

Victim Of Accident Died Here Saturday

Other Victims Of Highway Wreck Still In Hospital

Body of Mrs. Edgar Taylor, 57, Moved to Cape May For Burial

Fatally injured in a highway accident in which six other persons were badly hurt at Skewarkey near here last Thursday afternoon, Mrs. Carla Ida Taylor died in the local hospital last Saturday morning at 12:45 o'clock. Mrs. Taylor suffered a fracture of the skull, a broken right wrist, a broken nose, compound fractures of both legs and possibly internal injuries. Her condition was considered grave upon her arrival at the hospital, and virtually all hope of her recovery was abandoned at that time.

Mrs. Taylor was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, 57 years ago, but had spent most of her life in this country. The Taylors, including the husband, Edgar Garrison Taylor, and a son, Jules Taylor, 17, was returning to Cape May Courthouse, New Jersey, after spending several months near Velrico, Florida, when their car, a 1937 Pontiac, crashed head-on with a North Carolina Highway and Public Works Chevrolet tudor sedan driven by Martin Luther White, formerly of Hamilton but now of Washington.

Three of the wreck victims, Milton Ryder, George Jenkins and Charles Soutter, are World War II veterans and they were transferred by Biggs ambulance to a government hospital in Fayetteville yesterday.

Recovered from a head injury, Luther White, driver of one of the cars figuring in the wreck, was discharged from the hospital yesterday.

Two other victims, Edgar Taylor and his 17-year-old son, Jules Taylor, continue in the hospital here. Reports state that the two Taylors, Ryder, Jenkins and Soutter are expected to recover.

Besides her husband and son accompanying her, Mrs. Taylor is survived by four sons, Carl Taylor of West Wildwood, New Jersey, Edgar Taylor, Jr., of Velrico, Florida, Elmer Taylor of St. Petersburg, Florida, and Henry Taylor, 315 W. 17th Street, North Wildwood, New Jersey; a daughter, Mrs. Edna Gerhard of Park Boulevard, Wildwood, New Jersey; a brother, Harry Hanston, of Cape May Courthouse, New Jersey.

Just how the accident happened cannot be learned as yet. Patrolman W. E. Saunders, investigating the wreck with Cpl. T. Fearing and Patrolmen R. W. Parker, J. T. Rowe and R. P. Naron and town and county officers, said that the cars crashed on White's right side of the road. White was traveling south and was met by the Taylor car. Patrolman Saunders quoted Jules Taylor, driver of the Pontiac, as saying, "It looked as if the other car (White's) was going to turn left and I pulled to the left to try to go around him when we crashed." White said that he could recall very few of the details of the accident, that he remembered getting out of his car, that the next thing he knew he was in the hospital.

The body of Mrs. Taylor has been moved to Cape May Courthouse for burial, but funeral arrangements could not be learned here immediately.

SPECIAL MEET

Meeting in special session here next Thursday morning at 11:00 o'clock, the town board of commissioners will canvass bids for digging a new well for the town's water supply.

Mayor Robt. Covert said yesterday that one bid had been submitted up until that time, that several others are expected between now and Thursday.

PACKING

Sponsoring the collection of serviceable clothing for the ill clad in Europe, the local Woman's Club members will start packing the bundles in the club hall Wednesday afternoon for shipment to New Windsor, Maryland, Mrs. R. H. Goodman, chairman of the movement in the county, announced this morning. A call to club members to help with the packing has been extended.

Scheduled to have ended two weeks ago, the collection was delayed by weather conditions. Virginia Electric and Power Company and Martin-Elliott trucks are picking up the collection over the county and they will deliver the goods to the club hall for packing and shipment to Maryland where it will be re-packed for shipment overseas. It isn't too late to contribute some serviceable clothing. Just leave it at the VEP office between now and Thursday.

Two Robberies In The County

Two robberies were reported in this county over the week-end, one in Oak City and one on the outskirts of Williamston.

Breaking a window light, a robber reached inside and forced loose an iron bar to gain an entrance into Joe Bunting's store in Oak City some time during last Friday night. The robber walked off with a cigar box filled with pennies, the owner estimating there were between 800 and 1,000 coppers in the container. Nothing else was missed from the store.

Gaining an entrance through the oyster bar, two robbers entered Sunny Side Inn just outside of Williamston shortly after midnight Monday. Returning to the boiler room at the oyster bar to check the fire, Nelson Mason, an employee, heard some one mumbling inside the building. He went to the front to investigate and the robbers saw him and ran out the back and into the woods a short distance away. They had grabbed a carton of cigarettes, but in their haste the robbers dropped seven packages before reaching the woods.

Officers are continuing their investigations.

