

Several Highway Wrecks Reported In the Snowstorm

Car Rips Away Bridge Railing But Driver Escapes Without Injury

Several wrecks, most of them minor ones, were reported on the highways of this county prior to and during the snowstorm striking this section about 10:00 o'clock yesterday morning. Two cars were said to have turned over and several skidded, striking other vehicles, some going into ditches.

The first in the series of Monday accidents was reported by Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation. Driving between Robersonville and Flat Swamp, Edward Glenn Koppe, RFD 1, Stokes, dropped off to sleep about 1:00 o'clock and tore into a county bridge railing, ripping much of one side away. Part of the railing tore through the windshield and pierced the upholstery in the front seat just a few inches from where the driver was sitting. Koppe, traveling alone, was not injured. Approximately \$20 damage was done to his 1941 Chevrolet.

No one was injured and property damage was negligible when an automobile skidded and turned over on Highway 125 about a mile from Abbit Mill about noon Monday. Sympathetic motorists stopped and helped right the car, the driver continuing on his way. No report was made to the patrol.

Driving at North Houghton Street Monday at 12:30 p. m., Lonnie Parker was passing Gardner's filling station just as Johnnie Spruill drove his 1938 Chevrolet from the station into the highway, the two vehicles skidding into each other. No one was hurt and the damage was slight, Patrolman W. E. Saunders said following his investigation.

Driving west on Highway 64 Monday afternoon, Patrolman E. W. Parker skidded a highway patrol car into a Williamston Supply Company truck loaded with lumber near the West End Baptist Church. No direct report could be had on the accident, but information reaching here stated that the truck slowed down or came to a stop when a car ahead of it started skidding, that the patrol car skidded into the load of lumber, knocking out the windshield and causing minor damage. Patrolman Parker was not hurt.

Snow Monday and Today Rates With Record Breakers

Nearly Fifteen Inches of Snow Fell During Twenty-Four Hour Period

Nearly fifteen inches of snow—14.9 inches, to be exact—fell here during the twenty-four hour period ending at 10:00 o'clock this morning, giving this section its worst snowstorm since March 1-2, 1927. While the current snowfall is five and one-tenth inches short of the twenty inches recorded nearly twenty-one years ago, it rates right along with the record-breakers.

The first of the flakes started falling here at 10:00 o'clock Monday morning and ended almost to the minute, twenty-four hours later. While there have been larger snows, the one this section now finds itself buried in fell over a longer period than anyone on record since January 1, 1937, when it snowed for two days and the mercury ran out the bottom of the thermometer, seeking cover.

The 22-inch snow in March, 1927, fell during a 22-hour period. Traffic at that time was blocked for three days, but there is a possibility that some traffic will start moving this time late today or tomorrow.

Old records show that the 1927 snow was the largest in seventy years, that the largest snow since 1927 fell in December, 1935, when nine inches were recorded. The roof on the Planters Warehouse caved in and the mercury went down to nine degrees at that time. The river froze over, but the cold spell did not compare with the 1917-18 winter.

Their roofs threatened by heavy drifts, many local people were busy clearing the snow off. In Windsor a large storage house was said to have caved in under the heavy snow.

Retired Farmer Dies In County

Luke Harrell, retired farmer, died at his home in Goose Nest Township last Saturday night at 10:00 o'clock after a long illness. His condition had been serious for several weeks.

Mr. Harrell, eighty years old, was born and reared in the Oak City section, living and farming there all his life. He was a hard worker and was very active until declining health forced his retirement several years ago.

He was a member of the Williams Chapel Methodist Church for a good many years and the funeral service was conducted there Monday afternoon by Rev. M. W. Warren. Burial was in the Harrell family cemetery.

Surviving are his widow; five daughters, Mrs. H. W. Moser of Raleigh, Mrs. Paul DeWitt of Virginia Beach, Va., Mrs. Rudolph Cofield of Palmyra, Lois Harrell of Washington, D. C., and Ruth Harrell of the home; three sons, Jesse and Haywood Harrell of Oak City; Luke Harrell, Jr., of the home; one sister, Mrs. W. P. Wright of Norfolk, Va.; one brother, A. R. Harrell of Oak City; nine grandchildren.

