



# THE ENTERPRISE

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## Seven Accidents On County Roads At Holiday Time

### One Person Killed But No Others Hurt; Damage Nearly \$2,000

There were at least seven highway accidents in this county at holiday time, one resulting in death. Preliminary reports from the highway patrol office in this county indicated no others were badly hurt. It was pointed out, however, that the property damage would run right at \$1,850.

Since the last accident report was made on Wednesday of last week, Patrolmen said they were kept busy investigating minor wrecks.

The first in the series was reported the evening of the 20th when LeRoy Leggett, driving a 1950 Ford pickup on the new Bear Grass-Williamston Road, swerved the machine to miss a loose pig in the highway. He did not miss the pig, and to aggravate it all, the truck turned over. He was not hurt but Patrolman John T. Rowe, making the investigation, estimated damage to the truck at \$300.

Last Friday afternoon about 5:30 o'clock, Lewis B. Royston of the 2nd Tank Battalion, Camp Lejeune, was driving his Hudson toward Hobgood from Oak City on Highway 125 when Roscoe Locke, driving a 1938 Ford started to make a left turn. The Hudson struck the Ford, causing it to turn over. Investigating the accident, Patrolman R. P. Narron said that Locke gave a hand signal, that apparently Royston failed to see it in time. Damage to the Hudson was estimated at \$200 and that to the Ford at \$50. No one was hurt.

A 1936 Ford truck driven by M. H. Hollis and a 1941 Chevrolet driven by Katherine Mae Haislip of Hassell figured in a minor accident near Hassell about 7:30 o'clock Friday evening. No one was hurt, Patrolman Narron said.

A car turned over on the Bear Grass-Everetts Road Saturday night, but no details could be had immediately.

Early Sunday morning, Elmer Ray Lilley was fatally injured.

The was a minor accident on the streets of Robersonville Tuesday afternoon, involving about \$100 damages.

Wednesday afternoon of this week, A. S. Roberson was driving his 1949 Dodge west on 64 when

(Continued from Page Six)

## Farmers Killing Hogs In County

Taking advantage of the cold, crisp weather existing for several weeks until a few days ago, Martin County farmers had killed a goodly number of hogs and packed away the meat with the virtual assurance that it will not spoil.

Bad weather Thursday and Friday caused a few farmers to postpone their hog-killing, but others went ahead with the task. Most of the farmers will pack their meat in January and February, but more farmers have already packed away their supply at this time than usual.

Martin farmers, while deserting the old-time big hog-killing, are packing away supplies sufficient for their own consumption. Most hogs are sold on the hoof.

## Farm Trainees To Meet January 4th

The first class of Veterans' farm training group will be held in the Williamston High School on Thursday, January 4 between the hours of 7:00 and 9:00 o'clock p. m., it was announced.

## Jaycees' Christmas Party Last Week Great Success

After attracting State-wide attention with their Christmas party last year, Williamston's Jaycees came back this year to promote one of the most enjoyable events of its kind ever held here.

The little guests, remembering the good time they had last year, were ready when transportation was arranged and the fifty-five boys and girls, their ages ranging from three to twelve years, were present and accounted for at the opening event last Friday evening at 7:00 o'clock in the Woman's Club hall. While most of the tots came from this community, a few were brought in from points nearly ten miles away.

Games, songs and contests were enjoyed under the direction of

Program Chairman Edgar Gurganus, assisted by about a dozen other Jaycees and a few special helpers.

Each one of the little folks received toys, some of them almost mobbing Santa before the merry old fellow could distribute the packages. Refreshments were served and confectioneries were placed in the hands of the special little guests.

It was difficult to determine who enjoyed the event more—the guests or the sponsors. Considerable work and time went into the preparation of it, but the Jaycees ably handled it.

Reports from nearly every section of the county declare that similar programs were greatly enjoyed during the holiday season.

### RADIO

Construction work on the transmitter tower near the river for Williamston's new radio station is nearing completion, but no definite date for the formal opening has been announced.

The studios in the Saunders building on South Smithwick Street have been ready for some time, but material shortages delayed work on the transmitter near the river.

## Jas. W. Ashburn Dies In County

Funeral services were conducted at Horner's Funeral Home in Plymouth at 10:30 o'clock Thursday morning for James Wellington Ashburn, who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Roland Coburn at Dardens Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. Later, rites were held at Bethany Church, near Suffolk, Va., and burial followed in the church cemetery. The Rev. P. B. Nickens, pastor of Ludford Memorial Baptist Church, of Plymouth, was in charge.

Mr. Ashburn was the widower of Rebecca Luke Ashburn, of Newport News, Va. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Ashburn, of Suffolk, and was born there June 17, 1857. He was a retired farmer and had made his home with his daughter for the last four months, coming to Martin County from Newport News. His death followed an illness of three weeks' duration.

Mr. Ashburn was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Suffolk. Surviving besides his daughter are two sons, Samuel Ashburn, of Baltimore, Md., and Walter Ashburn, of Newport News; several nieces and nephews.

## National Guard Dance Tonight

Tonight, Friday December 29th, from 9:00 p. m. to 1:00 a. m. Bob Lee and his E. C. T. C. orchestra will furnish the music for a big holiday dance in the Williamston High School gymnasium. All of the proceeds will be used in a fund being raised to purchase a site for a proposed National Guard armory here in Williamston. It is hoped that attendance will be good so that it will not be necessary to make public solicitations for this cause.

The price of admission is \$1.25 per person and the gym will be heated.

## Meeting Of List-Takers Delayed Until Saturday

Scheduled to have met on Thursday of this week, Martin County's tax list-takers will meet on Saturday and determine personal property values.

## Accidents Marred Christmas Period In Martin County

### One Victim Loses Sight In Right Eye And Still In Hospital

Accidents marred the Christmas period in Martin County, an unofficial report showing one person dead and at least two others dangerously shot. The fatality was reported on Highway 4 at Jamesville early Christmas morning. A small child was shot through the head in Hamilton, but was still living, according to the last report received here. A woman lost her right eye in a shooting at Gold Point, and two others were painfully shot there.

There were at least five automobile accidents in the county, but the first reports indicated no one was badly hurt except in one. Elmer Ray Lilley, 23, was fatally injured when his car turned over at Jamesville Sunday morning and died Monday night at 11:50 o'clock in a Williamston hospital without regaining consciousness.

A first check on highway accidents in North Carolina showed twenty-five persons lost their lives between last Friday and midnight Christmas. Five more were added to the death toll by early Wednesday morning, sending the death count far beyond all predictions. The record toll following shooting, burnings and other accidents, is still being tabulated.

The nation reported 724 violent deaths during the three-day holiday, but a complete count is not most certain to send the figure over the 1,000 mark for the entire holiday season.

## Pvt. W. G. Moore Now Below The 38th Parallel

Pfc. W. G. Moore, in a recent letter to his mother, Mrs. Fannie Moore, of Hamilton, said he had withdrawn with his outfit below the 38th Parallel, but added that it was a tough pull. He intimated that they were reorganizing somewhere in South Korea, and added that his outfit had been hard hit.

### PRICE ADVANCE

The publishers, in accordance with a previous announcement, again point out that subscription prices to The Enterprise will be slightly increased as of January 1. Subscription prices within the county, after January 1, will be \$3 per year, and those outside the county will be \$3.50 per year. Rising costs make the increase imperative.

Until January 1, subscriptions will be received at the old rates.

## Christmas Spirit Pays Dividend To Former Residents

### Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Old Are Deluged with Gifts Worth Thousands Of Dollars

(The following story, appearing under a Norfolk date line on Christmas Day, will be read here with much interest since Mr. and Mrs. Old and son made their home in Williamston for a number of years and made many lasting friendships here during that time. Mr. and Mrs. E. Ross Froneberger and Mrs. John R. Peel went to Norfolk for the presentation and special broadcasts. Ed.)

Christmas spirit paid off in a large way for the W. E. Old family of 700 Raleigh Avenue, Norfolk, Va., whose home today was deluged by the NBC "Welcome Travelers" radio show with thousands of dollars worth of gifts, including a new Chevrolet four-door sedan and a complete "dream" kitchen.

Tommy Bartlett, master of ceremonies on the "Welcome Travelers" show, flew from Chicago to Virginia last Thursday with the entire staff of the program, setting up operational headquarters at the Cavalier resort hotel in nearby Virginia Beach. A preliminary check of the Old family had been made a few days previously by the show's writers, after the family's selection by a board of judges consisting of movie star Irene Dunne, McCall's magazine editor Otis L. Wiese and Ladies Home Journal associate editor Hazel Rawson Cades.

The Christmas morning broadcast from the Old home, located in a picturesque square, was the culmination of a six-week search by "Welcome Travelers" for a Christmas family, a family group located anywhere in the United States that typified the spirit of Christmas all year long. Letters nominating potential Christmas families had been received from every state in the union. One of the provisions of the search was that nominations could not be made by any relative of a family.

All the gifts for the Old family were shipped to Virginia Beach, where Les Lear, program business manager, supervised their uncrating and gift wrapping. Trucks started delivering the gift packages on Saturday, December 23rd, with elaborate precautions taken to see that the Olds had no opportunity to see them while they were being hidden in the home of a next-door neighbor. Tape-recording equipment for the broadcast was installed in the Old home Saturday afternoon by engineers working under the supervision of Producer Stefan Hatos and Director Bob Cunningham, while the Olds were being entertained by friends.

The letter nominating the Old family had been written by Mrs. A. M. Murphy, wife of a service man who received a leave from Germany and had flown home for Christmas with his family. Because of lack of housing accommodations, the Murphy family was spending the holidays in the Old home. Mrs. Murphy receives a Gruen watch and a fully equipped modern streamlined kitchen for her letter.

Taking in the Murphy family of father, mother and three children for the holiday season is typical of the Old family's operations throughout the year.

Mrs. Old, who is a registered nurse, has taken care of sick neighbors without pay for years. She is currently caring for an aged couple in the neighborhood who are afflicted with severe rheumatism. She does their laundry, prepares food for them and nurses them. She is helping to pay for a television set for this couple although the Olds, themselves, never had a television set.

(Continued on page six)

## Three Shot After Argument at Gold Point Christmas

### One Person Was Killed, Two Others Were Dangerously Shot

Wild and costly shooting climaxed a family quarrel at Gold Point Christmas night, reports from the sheriff's office stating that one victim had lost the sight in her right eye and two other victims were painfully but believed not seriously hurt.

A hearing in the case, tentatively scheduled before Justice J. S. Ayers in Williamston Wednesday evening, was postponed when it was learned that one of the victims was still in the hospital.

Herman Morning, colored, quarreled with his wife, Ella and she departed, going to the home of her sister, Bettie Lloyd. Herman followed and was ordered to leave the house by Raymond Lloyd who fired upon Morning, both shots missing. Herman left but soon returned and fired on his wife, her sister and Major Lloyd from a distance of about twenty-five yards. Bettie Lloyd's right eye was put out and the other two were badly peppered with the No. 7 shot. Deputy Sheriff Raymond Rawls said Morning claimed only one shot was fired, but it appeared that two loads were discharged.

The victims were treated in the Robersonville Clinic, the more seriously injured one in the group being moved later to a hospital in Greenville.

Morning and Raymond Lloyd, both charged with assaults with deadly weapons, were placed in the county jail where they are being held pending the completion of arrangements for the preliminary hearing.

## Remember Health In Resolutions For The New Year

### A Good Resolution Is Not Much Good Without Good Health

Once more, New Year's resolutions time has rolled round. With the best intentions, people all over the country are making another new start toward good habits.

Among those who actually make a list of their good intentions, many will be surprised to note how some of their resolutions directly concern their own health, whether they consider themselves "health conscious" or not.

Many of us will resolve to get to bed earlier, cut down on drinking or smoking, or get weight back to normal by exercise and proper diet.

Perhaps this is evidence of our instinct of self-preservation. The average person realizes that he may not have much time to enjoy the good things of this life if he literally shortens his own life by unhealthy living.

Besides, full enjoyment of the things of life is impossible without good health. In turn, one can

(Continued on page six)

### MISSING

Mrs. W. E. Dudley of Williamston has been notified by the Army that her brother, M/Sgt. Gordon L. Braxton, has been missing in action in Korea since November 30. Sgt. Braxton, 38 years of age, has been in the service for twenty years.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Braxton of Rocky Mount.

## Young Man Fatally Hurt In Car Wreck

### Elmer Ray Lilley Died In Hospital Christmas Night

### Second Member of Family To Meet Tragic Death In Less Than Two Years

Elmer Ray Lilley, promising young man was fatally injured in an automobile wreck at Jamesville on U. S. Highway 64 about 5:00 o'clock last Sunday morning. His skull fractured and suffering internal injuries, he never regained consciousness, dying in a local hospital at 11:50 o'clock Christmas night. Thrown clear of the car, he is believed to have lain on the road for about an hour before he was found.

The young man, a building construction worker, was traveling alone and all details of the accident probably never will be known. He was driving his Ford east on 64 and apparently ran off the road in a curve at Jamesville's town limits. He swerved the car to the left and apparently while trying to right it, the rear wheels skidded into a ditch with the front wheels on the left shoulder. The machine is believed to have turned over three times.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman John T. Rowe said damage to the car would possibly exceed \$1,000.

Lilley, who lost a brother in a diving accident at Albemarle Beach summer before last, was born in Williams Township 23 years ago on April 6, 1927, the son of Arthur Lilley and the late Carrie Coltrain Lilley. Following the death of his mother he had lived with relatives and friends, making his home with Mrs. Frances Lilley in Griffins Township for the past several weeks.

He was a member of the Maple Grove Church, and during the past several months he had been working in Jamesville.

Surviving besides his father and step-mother, are three brothers, Alton Lilley of Jamesville, J. A. Lilley and Pete Lilley, both of Williamston; four sisters, Mrs. Crawford Coltrain of Williamston, Mrs. Noah Perry of Jamesville, Mrs. Hubert Creaf of Berkley, Va., and Mrs. Herman Dixon of Jamesville.

Funeral services were conducted in the Fairview Church over in Williams Township by Rev. W. B. Harrington and Rev. M. L. Ambrose Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Interment was in the family cemetery in Williams Township.

The young man's death was the fourth reported on the highways in the county this year.

## Three Fire Calls Here on Tuesday

After going through the main Christmas period without a call, Williamston's volunteer firemen were kept on the jump Tuesday when three calls were received during the course of about three hours.

The first call was to a grass fire next to the Christian church on Smithwick Street. A call came in about 1:00 o'clock from Jamesville where a grass fire reportedly was about to get out of hand. Firemen moved the equipment out but were called back when it was reported the fire was under control.

The third call was to a grass fire just back of the post office. Several buildings were threatened, but there was no damage.

### GENERAL HOLIDAY

Next Monday—New Year's Day—will be observed as a general holiday here. All business houses, along with the post office and county and town offices will close for the day.

There'll be no meeting of the Martin County or Williamston Boards of Commissioners, and the county court will remain idle until the following Monday.

The Boards of Commissioners are slated for the usual hours on Tuesday, January 2.

## Mrs. Anderson Dies In Hospital

Mrs. Blanche Anderson, 77, died in a Durham hospital last Thursday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. She had been in declining health for some time and her condition was critical for several weeks.

Funeral services were conducted in Tarboro's First Baptist Church Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by the pastor, