

## Critically Hurt In Car Accident Monday Afternoon

### Mrs. Herman Reddick Moved To Rocky Mount Hospital "All Broken Up"

Mrs. Herman Reddick of the Dardens community was critically hurt and Mrs. J. A. Davenport suffered back and chest injuries in an automobile accident about two miles east of Jamesville on Highway 64 yesterday afternoon shortly after 5:00 o'clock. A report received here late last evening from a Rocky Mount hospital where she was carried for treatment stated that she was "all broken up and that her condition was serious." It was thought she suffered a broken shoulder and possibly a broken back. A preliminary examination at the scene of the accident said she apparently was paralyzed from the waist down. Given first aid treatment here, Mrs. Reddick was carried on to the Rocky Mount hospital in Horner's ambulance.

Mrs. Davenport was carried to Plymouth by Messrs. W. O. Abbutt and Dick Elliott and was later removed to her home near Dardens.

Accompanied by Mrs. Reddick, Mrs. Davenport and Miss Helen Davenport, a student at ECTC, Greenville, Mrs. Fred Woolard was driving her 1937 Chevrolet coach toward Dardens when something went wrong with the steering mechanism. Running about 10 miles an hour, the car went out 120 feet down the right shoulder of the road, swerved and skidded across the highway and turned over on its side in a deep ditch. The top was smashed, Patrolman M. F. Powers, making the investigation, stating that the damage to the machine would approximate \$200 or more.

Mrs. Woolard and Miss Davenport suffered slight shock but were not badly hurt. Mrs. Woolard accompanied Mrs. Reddick to the hospital in the ambulance.

About three hours earlier, Grady T. Douglas of near Washington lost control of his 1939 Plymouth convertible coupe about two and one-half miles south of Farm Life on Highway 171 and plowed a furrow about 140 feet long on the left side of the highway before swerving to his right across the road and tearing down two fence posts and rolling up a part of Farmer Coy J. Roberson's farm fence before coming to a stop. No one was hurt and damages, estimated by investigating patrolman, M. F. Powers, at \$65 to property and the car, were accepted by the car owner, Mrs. Douglas. The driver was charged with careless and reckless driving.

## National Family Week, May 1 To 8

President Harry Truman called on the American people to "emphasize the spiritual values in family life" in a letter endorsing National Family Week, May 1 through the 8th (Mother's Day).

Protestants, Catholics and Jews will observe the week-end of May 7 and 8 for the seventh year.

"It is difficult to think of a stable home which is not undergirded with a deep religious faith—an implicit trust in the wisdom of Divine Providence and the guidance which alone comes from on High," wrote the Chief Executive.

## ROUND-UP

Seven persons were rounded up and temporarily detained in the Martin County jail last week-end by local, county and state officers.

Three were booked for public drunkenness, two for drunken driving and one for possessing illicit liquor. A seventh one, mentally ill, was held in the jail because there wasn't room in an institution for him.

Three of the seven were white, including a young mother. Ages of the group ranged from 26 to 46 years.

## Postal Receipts Set New Record Here Last Quarter

After showing moderate gains for a number of years, stamp sales at the local post office boomed last quarter to break all records for the first three months in any year, according to information released a few days ago by Postmaster W. E. Dunn.

"If the gain ratio can be maintained throughout the year, the office is almost certain to get a first class rating," the postmaster explained.

After losing a little ground in January as compared with the revenue reported in the corresponding month last year, receipts jumped from \$1,959.28 in February, 1948, to \$3,012.23 in February of this year. Receipts in March were more than \$500 in excess of those for the corresponding month in 1948.

Receipts for the first quarter this year were \$9,708.51 as compared with \$8,250.06 in the first three months of 1948, a gain of \$1,457.45 for the period.

Money order business handled by the office also showed a gain last quarter over the first quarter, 1948, figures, but the month of March business this year was about \$2,000 below the figures for the corresponding month in 1948. The money order business in the first quarter of this year amounted to \$86,160.31 as compared with \$62,782.96 a year ago.

While increases in postal rates on third class matter and parcel post accounted for some of the increased revenue, Postmaster Dunn said that most of it was traceable to a general growth in the town and community.

## NEW BAR MEMBER



Passing the State bar in Raleigh a short time ago, Junie Peel, son of Attorney and Mrs. Elbert S. Peel, was admitted to practice law in the North Carolina courts when he accepted the oath administered by Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn in the superior court here this morning. After an interruption in his education during the war years, the young man completed his courses at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, a short time ago, and is now in partnership with his father for the practice of law here.

