

Several Highway Accidents In The County Last Week

Several Persons Injured But Not Critically In Three Wrecks

Several persons were injured, none believed critically, in three automobile-truck accidents on the highways of this county during the holiday season.

The first in the series of accidents was reported Christmas morning about 11 o'clock when a laundry truck driven by Benjamin Whitehurst of Williamston skidded and went off the highway a short distance east of Everetts.

Early in the evening of the 26th, a jeep, driven by John Hadley, and a Ford coupe, driven by Frank Saunders Weaver, crashed at the Sycamore-Washington Street intersection, but no one was hurt.

Last Saturday at 4:30 o'clock, Mrs. Chas. Lee Beach was seriously hurt when the car in which she was riding figured in an accident at Corey's Cross Roads on U. S. Highway 17.

Three calls were received by the Williamston Volunteer Fire Department the past week, but none of the fires proved serious.

Three Fire Calls Here Past Week

Minor damage was done shortly before 9:00 o'clock Christmas Eve when mantle decorations caught fire in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ward on North Pearl Street.

The second call came from the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Val Teel on West Main Street about 9:45 o'clock Saturday night when an oil stove went out of control and smoked up the kitchen.

Sunday afternoon at 1:45 o'clock a roof fire threatened a small home on Perry Street near Sunny Side Market, doing very little damage.

There were two other calls a few days earlier, but damage was very limited.

New York Neighbors In Wreck Christmas

Living in New York in the same apartment house, their identity known to each other, two neighbors met in an automobile collision in this section shortly after noon on Christmas day.

Morris Rosenberg, 77-35 113th Street, and Bernhard H. Frank, of the same address, were driving and riding in the cars figuring in the accident, the patrolman said.

SHORT

The annual sale of TB Christmas seals was said to be considerably below its goal in this county, Chairman Chas. Manning said today.

"It isn't too late to answer the direct mail appeal urging the purchase of the seals," the chairman said.

County Observes Christmas Without Serious Incident

Martin County people observed the holiday season without serious incident. There were several minor highway accidents, but the season was not marred by hunting or fireworks accidents.

A few fires were reported during the holiday period, but none of them proved serious.

For the first time in years and years, fireworks were just about non-existent during the Christmas season.

Religious services in the Church of the Advent, the only one scheduled here during the holiday season, were well attended by representatives of all denominations.

HEADIN' SOUTH

Breaking out of the grip of New York's record snowstorm of last week-end, Northerners are now headin' south on U. S. Highway 17 in almost record numbers.

Leaving New York, one motorist said he was caught in the storm in New Jersey, that he spent twenty-five hours in his car when it got stalled in deep snow.

Wallace To Run For Presidency

In a Chicago speech Monday night, Henry A. Wallace, former member of the cabinet and one-time vice president, said he would seek the Presidency on an independent or third party ticket.

Brief excerpts, taken from the text of the independent candidate's speech, follow:

"Everywhere in the United States today, among farmers, workers, small business men and professional men and women, I find confusion, uncertainty and fear."

"Peace and abundance mean so much to me that I have said at a dozen press conferences and in many speeches when asked about a third party, 'if the Democratic party continues to be a party of war and depression, I will see to it that the people have a chance to vote for peace and prosperity.'"

"I have insisted that the Democratic administration curb the ever-growing power and profits of monopoly and take concrete steps to preserve the living standards of the American people."

"By their actions and finally by their words," they have said: "Henry Wallace, we welcome your support but we will not change our policies."

Wallace resigned from the commerce secretaryship in a row with President Truman.

Announce Birth And Death Of Infant Son

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Wynne of the Spring Green Community of this county announce the birth and death of a son in the hospital on Christmas morning.

Funeral services were held in the Biggs Funeral Home here Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. John L. Goff. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Prominent Farmer Died At Home In County On Friday

Giddie Ann Harrison, well-known Martin County farmer died at his home in Bear Grass Township last Friday morning at 1:40 o'clock.

The son of the late Reuben and Mary Ann Bullock Harrison, he was born in this county 54 years ago on July 12, 1893.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. Charles Hamilton of Fountain, assisted by Elder A. B. Ayers.

