

Happy New Year
1949

THE ENTERPRISE

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ESTABLISHED 1899

Accidental Death Toll Exceeds 400 During Week-end

Several Hundred Injured In Nation During The Long Holiday

More than 400 people lost their lives and hundreds of others were injured, many critically, in various types of accidents in the nation during the long holiday week-end according to preliminary reports released by safety agencies.

The report stated that 288 were killed in motor vehicle accidents. Of the 114 deaths from miscellaneous accidents, nearly forty were from fires.

At New Brunswick, N. J., seven members of one family perished in a fire which destroyed their home Christmas Day. A family of six died in a fire at Barre, Mass., and a mother and two daughters lost their lives in a fire at Terre Haute, Indiana. Other fires claimed the lives of four members of one family at Kansas City and five persons in Bessemer, Alabama. A woman and her granddaughter died as the result of a fire which destroyed a trailer at Philadelphia, and three persons died in an automobile fire near Falmouth, Ky.

Three other persons were frozen to death, two in Maryland where the temperature dropped to near zero, and one in Tennessee. In North Carolina at least twelve persons lost their lives in accidents during the long week-end, including six in highway accidents and six in fires. Three of those burned to death were colored children living near Roper.

Since the week-end, the death toll has continued to climb, boosting the number of untimely deaths to near an all-time record.

Car Turns Over Here Wednesday

Acting to avoid striking a child in the highway at Sunny Side Inn Tuesday afternoon at 1:45 o'clock, Albert Eckhardt of Hightstown, New Jersey, wrecked his car and trailer but hurt no one and escaped injury himself.

Driving into Williamston, Eckhardt swerved to the left when a child darted into the road. The turn broke the trailer loose and it went on down the road, coming to a stop right side up and undamaged. The car, making a complete turn, went into a ditch and turned over, causing considerable damage.

The accident, investigated by local officers, was the only one reported in town during the holiday season.

WEATHER

It's been quite some time since ideal weather existed for Christmas, but the elements last Saturday offered a varied combination. It was a bit chilly, to be sure, but there was rain with several snow flurries. Shortly after noon it looked as if there would be a white Christmas—for a half a day, at least.

Then the real weather broke that night, forcing the mercury down to 12 degrees Sunday morning. Ole Man Winter applied just a little more pressure Monday morning and the mercury dropped to ten. He relented a bit Tuesday morning when a low of 26 degrees was recorded here, and yesterday the mercury stood at 48. This morning the reading was 54 with plenty of rain.

Values Are Set For Personal Properties

BUSINESS

While it fell below previous marks, business, as a whole, came up to expectations here during the pre-Christmas season, according to reports coming from operators of several firms.

Several firms reported record sales during the few days just before Christmas, but the local ABC store, while reporting \$6,600 sales the day before Christmas, fell about \$700 below the all-time record reported on the corresponding day a year ago.

Mrs. Gurganus Struck By Car

Mrs. L. H. Gurganus was painfully but not critically injured when she was struck by a car as she walked along Highway 84 near her home in West End at 9:00 o'clock last evening. She suffered a fracture of both bones in her left leg and bruises and shock.

Removed to the Robersonville Clinic in a Biggs Ambulance, she was able to return home a few hours later after being treated by Drs. Ward and Ward.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman J. T. Rowe said that Mrs. Gurganus was walking toward Williamston on the right side of the highway when a car driven by Armenious Robinson of 231 W. 45th St., New York, came up from behind. The driver told the officer that he was blinded by the lights of a car he was meeting and that he did not see the victim until he was right at her.

Robinson rendered what aid he could, it was said. A hearing will be held before Justice R. T. Johnson here this evening at 8:00 o'clock.

No charges were preferred by the investigating officer.

Ownership Change In Real Property

Although there is a decrease in the number of transfers, the real estate market continued to hold fairly firm in the county this year. A preliminary report gained this week shows that 392 pieces of real property changed hands by actual sale from the first of last January to Monday of this week.

The number of transfers were recorded by townships as follows: Jamesville, 32; Williams, 6; Griffins, 9; Bear Grass, 14; Williamston, 140; Robersonville, 103; Poplar Point, 3; Hamilton, 35, and Goose Nest, 28.

Most of the transfers were in those townships having towns, meaning that town lots and other town property figured heavily in the number.

New Pastor For Hassell Church

Rev. Olin Fox of Dublin, Georgia, is moving in the Hassell Christian parsonage this week and will begin his pastorage for the New Year, holding his first service there Sunday morning at 11. Rev. C. C. Ware of Wilson will be on hand to conduct the installation service and friends from Oak City and Everetts are urged to join the Hassell group in extending a welcome to the new minister. The public is invited to attend this and all other services.

Some Relief Will Be Offered Auto Owners Next Year

Tax Supervisor M. L. Peel Anticipating Increase In 1949 Valuations

Meeting in the courthouse Tuesday morning, Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel and list-takers from the several townships set up a schedule of values for personal property in the county for taxation in 1949, all agreeing that the automobile owner is entitled to a bit of consideration. For the most part, the schedule of values is little changed from the one in effect last year.

Discussing the valuation prospects for the new year, Supervisor Peel explained that there was a mandate for a ten percent horizontal increase in real estate listings, that with that to support the listings there should be some gain in the 1949 values. It was pointed out, however, that comparatively little farm produce is held where it is taxable, that personal property values could hardly be expected to hold their own.

While the list-takers are to go by the automotive red book in placing values on motor vehicles, the 1949 list is from ten to fifteen percent below the assessed values for 1948.

The list-takers, acting subject to last-minute instructions from the county commissioners, may consider making upward adjustments in real estate listings where the values appear out of line. Downward adjustments, if any, are to be handled by the commissioners when they sit as a board of equalization and review later in the year.

Supervisor Peel announced that there would be no farm census to be taken by the list-takers in 1949. He instructed them to give the names of employers when polltaxers give in their names. It was also explained that the disabled, including war veterans drawing disability allotments, are not subject to poll taxes.

Stocks of goods and inventories are to be listed at two-thirds of their established value. The list-takers are to note any irregularities which are to be checked against income tax returns.

Tractors are to be listed at 60 percent of their purchase price plus any repairs but less ten percent annual depreciation.

Peanuts, a scarce item in storage houses this year, are to be listed at \$6 per bag, based on two-thirds of the actual inventory.

Household goods and furniture are to be listed at about eighteen or twenty percent of the listed value of the home with no listings to fall under that amount, it was suggested.

(Continued on page four)

Badly Injured By Falling Tree

Jay Revels, young Griffins Township man, was badly but believed not seriously hurt by a falling tree on his farm last Friday.

Reports reaching here stated that he was struck by the saw when the tree fell off the stump, that the blade pierced the hip and cut off a piece of the bone. His ankle was also fractured.

He was said to be getting along very well today in the local hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

Funeral Service Sunday Afternoon For Cecil Bonds

Young Man Was Killed In The Invasion Of Saipan June 15, 1944

Funeral services will be conducted in the Skewarkey Primitive Baptist Church at 3:00 o'clock for Pfc. Cecil Bradford Bonds, Martin County young man who was killed in the invasion of Saipan in the Marianas Islands of the Pacific on June 15, 1944. Elders E. C. Stevenson and A. B. Ayers will officiate, and a detail from the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion will be in charge of the military rites at the graveside in the Skewarkey Cemetery.

The body will be moved to the home of his mother just out of Williamston on the Jamesville Highway Saturday morning at 10:30 o'clock from the Biggs Funeral Home.

Pvt. Bonds was born near Williamston on May 22, 1923, the son of Mrs. Ella Allen Bonds and the late John Bonds. He lived and farmed all his life near Williamston until he entered the service on October 6, 1943. At the time of his death he was serving in Company E of the Fourth Marine Division, his unit being among the first to go into Saipan. He attended the Williamston schools, and while home on furlough from the service he was married on September 28, 1943, to Miss Mildred Bowen who survives.

He is remembered here as an industrious young man and one who held the respect of both old and young.

Surviving are his mother; four brothers, Melvin, Fenner, Earl, and U. A. Bonds, all of near Williamston; and three sisters, Mrs. Jesse Clark of near Everetts, and Mrs. Virginia Donaldson and Mrs. Herman Moore, both of near Williamston.

Precautionary Action Taken

Aware of the apparent increase in robberies and other law violations in some sections of the state, local law enforcement officers took precautionary steps to protect local properties during the holiday season.

"We had sufficient reason to warn shopowners to exercise care in handling their Christmas-evening receipts," Chief W. E. Saunders said. The banks remained open with officers on duty while the store owners deposited their sales for the day.

A suspicious character was detained, and apparently the precautionary action was timely.

Christmas Season Quietly Observed

Although packed with cheerfulness and gaiety, the holiday observance was without serious incident in this county with the exception of an alarming number of highway accidents. There were no accidental deaths, serious affairs or disturbances, the various police officers and members of the sheriff's department stating that the observance was about as quiet as any they could recall.

A few fire-cracker reports were heard, and several dynamite blasts startled sound sleepers late one or two nights, but other than those few sounds all was quiet and peaceful.

Near-extreme weather conditions held most people indoors during the long week-end here.

More Men Called To Station For Induction Tests

Only One of Three Instructed To Answer Yesterday Reported

With its manpower pool at a very low point, the Martin County Selective Service Board this week issued calls to eighteen men to report for pre-induction examinations.

Three of the eighteen were to go to the station at Fayetteville yesterday, but only one showed up in time to board the bus at 10:45 o'clock. One was dropped from the list when it was learned he had married since the registration. The other one who did not make the trip yesterday was Willie David Boston, Jr., colored, of RFD 1, Jamesville. Boston, explaining he could not catch a ride, came in from Jamesville on the bus and went to the draft board office and while he was there the Fayetteville bus left. He was instructed to return today, and to get off one bus and on the other one. William Taylor Everett, white, of Robersonville, made the trip alone.

The names of the fifteen men instructed to report today for the preinduction examinations and their addresses are:

Willie Cherry, col., of RFD 1, Oak City and Washington, D. C. Edro and Fedro Latham, colored twins, RFD 3, Williamston. William C. Hopkins, white, of Everetts.

Chas. Watts Fagan, col., RFD 1, Williamston. John A. Carroll, col., RFD 3, Williamston.

William E. Manning, white, RFD 2, Robersonville.

William E. Wallace, col., Everetts.

William A. Spruill, col., Everetts.

Thomas M. Pearson, white, Oak City.

Herbert C. Gardner, white, RFD 1, Jamesville.

Willie E. Revels, white, RFD 1, Williamston.

Kerfew A. Wooten, col., RFD 3, Williamston.

William H. Manson, II, col., Williamston.

Jim Outterbridge, Jr., col., Williamston.

Thousand Cars In Friendship Train

Authorities, sponsoring the operation of Friendship Trains in twenty-four states, announced this week that approximately one thousand carloads of food and farm products had moved into various ports for shipment to victims of war overseas.

Shiploadings are now in progress at Seattle, New Orleans, Galveston, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, San Francisco and Portland.

Iowa is believed to have led the states with the largest carload contribution. That state loaded 275 cars. Indiana loaded 200, Illinois, 156, and Nebraska, 100.

A complete report for North Carolina is not yet available, but the loadings are believed to have lagged in some counties.

Martin County sent over 36,000 pounds of food and commodities.

Firemen Called Out Here Last Evening

Local firemen were called out at 10:45 last evening when an oil stove went out of control in the Woodrow Ray home on North Houghton Street.

No damage was done but the stove was heated almost to the bursting point when firemen reached there just in time to bring the fire under control.

Road Accidents Mar Holiday Observance

None Killed But One Dangerously Hurt In Wrecks

At Least Ten Accidents Reported On County Highways

Marked by quietness for the most part and without serious incident on other fronts, the holiday observance in Martin County was marred by an alarming number of highway accidents, at least one of them resulting in grave injuries to a victim. The observance was aggravated, however, yesterday when a small child was accidentally killed by a shot gun blast in Hamilton.

Including one in West End last evening, the number of highway-street accidents stood at ten this morning for the holiday season in Martin County, according to information furnished by patrolmen, police officers and others.

While no one was killed in car wrecks, one of the victims lies in a Richmond hospital with a broken back, a fractured hip and head injuries. Stanley Leggett, young Bertie County man who nearly lost his life in an accident at 12:30 o'clock Christmas morning on the Jamesville Highway a few miles out of Williamston, is given a chance to recover if no complications develop. Driving toward Williamston, Leggett lost control of his 1941 Ford on a curve near Holly Springs Church and the machine turned over twice, breaking his back, fracturing his hip and causing injuries to his head. Treated in Brown's Hospital, he was later removed to Richmond.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman J. T. Rowe said damage to the car will approximate \$1,000. "It was torn just about all to pieces," the officer explained.

The young man underwent an operation Tuesday and was reported yesterday to be getting along only fair, the doctors explaining that it would be at least five days before they could give anything like an accurate report on his condition.

The first in the series of accidents during the holiday week was reported between Hobgood and Oak City. Dr. E. E. Pittman was driving toward Oak City and when blinded by the lights of an approaching truck, he applied his brakes. The car skidded into a ditch. Some damage was done to the car and the driver, but shock, but quickly recovered, it was said.

The second in the series of accidents reported was one on a dirt road in Griffins Township at 1:30 a. m. on the 24th. Alfred T. Tice lost control of his 1948 Kaiser on a curve and the machine turned over, injuring no one, but causing damage estimated at \$800. Patrolman J. T. Rowe made the investigation.

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Lose Fingers In Sausage Grinders

Several persons have lost portions of their left index fingers in sausage mills so far during the hog killing season in this county, according to reports received here. Two of the victims had their fingers removed to the first joint, and another is said to have lost his to the second along with part of the adjoining finger.

Two of the sausage mill victims treated in local doctors' offices were Elbert Rawls and Bill Leary.

LIMITED

Saturday of this week, New Year's Day, will be observed as a holiday by a limited number of offices and business firms here, but the stores will remain open.

There'll be no postal deliveries and the banks, including the Guaranty at Robersonville, will be closed along with federal and state offices. County offices will be open for the morning, as usual on Saturday.

Fire Destroys Country Home

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the seven room home on the old Hines family farm near Oak City early last evening. All the contents were also burned.

Occupying the home, Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Strickland and four children were away at the time, the last member of the family having left about an hour before the fire was discovered. Starting in an upstairs room or the attic, the fire spread rapidly making it impossible for anyone to go inside and save any of the furniture.

One report stated that about \$3,000 insurance was carried on the home and contents combined. The house was owned by the John W. Hines estate, Wilbur Barrett, who has the property in charge, stating that it would cost \$10,000 or more to replace it.

Receiving a call for help, Williamston sent one of its fire trucks there but the firemen could do nothing. A favorable wind carried the sparks and heat away from nearby buildings.

Young County Man Dies In Hospital

James Russell Ausbon, in feeble health all his life, died in the local hospital last Thursday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock following a stroke of paralysis.

Making his home with a sister in Jamesville, he was taken ill the Sunday before and was removed to the hospital Tuesday when his condition did not improve.

The son of Jeff Ausbon and the late Mamie Britton Ausbon, he was born in Beaufort County 27 years ago.

Surviving besides his father are three sisters, Mrs. Gilbert Rawls of Bear Grass, Mrs. Albert Coltrain of Jamesville, and Mrs. Herbert Jackson of Pitt County, and a brother, LeRoy Ausbon of Eden.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of his sister in Bear Grass last Friday afternoon by Rev. J. M. Perry. Interment was in the Ausbon Cemetery in Cross Roads Township.

Officers Solve Overcoat Thefts

The theft of three overcoats from a parked car on the main street here on the night of Sunday, December 19, was solved three days later by local police when they arrested James Earl Felton, 16, and Jimmy Watts and William Russell Saunders, both 17 years of age. The colored youths were detained in jail.

The overcoats, recovered and undamaged, belonged to three Robersonville young men, Chief W. E. Saunders said.

Child Victim Of Shot Gun Blast At Cousin's Home

Clayton Squires, Jr., Killed Instantly In Hamilton Yesterday Afternoon

Alton Clayton Squires, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Squires of Oak City, was accidentally shot and killed by his thirteen-year-old cousin, Irving Baker, at the Baker home in Hamilton Wednesday afternoon about 2:00 o'clock. A load of shot from a 12-gauge gun tore into the little fellow's head and neck, causing instant death. Up until that time there had not been a fatal accident in this county during the holiday season.

The Baker boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Baker, had been hunting with Elton Josh Pritchett and was returning home where the victim, his mother and sister were spending the day. The Squires child was playing in the back yard with his cousin, Lizzie Baker, as the Baker boy approached. When Baker was within about eight feet of the boy, the gun which he was carrying under his arm accidentally fired. Pritchett, who was accompanying Baker at the time, said his back was turned just then and he hardly knew what happened until he saw the little victim topple over fatally shot. The other little cousin, Lizzie Baker, who witnessed the tragedy could offer no explanation.

Making an investigation, Coroner S. R. Biggs and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Deputy Murray Holcomb said they were convinced the shooting was accidental. A coroner's jury, composed of R. F. Everett, Henry Johnson, W. F. Thomas, Stanley Ayers, Don Matthews, Jr., and E. M. Taylor, conducted an investigation and ruled that the shooting was accidental.

The Baker lad, badly unnerved, said that he thought he had removed the shell from the gun, that he was carrying the weapon under his arm when it accidentally fired and struck the boy.

Surviving are the parents, Alton Clayton Squires, Sr., and Lula Baker Squires, and one sister.

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Safe Stolen From Bank In Ahoskie

Backing up a truck equipped with special rigging to an Ahoskie bank, robbers made away with a fairly large safe this morning shortly after 5:00 o'clock, according to reports reaching here.

Few details could be learned immediately, but FBI agents were ordered to the scene and members of the highway patrol, including several in this county, started a search.

The robbers were tracked in the direction of Rich Square but early today no arrests had been made.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Although boosted considerably during the holiday period, the motor accident record figures for this county this year are not running greatly in excess of those a year ago.

With only one more day in the year, the accident count for 1948 now stands at 150 highway and street accidents, 84 injured, several for life, two killed and a property damage of \$37,750.

For 1947 the count stood 139 accidents, 62 injured, three killed and \$30,115 property damage.