

Loses Life In River At Jamesville Today

Ira L. Alexander Falls From Boat And Is Drowned

Was Superintendent In The Section For The Mengel Corporation

Ira L. Alexander, timber superintendent in this section for the Mengel Corporation, lost his life in the Roanoke River near Jamesville at 6:20 o'clock this morning, Acting Coroner William Biggs stating that death was due to accidental drowning.

Starting out on a newly converted landing craft boat with a number of loggers, Mr. Alexander started to move around the outside rail to wipe off the windshield. He had moved only a short distance when he slipped and fell into the river, reports stating that he swam 60 or 70 feet down the river. Unable to effect a rescue with the large craft, members of the crew docked it and went after him in a canoe. He was recovered possibly within ten or fifteen minutes after the accident, and was thought to have been all right when pulled into the small boat by Herbert Williams.

Realizing that something was wrong, his rescuers called a doctor and a respirator was used about twenty minutes before he was pronounced dead.

About fifty years of age, Mr. Alexander was a native of Tyrrell County. Locating in Jamesville about twenty years ago, he was employed by the Foreman-Blades and Foreman-Derricks Lumber Companies, later going with the Mengel firm. During his stay in this county he had made many friends, and was recognized as a valuable citizen to his community. Funeral arrangements had not been completed early this afternoon.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Clara Alexander of Jamesville, and a brother, Dan Alexander of Durham.

Tenants Looking For Farm Places

For the first time in a number of years there's an apparently large surplus of tenants looking for new farm contracts in Martin County, and reports declare that they are finding it difficult to get places.

The tenants without contracts fall into two main classes, one farm observer pointed out. There are those who move from place to place every year, and there are those who are being crowded out by mechanized farming. The cold facts centering around the latter group indicate that quite a few farmers will work their own lands with tractors which are more numerous on Martin County farms this year than ever before. It is also pointed out that farmers, experiencing a decrease in income last year, are tightening up to meet costs in 1950.

Experiencing devastating weather conditions last summer, a few farmers in the county found it necessary to borrow on their 1950 crops to pay off their 1949 obligations, and it is likely that there'll be a sizable increase in the demand for 1950 production loans in this county.

Remembers Good Friend In His Will

In his brief will, Mr. V. G. Taylor, late of this county, remembered his good friend, Doc Hollis, with whom he had farmed and associated for a number of years.

Mr. Taylor left him \$1,000 and Mr. Hollis is to have the 75-acre Knox farm in Poplar Point for life along with implements and team. Mr. Taylor went further and provided that the farm should go to Mrs. Hollis in the event of Mr. Hollis' death.

The will, bearing no date, was very short, and offered no estimate of the value of the estate.

OUTSIDE BREAK-IN

An unknown thief, who apparently was acquainted with the lay of the land, handled a break-in from the outside at the Welch Auto Supply Company on the Everett Road near Williamston sometime during New Year's night. Breaking a glass in a side window, the thief reached his arm in and lifted about \$3.00 in change from the cash drawer, and went on about his business unnoticed.

Congress Opening A New Session In Washington Today

Truman Will Deliver Address To Joint Group At Noon On Wednesday

Congress is reconvening in Washington today with battle lines drawn for what is predicted by some observers to be a hot session. After the peace and quiet enjoyed while the body was in recess, the fireworks are scheduled to start popping without formality or delay.

"Fair Deal" plans are likely to encounter some stormy weather with the possibility that there'll be some dark dealing by coalition groups. Social Security extension to include many workers outside the program, is given a fair chance, but the fate of most of the other proposed "deals" is uncertain.

Leader Scott Lucas says the old tax measure will be taken up by the Senate first thing, and that it will remain the first order of business until settled.

President Truman will deliver his message to a joint meeting of the Senate and House Wednesday about noon, and long conferences among leaders will follow.

There will be a determined drive to lower taxes, the action being considered a political strategy move along with a loud call for reduced expenses.

Sen. Robert A. Taft, R., O., chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, predicted flatly that the session will turn down such demands as repeal of the Taft-Hartley labor-management law and enactment of the Brannan farm plan, compulsory health insurance, universal military training, and stand-by price controls.

Senate Democratic Leader Scott W. Lucas, Ill., doubted that most of these even would reach the Senate floor for a showdown roll call.