Funeral Held Saturday In Bear Grass Township For G. A. Harrison

The Oak City Ruritan Club is a civic organization, bringing together farmers and business and professional men who live in the county and small towns.

The motto, "Love for your fellow man and a little hard but effective work." Some encouraging talks at the December meeting of the Ruritan Club brought the Goodwill idea before the club.

The deceased had been an invalid for several years, retiring from active work some time before he was stricken.

Surviving are his widow, Emma Gurganus; a daughter, Matilda Moore; a son, Johnson H. Gurganus; a sister, Dora Guyther of New York; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ruritan Give To Needy In County

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Funeral Held For Alonzo Gurganus

Funeral services were conducted in the Riddick Street Primitive Baptist Church here last Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock for Alonzo Gurganus, respected colored citizen who died at his home on North Biggs Street here Saturday afternoon at 5:45 o'clock, December 20.

The deceased had been an invalid for several years, retiring from active work some time before he was stricken.

Local Pupils Take Experimental Tests

The pupils of the seventh and eighth grades in Williamston School recently took the experimental series of the Pribble-Dallmann English tests.

Total of \$3,866,726 Spent For Liquor Since July in 1935

Sales In Third Quarter Are \$19,610.90 Less Than One Year Ago

The startling increase in liquor sales recorded during the war years and in the postwar period was unquestionably checked during the third quarter of this year.

At the end of last September the ABC board had assets in the amount of \$119,577.07, including \$70,191.93 in cash, \$49,371.49 in inventories.

The profits pie for the quarter was cut, as follows: Martin County, \$15,057.58; State of North Carolina, \$13,750.39; reserve for law enforcement, \$990.63; town of Williamston, \$2,186.76; town of Robersonville, \$916.96; town of Oak City, \$421.87; town of Jamesville, \$238.80.

A comparison of profits for the third quarters, 1946 and 1947, follows, by stores:

	1946	1947
Williamston	\$21,899.00	\$19,078.92
Rville	11,107.99	8,274.28
Oak City	4,557.47	3,887.41
Jamesville	3,736.95	2,322.38
	\$41,301.41	\$33,562.99

Totals sales for the two quarters (Continued on page eight)

Christmas Party Staged By Jaycees

The third annual Christmas Party for underprivileged children, sponsored by the local Jaycees, was held at the Womans Club Monday night, December 22.

The Jaycees provided transportation to and from the party and entertainment for the youngsters. Each child present received at least one nice toy, and several holders of lucky numbers received a nice archery set, the latter the courtesy of Eagles Store here.

With Jaycee Edgar J. Gurganus serving as master of ceremonies, the guests were entertained for about an hour with group singing, piano music, solos, and various games and contests.

County Schools Reopen Thursday

Closed for the Christmas holidays since December 19, all the county schools are scheduled to reopen on Thursday of this week at the usual hour.

A fuel shortage, it was thought at one time would possibly delay the opening of some of the schools, but a supply was made available during the holidays and everything is set for the reopening.

Last-minute difficulties have been encountered in the plans to open the Jamesville and Everetts colored schools in their new buildings on Thursday of this week, but the temporary buildings will be used until possibly some time next week when it is fairly certain that the buildings can be made ready for use.

Local Plant Sold To Marvil Package Company of Delaware

Half A Thousand Persons Killed In Holiday Tragedies

Nearly Three Hundred Lost Lives On Christmas Day In Nation

Over five hundred persons lost their lives in the nation during the Christmas holidays under tragic circumstances, 282 of them dying violently on Christmas day.

During the thirty-six hours ending at 6:00 o'clock last Friday morning, violent deaths were reported at the rate of almost eight an hour or about one every eight minutes.

North Carolina one of the smaller states, reported 21 accidental deaths. California led with 32 dead, but a hotel fire in which seven died boosted the Texas toll to 22 for second place.

The fire reportedly followed a drunken brawl between Greely Jim, the Indian who ran the resort, and a patron. During the fight, Jim kicked over a gasoline stove and threw a can of gasoline against it.

The explosion blew Jim through the roof. Five members of his family died in the resulting flash fire. Three patrons of the gambling establishment also were killed outright.

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HOLIDAY

Hardly recovered from the two-day Christmas observance last Thursday and Friday with a rest day coming in between on Sunday, this community will observe Thursday of this week (New Year's Day) as a general holiday.

