

Blow Dealt County's Illicit Whisky Trade

Four Persons Are Cited To Courts During Week-end

Two Arrested At Liquor Plant Early Sunday Morning

A stinging blow was dealt the illicit liquor traffic in this county last week-end when ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck, assisted by Deputies Roy Peel and Buck Holloman rounded up two retailers and two alleged manufacturers of illicit liquors.

Working with the local officers, Roebuck and Peel of the ABC enforcement division, checked up on the illicit retail business in Robersonville Saturday morning. Earl Gurganus was found with ten pieces of illicit liquor in his possession and he was placed under \$100 bond for his appearance in the county court next Monday. Going next to Oscar Daniel's store, the officers found a quart of white liquor and the colored man was placed under bond in the sum of \$100 for his appearance before Judge J. C. Smith in the county court next Monday.

A raid on the manufacturing business was planned that afternoon, and the officers returned to their base for an early start Sunday morning. Meeting Pitt County ABC officers, the three officers from this county raided along the Martin-Pitt boundary line not so far from Flat Swamp Church shortly after 4:00 o'clock.

The officers took their stands and waited for developments. A short time later two men, William Everett and Oscar Jordan, both colored, moved in carrying manufacturing equipment and materials. One of them spotted an officer and he set a pace, but it was not fast enough, one of them falling into the hands of Deputy Roy Peel and the other into the hands of Deputy Holloman.

The officers had planned to hold their positions until operations were under way, but the plans failed to materialize. Everett and Jordan were placed under bond in the sum of \$100 each and they are scheduled to appear before Judge Smith next Monday morning.

Five men have been arrested in the past ten days for liquor law violations.

Musical Program Heard By P.-T. A.

A musical program featuring the junior and senior choirs was presented under the direction of Mrs. Beecher Patterson to a large audience at the P-TA meeting last night in the local high school auditorium at 8 o'clock.

Following the scripture reading by Ralph Parker, a pageant entitled "Song of America" was presented by the various grammar grade classes. Included in the pageant were introductory speeches to the different eras in American life from the Indians to Pearl Harbor. Following each introduction an appropriate song was sung by the choir. Also, a Virginia Reel and a special Indian dance were included. At the close of the pageant the audience joined in singing "God Bless America."

Concluding the program the glee club sang "Dust on the Prairie," "Smoke Gets Into Your Eyes," and "Without a Song."

During the business session President Mobley announced that the by-laws and constitution of the local organization had been approved and that the charter was expected immediately.

Mrs. Irving Margolis, Mrs. John Henry Edwards and Mr. Jessup Harrison will serve on a committee to nominate officers for the coming year. They will report at the next meeting.

President Mobley read 18 questions to the members concerning future school legislation and Mrs. Marvin Britton gave a financial report. Attendance prize was won by Miss Modlin's 5th grade.

ROUND-UP

Other than a shotgun attack in Parmele and a few drunks, there was little activity on the crime front in this county over the week-end.

Only three persons were arrested and placed in the county jail here. Two were booked for public drunkenness and one for an assault with a deadly weapon. All three were colored, their ages ranging from 15 to 24 years.

Makes Report To TB Committee In Meeting Friday

Outlines Program of Activities Planned For Twelve Months

Meeting in the county courthouse last Friday evening, the Martin County Tuberculosis Committee heard a report on the organization's activities for the past eleven months and planned a program for the next twelve. Chairman Edgar Gurganus presided over the meeting which was attended by most of the committee members.

One of the features highlighting the program during the past year was reviewed by Dr. John W. Williams, county health officer. He pointed out the value derived from the mass TB survey, how the victims had been found, how they had been removed to state institutions or to the county sanatorium for treatment. In addition to pointing out the treatment program, the health official declared that the danger of the disease spreading had been greatly reduced by the removal of the victims from crowded homes in some instances.

Mrs. Eva Grimes, committee secretary, stated that the committee spent \$3,031.98 last year in the fight against tuberculosis. The largest single item in the expense list was \$1,395.98 spent for X-ray film in taking approximately 12,000 chest x-rays during the mass survey drive. Other disbursements were listed as follows: Salary of executive secretary from May 1, 1947, to March 31, 1948, \$825; office rent, \$86.65; printed material for libraries and county sanatorium, \$10.26; transportation of TB patient from sanatorium home, \$20; health department for film storage chest, Coolidge tube and X-ray film, \$436.07; seal sale expenses, \$258.02, making a total of \$3,031.98. The county committee remitted \$528.02 to the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association, making a grand total of expenditures of \$3,559.88.

The committee, after hearing Miss Ann Mann, field representative of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association, approved the following budget for the next twelve months in the sum of \$2,157.50: meetings, \$25; insurance, \$12.50; office equipment and supplies, \$35; postage, \$110; purchase and manufacture of supplies and printed matter, \$150; rent, \$120; salary of executive secretary, \$900; clerks, \$50; telephone, \$20; travel, \$210; and tuition.

(Continued on page eight)

Drives Into Barrier At River Bridge Here

Heinz Henry Ratzell, Marine stationed at Cherry Point, tore into one of the traffic barriers on the Roanoke River bridge here last Friday afternoon, doing considerable damage to his 1946 Ford sedan.

The bridge was being closed after a boat had been turned through, and the barrier, operated by compressed air, closed and sprung up again just as Ratzell was driving over it. The frame of the car was badly bent, and repairs will cost possibly \$150.

Stolen Car Recovered Early This Morning

The Chevrolet car stolen from Miss Mary Taylor, county health nurse, from in front of her home on Warren Street last night was found abandoned in a back lot of a colored church a few blocks away early this morning by night police. The car had been driven about 10 miles, as far as it could be learned.

Patrolman M. F. Powers of Williamston and J. P. Thomas of Windsor when the fugitives turned into the dead-end dirt road and the Patrolmen followed behind to throw up a road-block. Unlike their first contact with the patrol, the fugitives made no effort to avoid arrest, innocently inquiring as to what they had done.

Alleged Members Of A Counterfeit Ring Are Taken

Patrolman Powers Picks up Trail On Main Street Here Last Friday

Three members of an alleged counterfeit ring drove their convertible Ford into a jug near Windsor last Friday morning and pulled the stopper in after them.

Ernest Cleveland Smith, 28, his wife, Beulah Louise Smith, and Lloyd Mason Joyner, 28, all of Garysburg, Northampton County, were placed under arrest in front of the Bertie County jail a few minutes over 12 hours after they handed a counterfeit \$20 bill to a filling station operator in Selma and broke away from a patrolman who stopped them between Fayetteville and Dunn.

The arrests were made by Patrolmen M. F. Powers of Williamston and J. P. Thomas of Windsor when the fugitives turned into the dead-end dirt road and the Patrolmen followed behind to throw up a road-block. Unlike their first contact with the patrol, the fugitives made no effort to avoid arrest, innocently inquiring as to what they had done.

The trio had about \$400.00 in cash with them, all apparently legal tender. No counterfeit money was found on them or in their car immediately and they refused to make any statements when questioned in the patrol office here Friday afternoon before being returned by Sgt. C. A. Speed of the Highway Patrol to Smithfield to await further action by federal authorities.

The trail which ended at the entrance to the Bertie County jail started in Selma Thursday evening at 9 o'clock when Ernest Cleveland Smith handed the proprietor of Garner's grocery and service station a bogus \$20 bill in payment for a Coca Cola "with the top loosened a little."

Mrs. Lessie Garner, who came to Williamston to identify Smith as the passer of the bill, said that Smith walked around the station casually inquiring about business conditions before asking for the coke. She said her husband put the bill in the cash register and had started to close the drawer after making the change, when he noticed the bill and thought it appeared "different." Close inspection convinced him the bill was no good and he called Sheriff Denny of Johnson County who in turn notified the patrol. Garner had the license number and when Patrolman Wilson, working out of Fayetteville, came across the car he stopped it and was placing handcuffs on Smith when the prisoner snatched the patrolman's gun, relieved the officer of his car keys, the cuffs and gun and drove off.