Has Hectic Trip Across Country

Leaving here the 25th of January for Seattle, Washington, to board a ship for Japan, Mrs. Calvin Sluder, the former Miss Katherine Hardison, completed the cross-country trip just in time and after many hectic experiences. Mrs. Sluder was to have sailed yesterday to join her husband, Sgt. Sluder, in Sasebo, Japan.

She was accompanied by her aunt, Miss Essie Peel, Mrs. Mary Bonner Gurganus and Eli Gurganus. The group encountered ice and snow on the first lap of the journey, and a minor car accident delayed them in Jackson, Mississippi for a short time. They had moved only a short distance before ice and snow held them in Vicksburg for several days. A windshield wiper went out of commission in Texas and they were again delayed. They made it over the mountains all right and reached Seattle late last Friday.

Mrs. Sluder is taking her car with her to Japan. Miss Peel, Mrs. Gurganus and son will return by train following a visit with friends and relatives on the west coast.

Infant Recovering From Major Operation

Becky Griffin, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh B. Griffin of Griffins Township, underwent a mastoid operation in a Greenville hospital last week and was reported to be getting along very well yesterday. The four-month-old child had been quite ill with asthma for some time, and doctors are of the opinion that the operation will help relieve that trouble.

Special School For Farmers Successful

Three Hundred Or More Present For Two-Day Sessions

RAINFALL

More rain fell last month than in any January since 1944, Hugh Spruill, keeper of the official rainfall gauge at the river here, stating that 4.59 inches of rain, including 1.5 inches of snow, fell during the period.

In 1944, 4.86 inches of rain fell here, but the wet January was back in 1937 when 7.22 inches of rain were recorded.

Rains and cold water have delayed farmers in the preparation of their tobacco beds, reports stating that only a few farmers have been able to handle the task.

Specialists Discuss Timely Farm Problems; Offer Suggestions

The special two-day school held in the county courthouse last Thursday and Friday attracted three hundred or more farmers and met with marked success. Farm Agent Tom Brandon declared.

Specialists from State College and the State Extension Service conducting the school were amazed when farmers literally packed the courtroom for nearly every one of the eight classes. A. C. Kimrey, the man who sparked the school with his talk on the "Family Milk Cow," was so excited by the size of the crowd that he left the courthouse without his brief case. Dr. E. R. Collins was apparently flabbergasted also by the big turnout for the school. Tom Brandon stating that the authority on corn left his hat and over-shoes.

Dr. Collins led a technical discussion on hybrid corn, stressing shallow cultivation. Cultivation should not be deeper than one inch. The moon apparently has nothing to do with the success of planting, the specialist stating that 100 bushels or more had been made irrespective of planting time. The crop is more successful when planted behind cover crops and is fertilized with approximately 500 pounds of commercial fertilizer and about 500 pounds of nitrogen. He suggested planting in three and one-half foot rows and about 16 inches in the drill. "If corn and beans are to be planted together, it is better to plant two rows of beans and two rows of corn," the specialist said.

R. R. Bennett, talking for almost two hours, held the attention of the farmers when he discussed tobacco. Bennett recommended sowing fertilizer for tobacco in two bands about seven inches apart and went on to explain the advantages of the practice. He followed the cultivation of the crop from beginning to end, suggesting that little air be turned into the curing barn at the bottom and with only a limited space for ventilation at the top. Touching on the supply of tobacco, he said that the 28 percent reduction in necessary to bring production back in line, that normally 700 million pounds of tobacco are used for home consumption, that with the 28 percent reduction in effect, a crop of 900 million pounds is to be expected.

Talking about insects and insect control, J. T. Conner outlined new methods for controlling cut worms and flea beetles in tobacco and boll weevil in cotton. It was his opinion that there would be no big outbreak of horn worms in tobacco this year except in isolated instances.

Discussing plant diseases, Howard Garrison advised against the use of tobacco of any form or near the seed beds since the manufactured tobacco carried virus diseases. Black shank and southern root rot are brought in on plants, he said. He did not recommend arsenate of lead in controlling worms since the poison left spots which would possibly lower the value when the leaf was sold at competitive bidding. Use cryolite for controlling worms, he suggested, and added that fermetate had proved successful in combating blue mold.

