Few Fireworks Delivered Here

Contrary to the terms of a law passed by the last legislature, a few people in this county are buying fireworks. Possibly a dozen orders have been placed to date to purchasers here during the past several days.

While it is not unlawful for the transportation companies to handle fireworks, it is against State law to possess or shoot them. In other words when a person orders fireworks and takes them out of the transportation company's warehouse, the law has been violated.

No fireworks have been offered for sale locally. Despite the law a few peacrackers were fired in one or two isolated sections in or near town Sunday evening.

Checks Industry-Farm Conditions

Dr. Richard L. Weaver of Chapel Hill, program director of the North Carolina Resources - Use Education Commission, was in Williamston last Friday observing local industries and farm conditions in the county and conferring with Superintendent of Schools J. C. Manning and Miss Liska Pearce, county supervisor.

The North Carolina Resources-Use Commission was appointed by Governor Cherry in 1945. Forty-six state agencies are represented on the commission. Its purpose is to aid in planning the school program in order to make it more adaptable to the needs of the people and the community.

RAINFALL

The heaviest rainfall ever recorded for any November in this section was reported last month by Hugh Spruill on Roanoke River here. No exceedingly large rains were reported during the month, but rain fell on fifteen of the thirty days to run up a total of 12.2 inches, breaking the record for the month of November with about three inches to spare.

In the first fifteen days of this month, rain fell on eight of them. While the total so far in December isn't very much, it was enough to seriously interrupt the peanut harvest.

Arrange Holiday Schedule For Local Business Firms

A Christmas holiday schedule for local mercantile firms and heavy industry was announced today following a meeting of business men last Friday.

The merchants will observe Thursday and Friday of next week as holidays, and will also close on New Year's Day the following week. Beginning Monday of next week, the stores will remain open until 9:00 o'clock each evening for the three days before Christmas.

Most heavy industrial plants, including lumber mills and peanut factories, are planning to suspend operations Tuesday evening of next week for the remainder of the week.

The post office will observe only Christmas day as a holiday.

It will remain open Saturday afternoon of this week to accommodate its patrons.

Stepping up its schedule this week, The Enterprise, its force eagerly looking forward to the one holiday of the year, will publish only one edition next week and close for the week late Monday.

The schools, including white and colored in the county, are closing Friday noon for Christmas. Classes will be resumed on Monday, January 5, at the usual hour.

Very little activity is to be expected on Christmas day when virtually every business door will be closed. Sunday hours will be observed the day after Christmas by drug stores and stations.

PARTY

Plans are rapidly shaping up for the Jaycees' annual Christmas party in the Woman's Club hall here next Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock. While the collection of toys is not sufficient to meet the demand, the supply will take care of the needs of the smaller, needier tots, it was explained.

The hall will have a tree and Santa Claus and about fifty little children are expected to attend.

The party will cost right much and those who wish to participate in the cheer movement can greatly enhance the program by advancing cash donations. Oswald Stalls is treasurer of the cheer movement and he'll gladly accept the cash contributions at the Martin Supply Co.

Funeral Held In National Cemetery For County Youth

Pfc. Lloyd M. Hassell Lost His Life In Battle Of Bulge In Belgium

Funeral services were conducted at the graveside in the National Cemetery at New Bern last Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock for Pfc. Lloyd M. Hassell who made the supreme sacrifice for his country on the first day of the Battle of the Bulge, December 16, 1944, in Belgium. The services were conducted by Rev. F. Hubert Morris, pastor of New Bern's First Presbyterian Church, and a firing squad and bugler from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg handled the military rites. Pallbearers were members of the New Bern Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The body was returned to this country on the Joseph V. Connolly late last October and was delivered to the National Memorial Cemetery, New Bern, for interment last Tuesday.

Pfc. Hassell was the son of Charles A. Hassell of Jamesville and the late Mrs. Maude Dillon Hassell of Creswell. He was born on September 20, 1918, and entered the service from this county in December, 1942, leaving with Pfc. Onward L. Gardner whose body is being laid to final rest near Jamesville on Wednesday of this week.