## Superior Court In Special Term

The Martin County Superior Court opened a special two-week term this morning for the trial of civil cases only. No sessions were held yesterday, the court recognizing Easter Monday as a holiday.

Other than witnesses, jurors, litigants and bar members there were very few in attendance upon the opening session.

Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn of Woodland is presiding over the term.

Sworn in as a practicing attorney in the North Carolina courts, Elbert S. Peel, Jr., was advised by Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn to get a copy of "10,000 a Year" and read it carefully. "It's the finest book on intricacies and technicalities of the law," the jurist said. Judge Burgwyn, administering the oath after a solemn fashion, said that it was a pleasure to swear the young man in as a member of what he considered one of the finest professions in the world. "I have known your father almost all his life, and I knew your grandfather. He was a great man," the jurist said, wishing the new attorney success and happiness in following his profession.

Attorney B. A. Critcher, recognized dean of the Martin County Bar, spoke briefly, "In behalf of this fine young man, it seems that it falls to my lot to be called the dean of the bar by all these young men. I have known that boy since he was a baby. I have watched him grow and develop. I have talked with his father about him a thousand times, and I want to say that, knowing him as I do, the character and the ability he has, I am certain he will add honor to the Martin County Bar."

## Native Of County Died Late Sunday In Winston-Salem

### Funeral For Miss Codie Purvis Wednesday Afternoon In Hamilton

Miss Codie Purvis, member of a family well known in Martin County for many years, died in a nursing home at Winston-Salem last Sunday evening at 9:00 o'clock. She had been in declining health for a number of years and her condition had been serious following a fall in which she broke her hip the latter part of last year.

The daughter of the late William Weathersbee Purvis and Martha Howell Purvis, she was born in this county 85 years ago on November 6, 1863, and spent most of her life in Hamilton where she was well known and where she was a faithful member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church for many years.

Some time after the death of a sister with whom she made her home in Hamilton for years, she moved to Salisbury to live with her brother, Dr. Surry Purvis. After his death she entered a nursing home in Winston-Salem. Miss Purvis visited her old home about a year or more ago for the last time. She was the last member of her immediate family and is survived by several nieces and nephews in this county.

The body was brought to this county late Monday afternoon and will lie in state at the Biggs Funeral Home in Williamston until Wednesday afternoon when it will be moved to the Episcopal Church in Hamilton at 2:00 for the service there half an hour later. The Rev. Mr. Matthews of Washington will conduct the service and interment will be in the family plot in the Hamilton Cemetery.

## Tourists Helping British Economy

In England's severe economic plight not a little relief is being brought in by tourists, of whom an estimated 500,000 went to that country last year. Of these about 75,000 were from the United States. The number of tourists visiting the islands last year was larger than in any other year for the past twenty-eight. The largest proportion of visitors went on pleasure trips; officials estimated that not more than 90,000 went there with business in view. The tourist figures do not include foreign visitors in transit, of whom 27,000 were Americans, nor tourists from Ireland. Britons went touring, too, in great numbers last year, despite currency restrictions, according to the report. Including those going to the Channel Islands, about 1,500,000 spent vacations abroad.

## Receives Transfusions In the Local Hospital

Little Miss Nancy Harrison, nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Harrison of Bear Grass, received her seventh blood transfusion in the hospital here last week and was reported feeling fine this morning as she made ready to return to school.

## Local Boy Killed In Accident Near Camp Lee Saturday

### Funeral Here Today At Grandmother's Home for Bobby Edmondson

Fatally injured in a truck accident, Pvt. Bobby Edmondson, U. S. Army, and a native of Williamston died while being carried to a Petersburg, Va., hospital about noon last Saturday. Few details of the accident could be learned here immediately, but it was reported that the young man was hitch-hiking home from his station at Ft. Belvoir in Virginia and caught a ride on a truck, that the truck turned over and fractured his skull. It was also reported that the truck driver was being held pending further investigation by Virginia highway patrolmen.

The son of Robert and Mary Davenport Edmondson, he was born in Williamston on November 18, 1930. When a few months old he was adopted by his grandmother, Mrs. Clyde Owens, and spent most of his life here attending the local schools and handling various jobs. In June of last year he volunteered for service in the army and had been stationed at Ft. Belvoir, Va., after completing his basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. He was home for his last visit the previous week-end.