Most of the political fighting over the President's program is expected to center in the Senate. Senate Republicans and Democrats arranged for opening-week party conferences to start working on their strategy.

Local Man Faces Killing Charge

Harry Wilson, young Williamston colored man, is facing a murder charge in the Bertie County Superior Court following the killing of Ike Washington, colored man, with whom Wilson had made his home.

Wilson, said to have admitted last Friday the killing, was reported to have fired a load of shot through a window and struck Washington as he (Washington) listened to a program of Christmas music on the evening of December 24.

Wilson, called "Puddin'" left here the latter part of November, 1948, after he broke into the home of William Stokes on Washington Street and fired a load of shot through a door. Wilson escaped and when arrested by Sheriff Harry Smith a short time after the Christmas eve murder, he said that he had been living in High Point and other cities.

Accidental Death Toll In New Year Holiday Weekend

Incomplete Reports Place Highway Deaths In Excess Of 200

More than three hundred persons in the nation met tragic death during the New Year holiday week-end, according to incomplete tabulations. It is expected that corrected estimates will push the count still higher. However, the number of tragic deaths, so far, have fallen slightly under the 330 predicted by the National Safety Council.

The preliminary reports placed the highway toll at 201 deaths. Fire claimed another 41 lives, and at least 65 died in miscellaneous accidents, some of them of a freak nature.

When the estimates were made yesterday, tens of thousands of motorists had not returned to their homes from visits with relatives, some in distant states.

No tragic deaths were reported last week-end in this county, but one person died in an automobile accident the week before.

Tragedy centered within Williamston's city limits at 2:00 o'clock Sunday morning when two cars collided at a street intersection and three persons were killed and two injured, one critically.

The total dead reached thirteen in this State, nine in automobile accidents.

In last year's two-day New Year celebration, there were 309 violent deaths, 207 attributed to traffic accidents.

During the six major holidays in 1949, 2,717 persons died in violent accidents. The toll in traffic accidents for the first 11 months of 1949 came to 28,350—about 85 every 24 hours—but this figure includes deaths occurring months after the accidents. The holiday toll covers only immediate deaths.

Two fires in New Jersey ended life for eight youngsters. Five children perished when flames destroyed the two-room frame bungalow of John Davis near Hightstown. Three little girls burned to death in Woodstown when an oil-fired fire enveloped a stairway and cut off rescue.

A fire near Rosenberg, Texas, killed three children and one adult. Fourteen people were burned in the blaze.

A mother and son drowned near Pulaski, N. Y., when the mother attempted to rescue the boy after he fell through ice on a pond.

Two men were killed at Homewood, Ill., when their small plane crashed in a residential area and narrowly missed houses.

A father and two sons died when their small plane crashed near Chehalis, Wash., during a sudden snow squall.

Fire Leaves Aged Man Homeless

Fire, starting in the kitchen, burned the home of John D. Holliday in Hamilton Monday morning about 11:00 o'clock, reports reaching here stating that the fire also burned everything in the world the aged man had except the pair of overalls, patched pair pants he was wearing under his overalls, and an old jumper.

Mr. Holliday, living alone in the five-room house owned by the F. L. Haislip estate, said he went to the kitchen about 11:00 o'clock to prepare a bite to eat for lunch. He built a fire in the stove and returned to the front part of the house to rest and wait for the stove to heat up. Hearing fire cracking, he hurried to the kitchen and found it burning. In trying to put out the fire, he suffered painful but not severe burns on the face and hands. He was treated in a Williamston doctor's office.

Without near relatives, Mr. Holliday, well in his seventies, asked no direct aid for himself, but friends who know him and understand how feeble and helpless he is, declare his is a worthy case. Contributions will be handled for the old man by Mr. LeRoy Everett in Hamilton, and every penny will mean much to the fire victim, it was explained.

No Change Anticipated In Tobacco Quotas For 1950

No change in the 1950 tobacco marketing quota is anticipated by growers this year, according to information released this week by George C. Griffin, chairman of the Martin County Production-Marketing Administration committee.

"After a study by the U. S. Department of Agriculture of supply and demand prospects for the crop, the authorities announced no change in allotments is contemplated," Mr. Griffin said. The review of the outlook for tobacco exports this year was considered by the department, and representatives of the growers, warehousemen and dealers.