Breaks Leg In Fall Early Last Week

Bruce Everett, employe of the Dixie Motor Company here, broke his left leg in two places in a fall at his home in Robersonville the early part of last week. The limb has been placed in a cast and Mr. Everett, according to last reports, was getting along very well.

Specialist Aably Pleads Case For Family Milk Cow

Milk Is Only Food On The Earth That Humans Can't Live Without

By Miss Elizabeth Parker Home Agent

One of the high spots in the two-day school conducted for farmers in the county courthouse last Thursday and Friday was a talk by A. C. Kimrey, dairy specialist, on "the family Milk Cow."

Mr. Kimrey stated, in part, "Milk is the only food on earth that we can't live without, for without it life would end shortly after birth. 72 percent of the children born in America are reared unnaturally on cows' milk. The average consumption of milk per person in America is one pint and in North Carolina the average per person is less than one half pint per day. Therefore it is high time we woke up and did something about it. There are 85,000 farm families in North Carolina alone who own no cow. We, the people of North Carolina, do not realize the importance of milk in the diet, otherwise the picture would look different. There are two essentials in the handling of milk: First and foremost is cleanliness, then keeping the milk supply cold. If only we kept our family milk supply cold, our children wouldn't have to be coaxed into drinking the milk."

Mr. Kimrey plainly stated it was the duty of the husband to milk the cow and provide a clean stall for her, the duty of the wife was to care for the milk after it is brought into the home. He stressed the importance of washing our hands before milking. "How many of us would begin another job after milking without washing our hands?" he asked. It is just as essential to do this before milking. A damp warm cloth should be used to wipe dust particles off of the udder and flanks before beginning the milking. This stimulates the flow of milk. After the milk is brought into the home and strained it should be cooled immediately as bacteria will double in thirty minutes if it is allowed to stand without being cooled. Warm milk should never be placed immediately on ice, it should be cooled first.

There are right and wrong ways of doing things. This definitely applies to caring for milk containers. The following steps should be followed:

1. Rinse milk bucket in cold water as soon as it is emptied.
2. Wash bucket then in alkaline solutions. Never use soap powders on any milk container. Baking soda used in the water is much preferred. Don't use a dish cloth either, regardless of how clean it is. A brush should take the dish cloth's place.
- Rinse in cold water.
- Scald and turn upside down to drain.

Mr. Kimrey stated the cow should be given a clean, respectable stable; not the left-overs from the other stock. "Where do our cows stay?" Mr. Kimrey asked. "After we have cleaned up the stall, are we feeding them?"

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Abandon Schedule Of Activities For Indefinite Period

Section Will Be Several Days Digging Out Of 14-inch Snow

All heavy industry was paralyzed, traffic was stalled in its tracks and normal business just about folded up in this section in the wake of the heaviest snowfall recorded here in twenty-one years. Schedules for about all activities, including the reopening of the county schools, have been abandoned for an indefinite period.

The North Carolina Pulp Company in the lower part of the county closed yesterday ahead of the snow, throwing between 1,200 and 1,500 persons out of work. Heavy industry in and around Williamston is at a complete standstill with no opening date in sight. Business houses, in quite a few instances, continued closed today, but most of them started digging out soon after the fall abated about 10:00 o'clock.

Traffic, for the most part, deserted the highways before very late Monday, but it finally ground to a dead stop between 2:00 and 4:00 o'clock this morning. One or two vehicles, including Jim Staton Ayers' jeep, a TB mass survey mobile unit and a tractor made short trips, but highway traffic was blocked tight throughout this entire section for hours.

Bus traffic schedules were reduced late Monday, but the last schedule was maintained hours late when a Norfolk-Southern unit pulled through here at 2:25 o'clock this morning. The driver reached Washington about two hours later, ending schedules until further notice.