His body, accompanied by an escort from Camp Lee, Va., reached here yesterday afternoon and funeral services are being conducted at his late home on the Hamilton Road just outside of town this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Rev. John L. Goff. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Surviving besides his father and mother are a sister, Mrs. Helen Davis of Windsor; three half-sisters, Jill, Ann and Susie Edmondson, all of Williamston; five half-brothers, Larry Edmondson of Williamston, and John H., Paul, William and Jimmy Manning, all of Bertie County; and five brothers and sisters by adoption, Mrs. Wm. Whitley, Mrs. Tommy Bland, Arthur, Robert and J. T. Edmondson, all of Williamston.

## Jaycees Name New Officers Friday

Holding a regular dinner meeting last Friday evening the Junior Chamber of Commerce conducted their annual election of officers for the forthcoming fiscal year. The following were elected: Thad F. Harrison, president; J. O. Manning, Jr., 1st vice president; Edgar Gurganus, 2nd vice president; T. F. Davenport, secretary; Lewis Phippen, treasurer; Dr. W. H. Gray, Jr., State director; Jack Edmondson, sergeant at arms; Robert Cower, James Bullock and Worth Mobley club directors to serve two years.

President Ward thanked Jaycee Nelson Leggett on behalf of the entire club for the wonderful job he did in directing and managing the recent very successful minstrel show. Treasurer Billy Biggs supported President Ward's remarks by giving a financial report which showed the minstrel was a success. After a suggestion by Jaycee Ernest Mears the club voted to make the minstrel annual project.

A rousing round of applause was given Bob Wilson for his very fine coaching in the chorus that took part in the minstrel.

Jaycee Thad Harrison announced his plans to attend the Jaycee State Convention which will be held early in May in Asheville.

The club voted to contribute to the Fat Stock Show which will take place May 12 and 13.

Two new members were added to the club's roll when chairman of the membership committee, Edgar Gurganus, received E. S. Peel, Jr., and Wilbur Jackson into the organization.

The meeting was well attended and a bountiful meal was served by the Junior Class of Williamston High School. Edgar Gurganus pronounced the invocation. Bill Gray led the group in singing the first verse of America. The fellowship prize awarded by Oswald Stalls was received by Jack Mobley.

## Hundreds Attend Easter Services Here Last Sunday

### Sunrise Service in Woodlawn Cemetery; Churches Crowded for Worship

Near-record congregations were reported at all the religious services during the Easter season here.

The first in the series of religious events was the Easter cantata, "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Dubois, in the Memorial Baptist Church Friday evening.

The cantata, which was beautifully rendered, was under the direction of Miss Ida Privette, choir director. Accompanying the choir on the organ and piano were Mrs. J. M. Ward and Mrs. Wheeler Martin respectively.

Miss Ida Privette and Mrs. George Wynne, sopranos, Mr. Joe Davenport, tenor and Rev. Stewart Simms, baritone, were soloists.

Despite temperatures hovering around the freezing point, a record-size crowd was present for the sunrise service in Woodlawn Cemetery. Led by Rev. Jim Lowry, the service was supported by the several denominations and attracted quite a few visitors from the rural communities and surrounding towns.

Churches were crowded for Sunday school and the morning worship services, and fair attendance figures were reported at the evening services.

The Easter parade was possibly a little more marked for its splendor than the one a year ago, the weather apparently having little to do with styles and dress planned for the day.

Traffic was heavy through here during the limited holiday, and it moved over the highways in this county without accident until yesterday afternoon.

## The Tragedy Of Road Accidents

"The tragic part of any accident is that Fate has so little to do with it—and the individual so much," Commissioner Landon C. Rosser of the Department of Motor Vehicles said today in connection with North Carolina's current campaign to emphasize the individual's responsibility for traffic safety.

"Drivers in nearly three-fourths of all fatal accidents in 1947, for instance, were violating some traffic regulation at the time, as were three out of four pedestrians who were victims of fatal accidents."

Personal responsibility, and the fact that "It Can Happen to You," Commissioner Rosser pointed out, is the theme of the traffic safety educational program being sponsored by the Motor Vehicles Department during April. "Your Life Is In Your Hands" is the official slogan of the program which is part of a national campaign sponsored by the National Safety Council.

"Most accidents go back," Commissioner Rosser said, "to the unwise driver who is his own worst enemy, and that a traffic-fool is everyone's enemy."