"As announced on July 1, the 1950 acreage allotments for flue-cured tobacco will total about 970,000 acres, as compared with 960,000 acres allotted for 1949. Individual farm acreage allotments for 1950 will be about the same as in 1949, the small increase in the total allotment being reserved for adjustment of inequities among individual farm allotments and for new tobacco farms which qualify for allotments in 1950."

Mr. Griffin explained that Martin County's share of the total allotment increase is only about 50 acres, that it will be used to meet hardship cases or meet legitimate demands of new growers.

Native Of County Died Last Friday

Leonard Ward Hamilton, retired farmer and railroad man, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George W. Coltrain, in Rocky Mount last Friday morning after a long period of declining health.

He was born in this county near Jamesville 78 years ago and spent his early life on the farm, working for the old Dennis-Simmons Lumber Company, at its plant in Jamesville for years before locating in Rocky Mount about a quarter century ago. When a young man he was married to Miss Tempie Mobley.

Surviving besides the daughter with whom he made his home are a nephew, Mr. Wendell Hamilton of Jamesville; four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He was connected with the railroad in Rocky Mount for a while or until declining health forced his retirement.

Funeral services were held in a Rocky Mount funeral home last Saturday morning at 11:00 o'clock by Rev. E. L. Oaks, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, before the body was removed to Cedar Branch near Jamesville where the pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington, conducted the last rites Saturday afternoon. Interment was in the Cedar Branch Church Cemetery.

COUNTY SCHOOL REOPEN

All Martin County schools reopened yesterday following the holidays, preliminary reports indicating that attendance was far below normal in several of the schools.

ROUND-UP

Except for two calls for minor disturbances, all was quiet in the sheriff's department for the past two week-ends in this county, but police and other officers were kept busy.

After jailing about a dozen and one-half Christmas week-end, officers rounded up and jailed seven more last week-end, including two for assault, and one each for drunken driving, public drunkenness, bad check, and disorderly conduct. Two were white and the ages of the group ranged from 17 to 37 years.

Few Offices In This County To Observe Five-Day Week

Few offices in this county will observe the five-day week going into effect on Saturday of this week for a number of State employees, according to official reports. In those instances where strictly State offices are to close on Saturdays, the employees will observe longer hours on each of the other five days, meaning they'll be on their jobs an hour longer each week in most cases.

The only two State offices planning to close are the Department of Revenue tax office manned by Deputy Collector E. R. Froneberger in the courthouse, and the Employment Security office in the Tar Heel Building. The Production-Marketing Administration in the Agricultural Building and the

TRAFFIC

Traffic on highways and streets in this section is believed to have approached a new record during the long New Year's holiday. Tourists, moving south for winter vacations, were on the north-south highway in numbers, and North Carolinians, living in Virginia, filled the right lanes of the highways going home.

As far as it could be learned early today the highways in this county were free of serious accidents during the period.

Season Closed On Certain Game

The season for taking deer and squirrel ended Monday, reports declaring that the season was almost a failure for hunters. More hunters are said to have invaded the lowlands and took the smallest catch of deer and squirrel in many years in this immediate area.

As far as it could be learned few deer were found in the woods by the big crowds invading the woods. An unusual story was heard, however. A hunter, holding down a stand, saw a deer approach him and when crowded by the dogs and faced by the dogs, the animal toppled over dead, the apparent victim of a heart attack. The season on quail closes later in the month.

Water Shortage In The Big City

New York City's water shortage was described as acute by New York State's attorney general during a short stop here yesterday afternoon. Traveling south, presumably to meet one of the Roosevelt boys, the attorney general said the water shortage is so acute that "everybody" is switching to liquor.

The New Yorker, driving his big car, talked with filling station attendants about politics. He mentioned Harold Stassen as the Republican in the nation today, explaining that Dewey would sit out the next elections.

The oil in his car changed, the official continued his southward trip.

Florida Motorist Floored By Costs In County Court

County Given Wide Publicity When Complaint Goes To Auto Association

Martin County received apparently wide publicity recently when a motorist, carried into the recorder's court for speeding, ran to his automobile association with a complaint about the costs.