Car Damaged In Wreck At Parmele On Friday

No one was hurt but considerable damage was done to a car when it crashed into a truck at Parmele last Friday. The truck was traveling west and started to make a left turn when the car, traveling east, crashed into it.

Schools Reopened Monday; Attendance Figures Normal

Closed for two weeks on account of bad road conditions and unfavorable weather, all Martin County schools were reopened Monday morning, early reports reaching the office of the superintendent indicating that attendance figures were near normal. Some of the trucks were diverted around bad spots and those places where water had flooded the roads. Traffic was blocked at Foa's Bridge in Williams Township where the fill was partially washed away. There was no passing over Yarell's Bridge in Griffins Township. High water blocked traffic at Johnson's Bridge between Hassell and Hamilton and at the old Daniel and Staten Mill in Williams Township. Traffic moved over the Hardison Mill Bridge but travel was dangerous.

All but three school buses made their runs Monday morning about on schedule. One bus at Farm Life broke down, and two got stuck, one serving Williams-ton and the other serving Robersonville.

Augustus L. Keel Died Saturday At Home in Everetts

Well Known County Citizen Had Been In Ill Health For Several Years

Augustus Lafayette Keel, well known county citizen and retired farmer, died at his home in Everetts last Saturday afternoon at 12:40 o'clock. He had been in declining health for several years and his condition had been critical since last September.

Mr. Keel was forced to retire about six years ago when he suffered an attack and was left almost blind. Stricken with some ailment like phlebitis and resulting complications, he was hospitalized for weeks in two hospitals, but his condition gradually became worse and little hope was held for his recovery. His suffering was intense.

The son of the late James L. and Elizabeth Bowen Keel, he was born in this county seventy years ago on February 12, 1878. He farmed all his life or until he was forced to retire and had made his home in Everetts for a number of years.

Mr. Keel was married three times, one daughter, Mrs. Ellic Jackson of Norfolk surviving his marriage to Miss Mandy Peel. His second marriage was to Miss Elizabeth Bailey. Surviving that union are four sons, Lester Keel of Williamston, James Keel of Everetts, Henry Keel of Robersonville and Sam Keel of Portsmouth; and four daughters, Mrs. Hubert Roberson of Robersonville, Mrs. John D. Williams of Greenville, Mrs. J. B. Rogerson of Bear Grass and Miss Lillian Keel of Everetts. His third marriage was to Miss Pearl Mallory who survives with one daughter, Mrs. Albert Roberson of the home. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. N. S. Bullock of Everetts and Mrs. S. R. Bullock of Williamston, and a brother, William J. Keel, of Williamston.

He was a member of the Everetts Baptist Church and his pastor, Rev. E. R. Stewart, assisted by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister, conducted the last rites in the church here Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Interment was in the Everetts Cemetery.

Firemen Called To Mickey's Inn

Williamston's volunteer firemen were called out last Saturday evening shortly before 7:00 o'clock to the James Robert Bullock home just beyond Mickey's Inn when an oil heater went out of control and threatened the small house.

The owner had installed a new burner that afternoon and it overflowed, the oil catching fire and spreading on the floor. When the firemen reached there the oil was burning on the water and other than that caused by smoke there was very little damage.

FAMILY OF NINE LIVING "OUT OF DOORS"



Savings For Repairs Stolen In November

Propose Fund To Help Relieve the Family's Plight

Grandmother, Mother and Seven Small Children Brave The Elements

Pictured above is a four-room shack where an aged colored woman, her daughter and seven small grandchildren are existing, braving the elements and fighting off hunger after a fashion more common to war-torn Europe or even to darkest Africa than to a land of reported plenty. The fact that such a deplorable condition can exist in an enlightened civilization with all its boastful charity and organized relief agencies is enough to cause one to shudder. It is a condition so low down the scale of civilization that it would have to be improved greatly before even one of the frightfulisms would consider it a fit breeding place.

Located about three miles from Williamston on the old Everetts Road, the shack is without a foundation, the little chimney has been all but deserted by the house, boards are missing from the walls, the floor rests at various angles and the roof has more holes than shingles. The picture above presents hardly half of the deplorable condition existing there.

The nine persons, Ammie Ambrose, nearly 70 years old, her daughter and seven grandchildren, existing there are victims of circumstances beyond their control. The father deserted his wife when their daughter was a small child. The daughter, in time, married and her husband died, leaving the grandmother, her daughter and seven grandchildren, their ages ranging from 3 to 15 years, to shift for themselves.

Working earnestly, all members of the family large enough to leave home, had, after buying clothes and rations, saved almost \$300 from their labors in tobacco fields and in private homes. The savings, kept under the grandmother's pillow by night, were stolen last November 25, admittedly by Neal Coburn, young colored man, who squandered every penny of the savings before he was apprehended.