There will be no mail deliveries and offices, stores and most all other places, except the schools, will be closed.

Annual Research Report Is Ready For Distribution

Booklet Contains Facts About Latest Developments In Farming

"Research and Farming," the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station's 69th Annual Report, is now ready for distribution to residents of the State who request it, says Dr. L. D. Bayer, director of the Station.

Bound in an attractive buff and chocolate brown cover, the report contains 140 pages of information concerning the most recent findings of the Experiment Station.

The booklet is almost twice as large as previous annual reports, mainly because of its wide use of pictures and charts. The page size has been enlarged to permit the use of larger pictures and close-ups.

Typical of the information contained in "Research and Farming" is the report on the sweet potato vine-rod harvester. This machine was developed last year by the agricultural engineering department in answer to requests for some means to gather and preserve sweet potato vines—a valuable livestock feed.

In the field crops sections, agronomists report that the demand for hybrid corn seed is still ahead of the supply. Farmers should refrain from using seed they might save from a hybrid crop.

Research into small fruits production problems have centered around the effect of various minerals on plant health. Strawberries have been found to need manganese and zinc.

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Lions Provide Christmas Cheer

The Christmas Cheer Committee of the local Lions Club carried happiness into approximately 65 Martin County homes when they braved the cold rain and sleet to deliver that many packages Christmas morning.

This year marked the sixth year that the Lions have carried out this program. This year the club spent approximately \$225.00 for the cause, which covered areas of five of the townships in the county, within a 10-mile radius of Williamston.

Lions K. P. Lindsley and W. Clyde Manning served as co-chairman of the committee, and they were assisted on Christmas morning by Lions H. P. Mobley, W. M. Baker, D. V. Clayton, Ira Harrison, J. D. Page, Henry Harrison, Geo. H. Gurganus, John H. Edwards and Roy L. Ward.

Unable To Raise Bond, Hog Thief Remains In Jail

Whit Salsbury Admits Four Of Numerous Thefts In The County

Unable to raise bond in the sum of \$800, Whit Salsbury, 34-year-old colored man, continues in the Martin County jail, his trial to be held at the March term of the superior court.

Conducting a series of hog thefts that baffled officers for several months, Salsbury would admit only one theft when he was given a preliminary hearing before Justice R. T. Johnson in the county court room last week.

Representatives of the new owners could not be reached for a statement, but it was learned that the purchasing company planned extensive improvements to the plant, that the factory would be enlarged and production stepped up.

Headed by Mr. Ray E. Hammill, president, and Mr. Ed Senecal, superintendent, the new company, Mr. M. M. Levin pointed out, could be expected to prove a big asset to this community.

As far as it could be learned the personnel of the old plant will be retained. Representatives of the Marvil Company came here this week from Boston to make a detailed study and survey of the plant, preparatory to advancing an expansion program and starting manufacturing operations, but it could not be learned just when work in the plant would be resumed.

The company, one of the oldest of its kind in the country, will employ approximately 200 workers, and its operations are certain to prove a decided asset to the economic life of this section.

The firm has extensive timber holdings in this section and while it did not acquire the timber rights of the old Williamston Package Manufacturing Company it is in the market for more timber in this section.

Establishing the business, the first of its kind to be introduced in this immediate section in 1940, Messrs. David and Samuel Goldman and M. M. Levin, operated the plant until April, 1941, when it was purchased by Messrs. G. H. Harrison, N. C. Green and J. S. Whitley.

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Colored Man Shot Resisting Arrest

Thurman Spruill, young colored man, was shot in the leg and painfully but not badly hurt Christmas day when he assaulted his wife and resisted arrest in Oak City.

Deserting his family some time ago, Spruill returned home and assaulted his wife with a butcher knife. Officer Edmond Early was called and he went to the home after a warrant had been issued.

Spruill was removed to a Washington hospital where his condition improved rapidly. He was returned to this county Monday and placed in jail to await trial.

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FEW ARRESTS

Comparatively few arrests were made in this county during the holiday season. According to a report found in the sheriff's office only seven persons were placed in the county jail during the period, two of them going there on Christmas day.