"Traffic accidents cost North Carolina 734 lives last year in addition to 7,490 injuries," he said. "With a little more thought, or care, or both, most of these accidents would not have occurred. Every individual must take responsibility for his own safety—must assume that, potentially, every life around him is in his hands."

The current drive, Commissioner Rosser said, offers everyone the opportunity to save at least one life—his own. After all, the "other guy"—the mysterious victim of so many accidents—might be YOU.

## Represented County At ECTC High School Event

Martin County was well represented at the High School Day held at East Carolina Teachers College in Greenville last week. Bear Grass School sent nine, Jamesville and Oak City 18 each and Williamston, 25.

## Drunken Mother Led To Jail By Her Son

### Three Men Nearly Drown In Roanoke River Last Week

#### Parents and Companion Jailed and Boy Returned To Home by Patrolmen

"It was one of the most pathetic scenes I have ever witnessed," Sheriff C. B. Roebuck declared when he told how a 12-year-old son took the hand of his drunken mother and led her into the Martin County jail last Saturday afternoon. "Mamma, please stop cursing and come on to jail where you can sober up," the boy pleaded, according to the story told by the sheriff. The mother, accompanied by her drunken husband and a friend who was booked for drunken driving, staggered down the hall in the courthouse holding to her young son's hand. She entered the jail, uttering one oath after another.

The son, tears rolling down his face after he was left alone, declared he was hungry. A dollar was offered by the sheriff and the boy at a local cafe proved he was hungry. Patrolmen relayed the youngster to his home somewhere between Pinetops and Wilson.

The parents, son and friend went to Jamesville on a fishing trip that morning. The friend, driving the car while drunk, ditched the machine near the river and Patrolman E. P. Simmons and Officer Dallas Holliday arrested the man and his wife and friend and placed them in the county jail. After seeing the sunrise Easter morning they arranged bond and were released.

The pathetic case followed closely a near tragedy in the Roanoke at Jamesville, reports stating that three drunks were dragged from the stream there.

Ignoring the warnings issued by several who know how treacherous the Roanoke can be, and declaring they could "master the damn river," the three men, said to have been in a drunken condition, tumbled out of their small boat a few minutes later. One caught hold of a limb hanging over the river, and the other two held to the boat until they were rescued by a detail from Fleming's fishery. After thawing out a bit they were transferred across the river in a big flat, one of them declaring he would not ride in a small boat. They later returned to their homes near Rocky Mount.

Three persons lost their lives during the fishing season in the Roanoke last year, but no drownings have been reported in the stream so far this year along the Martin County bank.

## Club Department Offers Program

The Fine Arts Department of the local Woman's Club is sponsoring a special program in the high school auditorium this evening at 8:00 o'clock. The program is featuring special numbers by Mrs. Patterson's high school glee club, mixed quartets, duets and vocal selections by Miss Ida Privette.

A short film on cancer control will be shown by the Martin County Health Department.

## England Reports Divorce Increase

The divorce rate in England and Wales almost doubled in the first postwar year, 1946, according to reports from London. More than 30,000 divorce decrees were made absolute that year, nearly four times the yearly average for the previous ten years. More than 10,000 of the marriages had lasted more than ten years, while 2,280 of the couples had been married twenty years or more.

A large increase in the birth-rate was also announced for 1946. There were 820,719 births, a rate of 19.2 percent per thousand population.

## TRANSPLANTING

Tobacco transplanting for 1949 was off on a slow schedule in this county Monday afternoon when Farmer J. S. Ayers started setting plants for his eighteen-acre crop on the Sherrod farm between Oak City and Hamilton. Handling the task, Farmers Horace Johnson and Tom Christenberry plan to complete it within a week or ten days.

The plants were little damaged by blue mold, but the disease is playing havoc in other areas and transplanting will hardly get under way in this county on any appreciable scale before the latter part of this month, reports indicate.

## Cost Of A Fatal Accident Figured At About \$18,000

### More Than 700 Killed In Highway Accidents In State Last Year

Not only is the price of food high these days, but even the cost of a fatal automobile accident has reached the luxury class, according to Major Samuel L. Gaynor, assistant director of the Highway Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles, which is conducting the current safety campaign in North Carolina.

"Since the National Safety Council has estimated the unit cost of a traffic fatality at \$18,200 on the basis of wage loss, medical expense, overhead cost of insurance and property damage, the human body has become a valuable piece of machinery," Major Gaynor said in explaining the campaign's slogan: "Your Life Is In Your Hands."