Neighbors have helped some and the welfare department is allowing the group \$15 a month or less than \$2 per person. There has been little work available in recent weeks, and then the big snow fell and aggravated the deplorable condition. Snow and rain forced all nine into one small room where they huddled together to keep from freezing, the grandmother and mother placing tubs and pans on top of the little tots to keep them from getting wet. All the furniture about ruined in other parts of the house, the family is confined to one room now.

Admitting that it was tough during the snowstorm, the mother said last Saturday afternoon that they were getting along as well as could be expected. There is a (Continued on page eight)

EXTENDED

Martin County farmers, participating in the 1947 soil conservation or soil building practices program, have until Saturday of next week to file performance reports and present claims for soil conservation payments, it has been announced by the office of the farm agent. The time for filing the reports was extended on account of the bad weather of last week.

Most farmers in this county have already filed the reports. Those who have not entered their claims for the payments are directed to present their claims to the agent's office without further delay.

Native Of County Died on Saturday

Cofe R. Swain, a native of this county, died last Saturday night in Eastern Carolina Sanatorium, Wilson, where he had been a patient for about six months.

The son of the late John Swain and wife, he was born in Cross Roads Township 58 years ago, farming in this county most of his life. For the past several years he had made his home in Williamston, working at the pulp mill until ill health forced his retirement.

His wife, the former Miss Myrtle Parrisher, died on September 22, 1941.

Surviving are three sons, Elmer Swain of Bethel, Norman Swain of Union City, N. J., and Robert Swain of Williamston; five daughters, Mrs. James Bowen of Williamston, Mrs. Robert Williams of Merry Hill and Mrs. Robert Edmondson, Mrs. Paul Nelson and Cleo Swain of Stokes; a brother, John Ed Swain of Washington; five sisters, Mrs. Joe Whitaker, Mrs. James E. Harrison, Sr., Mrs. Hoyt Holliday, all of or near Williamston, and Mrs. Buck Clark of Cross Roads, and Mrs. Buck Terry of Belle Glade, Fla., and twenty-two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the home of his sister, Mrs. Joe Whitaker on the Slaughter House Road near here yesterday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by Rev. N. J. Ward, local Holiness minister. Interment was in the Bowen Cemetery near Williamston.

Officers Destroy Still In County

Raiding in the Harris Mill Pond section of Bear Grass Township last Sunday morning, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel wrecked a 40-gallon capacity copper kettle and five fermenters. The burner was equipped with an oil plant, but the worm was missing.

There was no beer at the plant, indicating that weather conditions had forced the plant out of operation for a few days. The raid was the first in this county in several days.

Baby Found Dead In Bed Here Last Thursday Morning

Poverty Holds Little Body Out Of Earth Until Last Saturday

Navin Bradley, three-and-one-half-month-old colored child, was accidentally smothered to death in the bed with his parents here some time during last Wednesday night. Investigating the untimely death, Coroner S. R. Biggs ruled that no formal inquest was necessary.

The little body was removed to a colored undertaker's establishment, but poverty blocked a decent burial.

The child's parents just recently moved here from the Robersonville section, and he has not been employed steady on account of bad roads and unfavorable weather. Unable to get his employers to stand for a \$35 funeral bill or obtain credit from the undertaker, the father turned to the county welfare department. He was ruled out there. During the meantime the little body remained untouched. The father turned to his new acquaintances, but still he was unable to finance the funeral. He was referred to Sanitarian W. B. Gaylord of the county health (Continued on page eight)

Baptists Calling Texas Minister

A call, said to have been supported by a unanimous vote of the membership, was extended Rev. Stewart B. Simms by the Williamston Memorial Baptist Church following the last Sunday morning church service. Rev. H. F. Jones, supply minister, served as moderator.

Rev. Simms, a native of Raleigh, was graduated from Southwestern Seminary Fort Worth, Texas, and for the past three years he has been serving Ridgley Baptist Church there. A comparatively young man, the minister is married and they have a young son.

The minister appeared in the local church pulpit on Sunday, February 8.

All Kinds Of Weather Felt Here During Past Few Days

After going on a rampage on Monday and Tuesday of last week, the weather could chart no definite course during the next several days, and all kinds of climatic conditions prevailed here.

To start off, the mercury sunk to the middle teens. Sleet and snow appeared before daybreak Saturday morning. Rain fell at intervals Saturday and Sunday the mercury started falling, climaxing a hectic period in the weather for this section. There was little sunshine during the week.

The older heads said they could not recall a time when a large snow disappeared so rapidly in the month of February. The big snow of March, 1927, went away in a hurry, but the spring season was near at hand at that time, it was explained.