The story was released under a Washington, D. C., date line a short time ago by one of the national press associations. Clippings have been forwarded to Chas. H. Manning, the court judge, and several have come from other states, including one from Chas. D'Amours up in Redwood, New York.

Under Harman W. Nichols' byline, the story reads, as follows: You never know the amount of bookkeeping involved in a traffic fine until you look into it.

Take the case of John C. Robinson of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who was arrested in Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina.

According to the report Robinson made to the American Automobile association here, he and his lady were zipping along at a gay old rate—65 miles an hour. The speed limit on the highway in North Carolina is 55 M. P. H.

The driver bowed low before the court, said he was both wrong and sorry. Guilty, in the language of the law.

The judge said he was sorry, too. Hated to do such a thing to such a fine man, but the damage was \$15—plus. It was the plus which floored Robinson. He forwarded the work-sheet, or the breakdown, to the AAA. The AAA was helpless, but interested.

Here is the official bill of fine and costs in the case:

Affidavit	\$0.25
Bill of cost, preparing	.25
Docketing warrant	.25
Docketing judgment	.25
Filing papers, each	.10
Indexing judgment	.10
Indictment each, filing	.10
Judgment	1.00
Order arrest	1.00
Recording	.75
Fine defendant	15.00
Recorder's fee	6.00
Solicitor	8.00
County tax jury findings	2.00
State witness	1.50
	\$37.05

Robinson learned a lesson which he put down as "don't speed unless you have your lawyer and bookkeeper along."

The AAA says the same situation exists in a lot of states. But it adds that Robinson probably got off pretty easy at that. According to the printed form, or worksheet, he could have had the whole book pitched at him.

For instance, there was no charge for "recognizance", which would have run the bill up another quarter.

The court let him off on the "seal of office", which would have meant 25 cents.

Other serious fees he escaped were:

Presentment, 10 cents.
Subpoena, 15 cents.
Order, interlocutory, 25 cents.
Original process, \$1.00.
Appeal from justice of peace, 50 cents.
Capias, \$1.00.
Continuance, 30 cents.
Indexing judgment, 10 cents.
Bond, 60 cents.
And empaneling jury, a dime.

Breaks Ankle In Hunting Accident

William Everett, local business man, suffered a broken left ankle while hunting birds in Cross Roads Township late last Saturday afternoon. Thinking he had only sprained the ankle, he hobbled along for more than a mile to his car and then realized the injury was more serious.

Mr. Everett explained that his bird dog got tangled up in a fence and that he jumped to free the animal and his left foot struck a small oak stump.

The leg is being placed in a cast at the hospital here today, but the patient will be several weeks recovering.

Schedule Of Values Fixed by List-Takers

VALUABLE

Tobacco and peanut allotments still carry a high value in this section. Auctioneering its 4.4 acres of tobacco and 3.1 acres of peanut allotments on the Woodlawn Cemetery farm last Friday, the town received \$550 for the 1950 rights.

Worth Mobley was high bidder. There were several bidders. H. H. Cowen, Jr., held the allotments last year, paying \$525 for them.

Cotton Insect Loss At Highest Mark In Over 22 Years

December Conference Outlined Programs To Cut Pest Damage

Preliminary, unofficial estimates which place insect damage to the 1949 cotton crop at \$470,110,000, the highest pest loss in 22 years, recomphasize the importance of the third annual Cotton Insect Control Conference at Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 19, National Cotton Council officials declare.

Insects destroyed approximately 2,811,000 bales, more than one-seventh of the estimated crop, Ransom E. Aldrich, Michigan City, Miss., chairman of the Cotton Council's production and marketing committee, has disclosed. Mr. Aldrich, who presided over the insect control meeting, pointed out that the Birmingham sessions laid plans for a coordinated program to cut cotton pest damage next year.

Based on an average price of 30 cents per pound, damage to lint amounted to \$421,650,000 this season. In addition, it is estimated that pests destroyed 1,127,000 tons of cottonseed valued at \$48,461,000. The total loss of \$470,110,000 is the greatest since 1927 when \$550,605,000 was destroyed by cotton insects.