Wilson notified the patrol office of the occurrence and no further trace of the fugitives was had until Patrolman M. F. Powers walked out of a Williamston cafe and caught the number 6 on the Ford convertible passing along the highway.

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Seine Fishing Gets Under Way At Jamesville Today

Delayed by high water for weeks, seine fishing finally got underway in the Roanoke at the Fleming fishery today. No reports on the activities could be had here immediately, but the owner-operator admitted over the week-end that the prospects were very discouraging, that he was placing the large net in the water to wash out the tar to keep it from sticking together this summer.

The season ordinarily gets underway about the third week in March, the fishery already having missed the best fishing. The season ordinarily ends on May 10, but it is possible extra time will be added. However, it is quite possible that the size of the catches will be so small that operations will prove unprofitable before that time.

Reports from individual fishermen at this point late yesterday stated that there were very few herring in the river, that one machine picked up only sixteen fish all day Monday. Some rock are being taken, but most of them are fairly small.

DELATED

A meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening of this week in the local Baptist Church for advancing plans for calling a special referendum on the sale of beer and wine in this county, has been delayed until Friday evening of this week, it was announced.

A special committee, appointed at a meeting last week, asked for more time to complete an assigned task, and the members of that group will report to the Friday meeting which is to be held in the Christian church at 8:00 o'clock when the petition circulators and many of the signers are expected to attend and complete plans for appealing to the authorities for an opportunity to vote on the beer-wine sales ban.

Jno. D. Tetterton Died At Home Of Nephew Friday

Funeral Service Held At Home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jones Sunday

John Debro Tetterton, for many years a resident of Williamston and community, died at the home of his nephew, Harry Jones, on West Main Street last Friday afternoon at 5:50 o'clock. He had been in declining health for almost a year, but was able to continue his work up until about two months ago. He returned to Williamston on March 28 and his condition showed some improvement during the following days, but he suffered a relapse about two weeks ago and his condition had been critical since that time.

Mr. Tetterton was born in Washington County 69 years ago on February 10, 1879, the son of the late Henry Taylor Tetterton and wife, Joanna Gibson Taylor. When a young boy he came to Williamston with his parents and located on the old Marion Burroughs farm, living in and near Williamston until 1930 when he moved to Brooklyn where he was associated with Fruit Industries until his retirement. He had farmed all his life until he left the county to make his home in Brooklyn.

Mr. Tetterton was married to Miss Bertha Perry of Williamston on January 18, 1905. When a young man he joined the local Methodist church, and during his stay in this county he made many lasting friendships, and although he had been away eighteen years he was anxious to return to his old home. He made the trip down on Easter Sunday and seemed to greatly enjoy the association of old friends and acquaintances during his last days.

Surviving are Mrs. Tetterton, an adopted son, Mervin Tetterton, of Williamston; and one sister, Mrs. J. L. Wood, of Brooklyn.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jones Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Rev. E. R. Shuller, pastor of the local Methodist Church. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

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Prominent Farmer Died Suddenly At Home of Daughter

Funeral Service Monday In Robersonville For W. Marion Green

Funeral services were conducted at the home of his daughter, Mrs. David Grimes, Sr., in Robersonville Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mr. W. Marion Green, retired farmer and prominent citizen of this section of the State, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Javan Rogers, last Saturday night. Elder A. B. Ayers and Rev. J. M. Perry officiated and interment was in the Robersonville cemetery. A tremendous crowd, attesting the high esteem in which he was held, was present for the last rites.

Mr. Green had been in declining health for several years, but was able to be up and about until just a few days before the end. Following the death of his wife about two years ago he had visited among his children and was on a visit with his daughter in Bear Grass when he was taken ill just a short time ago.

A son of the late Martha Ann and Kelly Green, he was born in Bear Grass Township 88 years ago on May 3, 1860, where Mr. and Mrs. Sam Mobley now live. In 1910 he located in Robersonville.

Although he never affiliated with any church, he attended regularly and was a liberal supporter of the various Primitive Baptist churches in this section. His daily walk through life exemplified fine ideals, and his disposition was marked for his cheerfulness and friendliness. In his home, in his business transactions and associations with his fellowman he adhered closely to Christian principles, and his goodness endeared him to friends and acquaintances in all stations of life, irrespective of color or creed.

He reared and educated a large family, all of whom are prominent in their respective fields and localities. Surviving are six daughters, Mrs. Mamie Taylor of near Williamston, Mrs. Javan Rogers of Bear Grass, Mrs. J. N. Coburn of Whiteville, Mrs. David Grimes, Sr., Mrs. Oscar Smith and Mrs. Vance Roberson, all of Robersonville; two sons, Claude Green of Robersonville, and Dr. William Green of Whiteville; one sister, Mrs. Luke Roberson of Parmele; twenty-eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

The funeral has been tentatively scheduled for 2:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon in the Biggs Funeral Home on West Main Street here. Interment will be in the family plot in the New Bern cemetery. It was explained that definite funeral arrangements could not be completed until members of the family reached here.

4-H Club Members At Lions Meeting Thursday Evening

J. B. Cherry Donates Lot For Boy Scout Hut On Smithwick Street

The regular meeting of the local Lions Club was featured by the annual visit of members of the county 4-H clubs, last Thursday evening. On the program this year were Miss Celia Stokes of the Oak City club and Master Corrono Bryant of the Williams club. Miss Stokes talked on her work in connection with a report trip to Raleigh while Master Bryant talked about a wild life trip to Rockingham. Miss Garnette Crocker and Mr. Jesse W. Sumner, county 4-H club workers, were also on the program.

Lion D. V. Clayton announced that a lot, sixty feet wide, and adjoining the present Christian Church, on S. Smithwick Street, had been donated by Mr. Joe B. Cherry, for the site of the Scout Hut.

Lion Hack Gaylord announced that the question of a hospital under the Hill-Burton bill had been placed in the hands of the county commissioners to be put to a vote by the citizens of the county.

The Lions-sponsored thrill show, "Gnat Virgil," was discussed, and tickets were distributed to each member to be sold. Mr. McGee of the CAA here, was a guest of Lion Claude Goodman. The meeting was presided over by Pres. K. D. Worrell. Lion Roy Ward donated the attendance prize which was won by Lion Bob Tarkenton.

Colored Youth Stops Card Game with Gun

STRAY DOGS

A concerted drive is now under way here against stray dogs, authorities stating that arrangements had been made to round up the canines and pound them at Dr. W. E. Coppage's where they'll be held for a few days before they are killed.

The drive to round up the dogs is being advanced following several vicious attacks by dogs on children.

Marion E. Smith, Prominent Farmer, Passes In County

Funeral Tuesday Afternoon At The Late Home Near Robersonville

Marion E. Smith, prominent farmer and well-known county citizen, died suddenly at his home near Robersonville early Sunday afternoon, the victim of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Although reports stated that he had been somewhat despondent for awhile, Mr. Smith appeared in his usual health Sunday morning. He ate breakfast and went according to his usual routine until shortly before noon when he told members of the family that he was taking his gun and going to shoot a hog that had been breaking out of the pen. He caused no suspicion, but some time later, Mrs. John Taylor, who has made her home there for a number of years, sent Lester Rollings, a colored man, to look for him. He found him dead near the pig pen.

Making an investigation, Coroner S. R. Biggs stated that Mr. Smith had fired a load of shot from a single barrel gun into his right chest, that the victim lived possibly twenty minutes. A note was found in his pocketbook, one report stating that he explained he had more than he could bear, that he hoped the Lord would forgive him. The coroner found that no formal inquest was necessary, that the victim had used a yard stick to push the trigger of the gun.

Mr. Smith, 52 years old, was a son of the late Aaron E. and Elizabeth Taylor Smith. Following the death of his father he had continued the operation of the family farm, and was thought to have been getting along very well.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Blanche Roberson who died some years ago.

Surviving are five daughters, Mrs. Clinton Johnson, Mrs. Johnny H. Ross and Miss Betsy Smith, all of Robersonville, Mrs. Moses Langlet of Stokes and Mrs. Ernest Johnson of Oak City; five grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Sally Cox and Mrs. Thomas Roberson, and one brother, Claude T. Smith, all of Robersonville.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Perry, pastor of the Robersonville Christian Church. Interment will be in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Local Band Draws Praise At Tarboro

Public acclaim which was given the Williamston High School Band during its participation in the Hospitality Day Parade at Tarboro last Friday afternoon, became official this week when Executive Secretary R. H. Davis of the Tarboro Merchants Association wrote Director Jack Butler here of the fine showing the band made.

The letter was addressed to Principal B. G. Stewart for transfer to the band and its members. "Thanks a million for sending my appreciation to all the members," Mr. Davis said. "Everyone here was amazed that a town of your size could have such a magnificent organization."

Gus Pitt, Negro, Slightly Wounded At Parmele Store

Losing Rifle, Fifteen-Year-Old Brings Up Shotgun Reinforcements

John Smith, fifteen-year-old problem boy, broke up a card game in Verna Little's little store in Parmele last Sunday noon, employing armed force to do it.

Recounting the rather serious developments growing out of the "friendly" card game, Deputy Sheriff Buck Holloman said that the Smith boy was playing cards with friends in the Little store when Walter Lewis, about 21, came in and took the boy's cards and forced his way into the game. Smith, admittedly a problem child, went to his home about 100 or so yards away and came back with a loaded .22 calibre rifle. When he marched into the store, James Curtis grabbed the weapon and during the scuffle the rifle fired, but no one was hit. Gus Pitt took the rifle and broke it into several pieces by beating it over a post.

Apparently having failed in his first mission, Smith returned to his home for reinforcements and came back with a double barrel shot gun fully loaded and with extra shells in his pocket. About the time he took a stand on the railroad, Pitt saw him and started to dart into the store door. Smith let go with both barrels, several shot striking Pitt in his shoulder and face. Other shot pierced the windows and the card game was over for the day.

Pitt was treated for his wounds which were said not to be serious. Officers arrested the lad and placed him in jail, later releasing him in the custody of his father, Julius Smith. He is to be given a hearing before L. B. Wynne, judge of the county juvenile court, but no date had been fixed early today.

Reports state that the boy has given much trouble in the school at Parmele, that officers had on one occasion removed all firearms from the Smith home.

Following the attack Sunday, several colored persons were said to have threatened the boy, officers considering it advisable to remove him to the county jail for his own safety.

Wrecks His Car To Miss A Dog

Ray T. Wells, Plymouth man, badly wrecked his 1947 Ford sedan shortly after 6:00 o'clock Sunday evening when he turned quickly to his left to avoid striking a common, ordinary dog on U. S. Highway 64 between Plymouth and Dardens.

Driving toward Jamesville, Wells passed a car and was just turning to his side of the road when the dog ran into the highway. The driver pulled to the left and the car went out of control when it struck the left hand shoulder. Plowing down the roadside ditch a short distance, the car turned over, landing on all four wheels.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman M. F. Powers stated that Wells, riding alone, was not hurt but that the damage to the car will approximate \$650.

The accident was the only one reported in this county over the week-end, members of the patrol stating that the large volume of traffic moved without incident in other parts of the county.

Expected Home Today From Richmond Hospital

Mrs. Myrtle Brown, well-known local woman who underwent an operation in a Richmond hospital last Thursday morning, is being transferred to Brown's Community Hospital here today. She continues quite sick. She is making the trip home in a Biggs ambulance, accompanied by Mrs. B. C. Brown and Billy Biggs and Thad F. Harrison.