Mass X-ray Survey In County Ends Friday

SMOKEHOUSE KEY

Herring have been taken from the Roanoke and spring can't be far behind. Sam Henry Holliday and Lee Moore, Jr., making four trips down the stream at Jamesville, netted 19 nice herring yesterday morning. The young men caught 4 the first trip, 8 the next, 4 the next and 3 on the last. Virtually stalled for several days, business perked up its ears in the county's fishing capital and preparations were started almost immediately for the 1948 season which is scheduled to get underway on an extensive scale within the next few weeks.

The catch this year is almost three weeks behind the one reported by Mr. Ira Coltrain last year. Mr. Coltrain, on account of failing health, has turned the business over to younger hands after breaking many records with his early catches.

Home and \$1,800. In Currency Burn

Starting in an upstairs room and its origin yet undetermined, fire destroyed the home of Starling Bell, respected colored farmer of Goose Nest Township, last Wednesday afternoon. In addition to losing his home and just about all the furnishings, Bell lost \$1,800 in cash.

Bell, listening to the radio downstairs, did not hear the fire until his wife came in from the kitchen and asked him to go up and investigate a noise there. By the time he reached the head of the stairs, the roof was just before falling in. The fire blocked his way to the money, and in the excitement, he and his wife saved only one bed sheet, a blanket and a daybed.

The loss was estimated at \$6,000, Bell stating that only \$700 insurance was carried on the property. It was the old Bell family home-place and he had lived there 42 years.

Selling some farm produce a short time ago, he kept the \$1,800 at home with the intention of paying some debt this week. He was planning to bank the remainder after setting his accounts.

Explaining his plight to acquaintances and friends in Tarboro, Bell was given approximately \$100 in cash there, and he was given a fairly sizable amount of money by people here and in other parts of this county.

Minor Accident In Jamesville Monday

Minor damage resulted but no one was hurt when a motorist swerved his car to miss two children and struck another car in Jamesville Monday afternoon. One of the cars was operated by Clarence Taylor of Plymouth, and reports reaching here stated that only a fender was slightly battered.

X-Ray More Than Ten Thousand In Past Three Weeks

Last of Special Clinics To Be Held All Day Here Next Monday

More than ten thousand people fifteen years old or older have been X-rayed in the mass TB survey now drawing to a close in this county, health officials said yesterday, expressing the hope that the figure would approximate 13,000 or more by Friday of this week.

Extended into the fourth week on account of adverse weather and bad road conditions during most of the time since it was started on January 27, the survey so far has met with success considering interruptions and other factors beyond human control.

In a preliminary report issued this week Dr. R. F. Bell, head of the survey, explained that suspicious cases were running about one percent so far. The doctor pointed out that a suspicious case is not necessarily a tuberculosis case. It was explained that there could have been a defect in the film or some metal object could have been in the subject's pocket causing the X-ray to misrepresent the true condition. Those persons called for further examination reported in larger numbers this week, and the health officials are anxious that all such cases be re-checked before the last clinic is closed next Monday. The last X-rays will be made on Friday of this week. Dr. Bell will read the X-rays Saturday and remain in the county to conduct the special clinic all days next Monday. The regularly scheduled clinics are to be held on Wednesday and Friday of this week.

Reopening the mobile X-ray units last Friday following the big snow, the survey handled 927 X-rays before closing Saturday afternoon, boosting the total to 4,477. Approximately 500 X-rays were made in Hamilton, Robersonville and Williamston Monday, and this morning the count went over the ten-thousand mark.

Today, the survey is under way in Robersonville for the last time. In addition to the unit there and the one on Williamston's main street, a third unit is operating at the Standard Fertilizer plant for today only.

On Wednesday the survey will go forward at Godard's No. 90 filling station in Williams Township from 10 to 4, and at the pulp mill from 10 to 5. The unit here will still be in operation.

On Thursday the survey will be extended into the lower part of the county with units operating from 10 to 4 o'clock at Dardens and Jamesville. The unit on the main street here will continue that day and the following day.

Other than the unit here, only one truck will take X-rays on Friday, February 20, and that one will be in Jamesville from 10 to 5 o'clock.

Those persons who have not had their chests X-rayed are asked by the health authorities to try and make it to one of the mobile units at any of the designated places and have it done on or before Friday of this week. Friday is the last day of the survey.

ROUND-UP

There was very little activity on the crime front in this county last week-end, the sheriff's office reporting that only two persons were detained in the county jail.

A 16-year-old colored girl was detained a short time for an assault with a deadly weapon, and a young white man was jailed for alleged breaking and entering.

Business was at a standstill during most of last week and the big snow even showed under a crime threat.