A large passenger bus, operated by the Seashore Transportation Company, pulled out on its southern run about midnight but was ditched before it got out of town and a damaged clutch held it there until pulled out by a Norfolk-Southern bus. Passengers were transferred to the Norfolk-Southern bus and the Seashore unit was parked at a filling station for an indefinite stay.

Highways are being cleared in some sections, but no scrapers or plows moved in this immediate territory early today, reports from the highway garage stating that mechanical trouble was delaying the work. No one seemed to know when or how roads would be opened to traffic, and schedules for other activities continue indefinite. The most encouraging sign to emerge from the snow came at 10:15 this morning when the sun broke through the clouds. Despite that the mercury keeper is threatening this section with a 15-degree thermometer reading tonight.

The board of education office said this morning that schools are definitely closed for the remainder of this week, that plans for next week are indefinite at this time.

The Little Symphony, scheduled for tomorrow night, has cancelled its program, and it could not be learned if and when it would make an appearance here. All sports events have been cancelled officially for the present.

Let Contract For City Hall Boiler

A contract was let yesterday by the board of commissioners for the installation of a steel boiler to replace a furnace corroded by salt water pumped from the town's well near the courthouse.

Three bids were received and the contract was awarded to Ayers Electric Company who bid \$1,295.52. Harris Hardware Company was second with a bid of \$1,321.00, but the contract called for only 1,700 feet of heating space. White's Heating and Sheet Metal Works submitted a bid for 1,800 feet units in the sum of \$1,395.80.

Call To Prayer

As a part of a world-wide program, a call to prayer will be recognized in local churches Friday afternoon of this week at 4:00 o'clock. One service will be held in the Memorial Baptist Church, and the colored citizens will participate in an hour of prayer at the Shiloh Baptist Church on Elm Street, it was announced.

All peoples of all denominations are invited, and business houses that can't close for the service are asked to operate with reduced forces so as many as possible may attend.

The first services in the world-wide program will be held at dawn on the Fiji Islands, others to follow in unbroken continuity across the world until the circle is made complete.

Industry Paralyzed; Traffic Stalled By Record Snowstorm

Three Small Children Are Saved From Burning Home

The three small children of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Williams were literally snatched from a burning room in their home in front of George Peel's market on Washington Street here about 2:30 o'clock last Thursday afternoon. Reports stated that at least one of the rescuers, Raymond Heath, was overcome by smoke while the children came out of the burning room apparently unharmed. The three little tots, their ages ranging from one to three years, swallowed much smoke, to be sure, but they were not burned and there was no after effect, it was declared.

Few details about the fire could be learned and its origin as well as the miraculous escape of the three children remains a mystery.

Mrs. Williams left the home about ten minutes previously to buy groceries at the market directly across the highway. When her three-year-old son, Jesse Lee, came out on the front porch crying she called to him and told him to go back into the house. The little fellow and his two sisters were sleeping when she left, and Mrs. Williams thought he became frightened when he awoke and found her gone. The child returned to the room and just a short time later, several persons in the market saw the curtain and shade burning. They rushed there with others and found Jesse Lee crying in the middle of the floor, his two sisters still sleeping on the burning bed. The children were carried to safety and the fire was put out without a general alarm being sounded.

Reports state that the fire did not start from a heater, that the fire was confined to two beds, several feet apart, and the window curtain and shade.

TB Survey Entering Last Week In County

Seventy Asked To Report To Clinic For Further Tests

Closing the second in a three-week mass TB survey in Martin County, the State Health Department cooperating with the County Health Department and other agencies, had through last Saturday X-rayed 8,397 persons. Considering weather and road conditions, the survey has been very successful, but with aggravated weather conditions this week the survey is almost certain to fall short of its 14,000 goal.

Health authorities today again addressed an urgent appeal to those who have not had X-rays made to make every effort possible to visit one of the mobile X-ray units before the survey of this week. If the units have already visited a community and should there be any one fifteen years old or older in that community who did not have an X-ray made he is asked to visit a unit in some other center.

The schedule for the remainder of this week is very indefinite, but it is likely that some sections will not be visited.

Dr. R. F. Bell was quoted today as saying that the unit in Williamston will likely be opened tomorrow, but it is admitted that few out of walking distance will be able to reach it.

Plans for making the survey even nearly 100 percent effective in the county have not yet been abandoned. Efforts are being made to hold the mobile units in the county another week, and pick up the schedule next week where it was left off last week-end. Another announcement is expected later in the week.

Few are expected for the regular survey.

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Government Gets Big Lot Peanuts

According to latest available figures, the Growers Peanut Cooperative has received nearly nine million pounds of peanuts from the 1947 crop.

The Cooperative is still receiving peanuts, paying 90 percent of parity for the offerings. Most crops moving to market in recent weeks were damaged and prices have been ranging from four to twelve cents.

Some of the buyers withdrew from the open market weeks ago, but the government warehouse in Robersonville was still receiving peanuts a short time ago, according to information coming from the cooperative headquarters.

Firemen Called Out Early Sunday Morning

Volunteer firemen were called out at 1:20 o'clock Sunday morning when a chimney caught fire at a small colored home on West Warren Street. Advised that the fire was on Warren Street, firemen turned left at the Houghton intersection, ran the street out and turned back before they learned the fire had burned itself out without causing damage.

Its sound reduced greatly since it was reconditioned, the general alarm failed to awaken very many firemen, and only four or five answered the call.

West End Garage, Eight Autos And Apartment Burn

Inadequate Supply of Water Blocks Efforts To Save Property

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the B and H Willis Company garage, the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Banks, possibly eight automobiles, the old Quinn Motorcycle Building and the structure formerly occupied by Heath's Radiator repair shop in West End, near here, shortly before noon today.

Details of the fire could not be had immediately, but the fire apparently started in the old motorcycle building, caught a Cadillac automobile parked nearby and ate its way into the garage-apartment building through the second story windows.

Volunteer firemen answered a call as quickly as possible through the fifteen-inch snow, and without an adequate water supply they could do little other than standby and watch the property burn. A second call was received by the fire department, the caller stating that the fire had caught several other buildings. The second fire truck moved to the scene, found the report unfounded and returned immediately.

Messrs. Jim Staton Ayers and James Wynne, traveling the highway in a jeep discovered the fire and they helped get the occupants out of the apartment.

No estimate on the loss could be had, but it is thought that it will run between \$35,000 and \$40,000 with a reported \$5,000 insurance in force.

A gasoline pump and tank, located just outside the garage, caught fire but did not explode. The fire reached and burned in two telephone and electric lines, cutting most local communication in that area and throwing out of commission several long distance circuits. Smoke blacked out several homes across the highway but none caught fire.

The fire call was the first reported since the fire department blanketing this section.

Reports state that a fire, estimated at a million dollars, struck Goldsboro late yesterday, destroying the Weil properties and other buildings. Help was summoned from Wilson, Goldsboro and Raleigh.

Three Countries Get Most Of Aid

Estimates submitted by the State department to a Congressional committee show that the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy will receive nearly three-quarters of the aid contemplated under the \$6,800,000,000 proposed to be spent under the European Recovery Program during the first fifteen months.

The spending for the United Kingdom during the first fifteen months was placed at \$1,760,000,000 and for France at \$1,434,000,000, together nearly half the total for all countries.

The amount listed for Germany totaled \$1,005,000,000, being divided into \$914,000,000 for the bizon, \$80,000,000 for the French zone, and \$11,000,000 for the Saar.

The sum suggested for Italy was \$369,000,000. The Netherlands was next with \$705,000,000.

Belgium-Luxembourg would receive \$232,000,000; Greece, \$186,000,000; Austria, \$182,000,000; Denmark, \$164,000,000; Ireland, \$152,000,000; Norway, \$34,000,000; Sweden, \$33,000,000; and Iceland, \$13,000,000 in benefits from the spending. No estimates were made for Portugal, Switzerland or Turkey.

Lions To Entertain Scout Troop Thursday

The regular dinner meeting of the local Lions Club will be held Thursday evening of this week, at the Woman's Club, at seven o'clock.

The club will be hosts to Lions-sponsored Scout Troop No. 29, in observance of National Scout Week.

All Lions and all members of this troop of Boy Scouts are urged to attend.