Although estimates for South Carolina indicate the highest loss percentage-wise with 27 percent destruction, Mississippi led the list in terms of value with \$106,515,000 lost in seed and lint to cotton pests. Other states and their losses are: Arkansas, \$91,660,000; Alabama, \$59,399,000; South Carolina, \$49,581,000; Georgia, \$40,964,000; Texas, \$39,635,000.

North Carolina, \$23,901,000; Louisiana, \$20,407,000; California, \$11,897,000; Oklahoma, \$9,046,000; Tennessee, \$8,553,000; Missouri, \$3,687,000; New Mexico, \$2,358,000; Arizona, Virginia, Florida, \$836,000.

A more effective insect control program, through close integration of the efforts of federal and state agencies, insecticide manufacturers, the cotton industry and farm organizations, is the goal of the Council-sponsored conference. More than 200 federal and state entomologists, extension service leaders, and representatives of land grant colleges, farm organizations, insecticide and farm equipment manufacturers, and the cotton industry, attended the meeting.

Merchants' stocks will be listed at two-thirds of actual inventories.

Supervisor M. L. Peel would offer no guess as to the expected trend in values, but it is fairly certain that the total listings will hold their own as compared with the 1949 tax values.

Farmers are required to give a report on their farming activities for 1949 and stocks on hand as of January 1, but there'll be no tax on commodities held by the producer. Farmers can greatly aid the list-takers with the census by preparing the information and noting it on paper before appearing before the list-taker, it was explained.

Listings are now under way in accordance with a schedule appearing in this paper today. Check the dates, list early and

Jamesville Road.

After going through the Christmas season without a call, volunteer firemen were kept busy the last day of the year and yesterday answering calls.

They were called out last Saturday afternoon shortly after 5:00 o'clock to Jamesville where an oil stove fire went out of control and threatened the Ira T. Coltrain home. Damage was very slight, and the fire was under control when the firemen reached there, it was reported.

Yesterday, the firemen were called to several grass fires, one on Grace Street, another on Simmons Avenue, another in West End and still another on the Jamesville Road.

Little Change In Listings In Sight Except For Autos

To Take Farm Census For The Year: Have Until Jan. 31 to List Property

Meeting in the county courthouse last week, Martin County Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel and the list-takers from the ten townships set up a schedule of values for personal properties, the supervisor pointing out previously that no new valuation of real estate would be taken for 1950. In the case of real property it will be listed at its 1949 value except in those cases where improvements were made or fire or other elements damaged or destroyed the properties since the last listings.

There's not much change in prospect for personal property listings either, the supervisor explaining that assessed values have been decreased on some items, but that the old 1949 schedule will be followed to a great extent. A marked decrease in listings, however, is certain for owners of old motor vehicles. It is estimated that the tax value of used cars will tumble as much as forty or fifty-five percent. However, listings for new motor vehicles hold to rather high figures, and it is expected that the loss in old car tax values will be partly offset by the fairly large increase in the number of new vehicles.

The schedule for personal properties follows:

Tobacco barns are to be listed from \$150 to \$300, depending on size and condition.

Wheel cultivators are to carry a tax value of \$20 to \$50.

Tobacco trucks are being listed at \$5 to \$10, and tobacco sticks at \$5 per 1,000.

Harness is to be listed at \$5 to \$8 per mule.

Meat and lard is being listed at twelve cents a pound.

Washing machines are being given a value ranging from \$50 to \$100.

Horses, first class, are listed at \$100, and second class at \$50. First class mules are listed at \$250 and second class from \$50 up.

First class milk cows are to be listed at \$100 and second class at \$50.

Beef cattle are valued at 10 cents a pound on the hoof; goats at \$1 each; sheep, \$5 and up; poultry, \$1 each; brood sows at 10 cents a pound on the hoof.

Boats with outboard motors are being listed at \$50 and up.

Tax values of refrigerating machines vary from \$50 to \$150.

Lumber is to have a tax value of \$25 per 1,000 feet, and logs, \$20 per 1,000 feet.

The values of tobacco curers range from \$75 to \$100. Vacuum cleaners are going on the tax books with a \$20 to \$40 value.

Peanuts are to be listed at \$6 per bag, but listings will be held to two-thirds of the actual count. Tobacco, given a tax value of 30 cents a pound, will also be listed at two-thirds of actual inventory.

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