The purpose of the current drive is to make everyone who walks or drives aware of his personal responsibility for traffic safety. "If nothing else," Major Gaynor said, "we'll consider the campaign a success if we can impress upon the individual the fact that accidents are something depending one-tenth on Fate and nine-tenths on human frailty. If you're in an accident the chances are good that a part of the carelessness or disregard for traffic regulations is yours," he added.

Every person exposed to traffic has too much at stake—the \$18,000 material loss and the incalculable distress of his loved ones—to ignore the fact that accidents are where you make them and that the bulk of them are definitely preventable, according to Major Gaynor.

"Last year 32,000 persons died in this country as a result of traffic accidents alone," Major Gaynor said. "A total of 234 persons, 490 were injured last year right here in North Carolina so it can be fatal to taken an impersonal, it-can't-happen-to-me attitude in the matter of traffic safety," he concluded.

## More Jobs Open In Civil Service

The U. S. Civil Service announced recently that examinations for medical X-ray technician and tobacco inspector will be held shortly, that applications for tobacco inspector must be received by the Commission not later than the 3rd of next month and for X-ray technician not later than June 7.

The X-ray position carries a top salary of \$2,974, and the tobacco inspector job pays as high as \$5,232 a year.

Interested parties are directed to contact H. O. Hundy, local secretary for the commission, at the Williamston Post Office for further information.

## 1,616 Workers In Non-Farm Jobs In County Last Year

### Average Wages Received In This County \$10 Below Those for the State

An all-time high in non-agricultural employment in North Carolina was reached in the third quarter of 1948, in which the average employment covered by the State's Employment Security Law reached 651,369 workers, a net gain of 5.52 percent, or 34,030 workers in the third quarter of 1947. A decline of 43c in the average weekly wage, from \$41.90 in the second quarter to \$41.47 in the third quarter, is shown.

These figures are included in the quarterly report of Hugh M. Raper, director of the Bureau of Research and Statistics, to Henry E. Kendall, chairman of the Employment Security Commission. Even with the decline in employment in the past few months, the conclusion is reached that employment now is as high as it had ever been in the State prior to 1943. The third quarter gain was attributed in part to the increase in seasonal employment in processing leaf tobacco, to which is also attributed, in part, the decline in average weekly wage.

In the 25 Mountain Area counties average employment declined less than one percent (0.73) from the second quarter. In manufacture the decline was 2.79 percent, but this was largely absorbed by gains in the service group. In 36 counties of the Piedmont area employment increased 1.75 percent, while in manufacture the increase was only 0.3 percent. In the Coastal area the gain was 7.43 percent over the second quarter, due almost entirely to seasonal tobacco operations.

Construction employment reached its post-war peak in the third quarter of 1948, 8.18 percent above the second quarter. Manufacture showed a decline of 1.16 from the second quarter. Transportation, communication and public utilities reached an all-time high, while trade and finance, insurance and real estate showed substantial gains. Service industries gained slightly.

Martin County, in the third quarter of 1948, had 1,616 covered workers employed, a gain of 13.40 percent from the second quarter. They received quarterly wages of \$661,928, an average weekly wage of \$31.50. Broken down into major classifications, employment, quarterly wages and average weekly wages in this county follow:

Construction, 18, \$11,141, \$47.61; Manufacture, 760, \$303,735, \$39.74; Transportation and Commerce, 94, \$73,502, \$65.00; Trade, 633, \$241,339, \$31.00; Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, 12, \$3,934, \$27.00; Service and other, 94, 28,277, \$25.

## Working on Radar Screen For Nation

President Truman recently signed into law a bill passed by Congress authorizing the setting up of a radar screen around North America to warn of the approach of enemy planes. The all-voice already has begun to build the warning system, with materials on hand. The bill authorizes an initial \$85,000,000 for the project, which Canada will help finance and install. It will cost the United States \$161,000,000. Pressure for the screen was intensified after military leaders asserted the United States is vulnerable to air attack over the polar ice cap. Reports of the approach of enemy planes would be relayed from the radar stations to control towers, which would dispatch fighter planes to intercept the enemy.

## AGED INCREASE

The number of persons over 65 years of age in the United States will reach 18 million by 1975, or virtually double the 1940 total, Dr. Clyde V. Kiser of the Milbank Memorial Fund, New York City, has estimated.

He urged "adequate and sound systems of social security" for the aged.