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PRESENT

Although the schools will not complete the fourth month until Wednesday, January 7, the teachers are to receive their full checks for the period on Friday of this week, with supplements going to the seventy teachers in the three special school districts.

Teachers salaries will amount to approximately \$48,783, and the supplements, ranging from \$10 to \$15, will add \$2,200 to that amount. It has been customary to issue the fourth-month checks to the teachers in this county before Christmas for several years.

Safety Engineer Holds Tests For School Students

Youngsters Surprised At Time Required To Stop Automobiles

Last Friday morning Harry M. Pontious conducted a brake reaction test on Smithwick Street under the sponsorship of the Williamston Junior Chamber of Commerce for the benefit of the Williamston High School Students and the general public. Prior to this test Mr. Pontious gave a short lecture and showed a movie to the students in the high school auditorium. In the lecture and movie the importance of driving safely and with care was stressed.

After the lecture and movie the students assembled on Smithwick Street to witness the test conducted in a specially equipped car with three revolvers mounted on the front bumper and public address system.

Mr. Pontious rode with each driver and gave helpful information and data after each test. Drivers for the test were Eugene Andrews and Sally E. Hardison of the student body driving at 20 MPH; Jack Butler, band director of the school, at 30 MPH and Whit Saunders of the State Highway Patrol.

Each of the drivers made the stop in less than the average distance required by most drivers, but the fact remains that the conditions for stopping were ideal and the drivers were expecting the emergency to arise. Even though they did the so-called "Beat the Average" each of the

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Worthless Checks On The Increase

Worthless checks, virtually nonexistent for the past several years in this county, are increasing in number, according to a review of justice of the peace trial docket reports.

During the past three months, the reports show, a worthless check was issued about every three days in this county. Nineteen of the worthless pieces of paper were carried into court as evidence before Justice of the Peace H. S. Everett in Robersonville, and thirteen were carried before Justices John L. Hassell and R. T. Johnson in Williamston during the period.

Local Lions To Aid Blind Man

The local Lions voted unanimously to aid one of the county's blind citizens at their last meeting. After Lion H. P. Mobley, who investigated the plight of this person, had presented the circumstances, the members approved the purchase of bed springs, bed clothing, an oven and a few other items.

One member of the club contributed a suit of clothes, another a battery radio, another batteries for the radio, and several members contributed personal items. Lion Mobley pointed out that the recipient of these gifts lives in a one-room house, located in a remote section of the county. He lives alone, and has to walk eight-tenths of a mile for each of his three daily meals, provided the road is passable. The man is also deaf, and has no immediate relatives. It is hoped that this action of the Lions Club will help to brighten the Christmas season for at least one person.

Over Half Of TB Seal Fund Raised In This District

Eight Other Districts State Seal Sale Ahead of Last Year's Figures

The drive to raise \$2,500 in this county for the relentless fight against tuberculosis was virtually assured of success this week when County Chairman Chas. H. Manning announced that well over half the entire amount, or \$1,340, had already been contributed in Williamston Township and that eight other districts were reporting seal sales well ahead of those recorded at the same time last year.

No reports are complete as yet, but the chairman said that just about 50 percent of the direct mail appeals, urging the purchase of seals had been answered in Williamston Township, that Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Bear Grass, Cross Roads, Poplar Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest all had reported sales ahead of those recorded at the same period of the 1946 drive.

Bangle day sales last Saturday were held down by the extreme cold weather, but the Girl Scouts are said to have done very well locally.

The seal sale drive underway in the closed schools is progressing nicely, and it is fairly certain that if the contributions are maintained at the same ratio during the next few days as they have in the past week, the goal will be reached and possibly exceeded by a narrow margin. The citizens of the county are anxious to support the mass X-ray survey next month, it was explained.

A list of the bond purchasers follows: Those purchasing \$25 bonds, include: Williamston Lumber Co., Roanoke Chevrolet Co., Williamston Motor Co., Dixie Motor Co., Chas. H. Jenkins Motor Co., Williamston Peanut Co., Harrison Oil Co., Wells-Oates Lumber Co., Standard Fertilizer Co., FCX, Colonial Stores, Belk-Tyler Co., Branch Bank, Guaranty Bank, Skinner and King Tobacco Co., Lindsley's.

A \$20 bond was purchased by R. S. Critcher.

A \$15 bond was purchased by Moore Grocery Co. Purchasers of \$10 bonds, include: Harrison and Carstarphen, Margolis Bros. E. and W. Grocery, Darden's Dept. Store, Clark's Pharmacy, Central Cafe, Enterprising, Brown's Community Hospital, Ayers Electric Co., Farmers Supply Co., W. G. Peel Insurance Agency, Ann's Variety Store, Courtney's Furniture Co., Davis' Pharmacy, A. J. Manning, Hardy's Grocery Store, Worrell's Appliances, B and W Tire Co., Throver Appliance Co., Blue Star Cleaners, Baker Oil Co., Woolard Furniture Co., Williamston Package Co., Eagles' 5 and 10, Roses' 5 and 10, G and H Supply Co., Wholesale Oil Co.

Those purchasing \$5 TB bonds include: Pioneer Shoppe, Alpha Cleaners, Proctor Shoppe, Peele's (Continued on page eight)

Prominent County Man Died Sunday At Oak City Home

Funeral Services Tuesday In Oak City Church For Jos. H. Ayers

Joseph H. Ayers, prominent citizen of this county and a leading farmer-business man in Oak City, died at his home there early Sunday afternoon of a heart attack. As was his unerring custom, he attended religious services that morning and returned home. A short time later he was stricken, death following within a matter of minutes. Mr. Ayers suffered a slight attack last Wednesday and again on Thursday. Sunday morning he was feeling very well and decided to attend Sunday school. While there he felt ill and went to his home and was lying on the couch reading the paper when his condition rapidly grew worse. He died about the time medical aid reached him.

The son of the late Robert Ayers and wife, he was born in Goose Nest Township 56 years ago the 18th of this month. He spent his early life on the farm and entered military service on September 20, 1917, serving overseas in World War I nearly a year as a non-commissioned officer. Following his discharge from the service on June 25, 1919, he entered the mercantile business in Oak City and continued his farming operations.

Listed among this county's most prominent citizens, Mr. Ayers served Oak City as a town commissioner for about twenty years. He was a pillar in the Baptist church for years, and took a leading part in the betterment of his community and its people.

On the eve of World War II he was called into the service of his country. Willingly he accepted the difficult duties as a member of the Martin County Draft Board, and no one could have handled those duties more conscientiously and fairly. Meeting at least once each week and some times more, he held to the post until the early hours of the morning time and again, weighing the evidence offered in each individual case. He applied the rules honestly and fairly, irrespective of the registrant's position, color or creed. Aside from his untiring work in the religious and civic betterment of his community and county, his record as a member of the draft board stands as a memorable monument to his devotion held for his country. Although his duties were not in line of battle, his work as a member of the board placed a great strain on him and, no doubt, helped hasten the end.

No greater devotion could have been shown his country than that advanced by him from October, 1940, until the end of the war. Coupled with that devotion for country was an untiring interest in all good things and worthy movements. He was a good man, a devoted husband and father, one who set an humble yet worthy example for others to follow in the walk through life. His genuine handshake and his ready smile endeared everyone to him. His life was one well lived in the service and devotion of his family, his friends and his community.

Mr. Ayers was a prominent leader in the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion for years, and was a Mason. Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Kate McLean of Moore County; one son, James H.

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School Choirs To Present Cantata

The Williamston High School Junior and Senior choirs of 50 voices, directed by Mrs. Beecher Patterson, will present the Christmas cantata "Chimes of the Holy Night," in the High School auditorium, on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock.

The program will begin with a short community sing of Christmas carols and the public is cordially invited to attend. There will be a silver offering to help defray expenses of music. The music department hopes to buy vestments for the choirs. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Thief Destroys Christmas For Old Woman Near Here

Neal Coburn, colored man, stands charged with blasting Christmas hopes from under Ammie Ambrose, aged colored woman, near here when he allegedly stole \$300 in cash saved by herself from the meager pay earned by herself, her children and grandchildren over a period of months.

The aged victim of the dastardly deed held no malice in her heart for the thief, but she pleaded longingly for the return of at least some of the hard-earned money. But instead of getting any of the money back, she faces Christmas almost penniless while the alleged thief languishes in the common jail, a holiday he really deserves. Hearing the pathetic story, Justice R. T. Johnson last Friday evening found probably cause of guilt and bound Coburn over to the superior court for trial next

March, requiring bond in the sum of \$600. Unable to furnish that amount, the man was returned to jail.

Coburn was rooming in the humble home, but on or about November 24 the money disappeared and Coburn moved his rooming place. A few days later Coburn went to George Bryant's filling station. Flashing a big roll of bills, Coburn peeled off a \$5 bill and set the house up to beer. The lead was picked up by Deputy Sheriff Buck Holloman and he worked it for all it was worth. Coburn, when arrested, asked to be carried to the victim so he could ask if she would allow him to work and pay the money back. He told the officer that he found the money along a path leading to a woods back of the house, and said he had spent it all on beer and women.

Funeral For War Hero Wednesday Near Jamesville

Onward L. Gardner Killed In Action In Belgium December 17, 1944

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the home near Jamesville for Pfc. Onward Gardner who made the supreme sacrifice in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium on December 17, 1944. Rev. D. W. Davis and Rev. W. B. Harrington will officiate, and a detail from the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion will handle the military rights. Burial will be in the Gardner family cemetery on the home farm.

The body, returned home on the U. S. S. Robert Burns the 25th of last month, was brought home from the Philadelphia distribution center at noon today, and is lying in state at the home of the young man's mother until tomorrow afternoon. It was accompanied by S/Sgt. Robert S. Alexander.

Pfc. Gardner was the son of Mrs. Emma Davis Gardner and the late Lloyd Gardner. He was born near Jamesville on March 5, 1915, and spent all his life on the farm until he entered the service on December 1, 1942. Assigned to the medical corps he received his basic training at Camp Van Dorn in Mississippi, and received further training at camps in Texas and Louisiana before sailing for the European theater the last day of September, 1944. About ten weeks later he was reported missing a later message stating that he had been killed while driving an ambulance during the memorable Battle of the Bulge.

The young man was popular in his home community. He was a member of the Poplar Chapel church for a number of years. He had planned to marry in Louisiana upon his return to his native land.

Surviving are his mother; five brothers, Enoch, Willie Mayo, Herbert, Arthur and Stephen Earl Gardner, all of the Jamesville community; four sisters, Mrs. L. F. Lane of Rocky Mount, Mrs. Marion Barber of Washington, D. C., Mrs. Charles Sexton and Miss Effie Gardner, both of Jamesville.

The young man's body was the third of a Martin County man to be returned to this country from overseas following World War II.

DECORATIONS

Following the installation of Christmas lights on the streets and the Nativity scene on the Presbyterian church lot last week, local people started decorating their homes and yards for the holiday season. Quite a few outside lights were placed Saturday, and a large number of inside trees are now shedding cheery light through windows.

Indications are that holiday decorations will be advanced on a larger scale this year than in any period since before the war.

DIES SUDDENLY



Joseph H. Ayers, well-known county citizen and former member of the Martin County Draft Board, died suddenly at his home in Oak City Sunday afternoon.

Christmas Tree Fire Thursday

Starting at the base of a Christmas tree apparently from a short circuit, fire did right much damage in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Cowan here on East Main Street last Thursday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock.

Catching the cotton snow at the tree base, the fire spread rapidly, and the spruce tree needles bursting and throwing fire to all corners of the living room and firing window curtains and furniture. Mrs. Cowan tried to smother the fire with a blanket, but the fire went rapidly up the tree. Answering the call, volunteer firemen reached the scene in a very short time and with the small booster hose poured about five gallons of water to knock the fire out. A burning chair and a few other articles were carried from the house.

While no woodwork was burned it was blistered and two rooms were badly smoked. A complete estimate on the loss could not be learned immediately, but the damage will approximate \$500, including \$200 worth of Christmas presents that had been placed under the tree just a short time before the fire.

Mrs. Cowan used all new equipment in wiring and decorating the tree, but possibly the insulation on the wires was broken near the base when the holder was installed, causing a short circuit.

Firemen were called out at 9:50 Sunday evening when a chimney in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Miller, Jr., on Halifax Street burned out. Most of the house was filled with smoke, but no great damage resulted, one report stated.

Officers Wreck Small Liquor Still In County

Raiding in the Hassell section last Thursday, Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel wrecked a small illicit liquor plant, including an old oil drum used for a still and two barrels of cheap beer.

PTA Holds Last Meeting Of Year Here Last Night

Organization Names Committee To Buy Equipment For Playground

By Mrs. Anne Corey

At the last P-TA meeting of the year held last night in the grammar school auditorium, Miss Grace Talton's first grade presented a play entitled, "Mother Goose Visits Santa Claus." A speech of welcome was made by Gail Margolis preceding the play. Following this, several recitations were given including "Going to School" by Betty Frances Griffin, "Me" by Penny Partin, "When I Grow Up" by Jimmy Bellflower. At the conclusion of the play, the first graders sang a group of songs accompanied at the piano by Miss Talton.

During the business meeting Miss Talton's room was awarded the attendance prize. A committee composed of James Manning, B. G. Stewart, Hildreth Mobley and Ruth Manning was appointed to take definite action regarding the purchase of playground equipment for the grammar school. It was announced that an order had been placed for the steam table for use in the grammar grade lunch room. President Mobley stated there were now 344 members of the P-TA an increase of 100 since the last meeting. He also reminded the members that January 26 has been tentatively scheduled for the county-wide P-TA meeting which is to be held in Williamston.

Following the adjournment, refreshments were served.

The following pupils took part in the program: Santa Claus, Iverson Skinner, Jr.; Mother Goose, Mary Lynn Pate; Little Boy Blue, Billy Throver; Jack Horner, Jimmy Bellflower; Little Miss Mary, Verda Jones; her maidens, Mattie Jones, Doris Bowen, and Ruth Barber; Simple Simon, Eddie Taylor; Bo-Peep, Gail Margolis; Jack be Nimble, Van Taylor Harris; Mother Hubbard, Betty Griffin; Queen of Hearts, Penny Partin; Miss Muffet, Jean VanNortwick; Jack and Jill, Sandra Letchworth; and Frankie Robertson; Tom, Piper's son, Billy Windley; Wet Willie Winkie, Ralph Rawls; Cat and

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Jaycees Complete Nativity Scene

After a week of hard work, interrupted by rains, the Jaycees completed the re-erection of the Nativity scene Saturday night at 10:15. The scene is again located on the lawn of the First Presbyterian Church here.

The manger part of this year's scene is better constructed than the one last year, and closely resembles the original one erected by the members of the local POW camp two years ago. The life-size figures are still in good condition, and the scene should attract considerable attention this season.

Among the members of the Jaycees working on this project were James Bullock, Jack Edmondson, Bernard Harrison, Carroll Coltrane, J. C. White, Oswald Stalls, Exum L. Ward, Jr., Edgar Gurganus, John Hatton Gurganus, Robert Cowen, Thad Harrison, James Wynne, Wheeler Manning, Worth Mobley, T. F. Davenport, Flip Peele, Carroll Jones and Cap York. Only about a third of the members participated.

MEETING

Anticipating a sharp reduction in tobacco acreage and possibly a curtailment in peanut plantings, State and local farm leaders are meeting with farmers and business operators in the Martin County courthouse on Friday evening of this week at 7:00 o'clock to discuss the situation.

Dean I. O. Schaub and John W. Goodman, assistant director of the State Extension Service, are slated to address the group and discuss plans for meeting the drastic change in the 1947 farm program. The public is invited and all farmers are urged to attend.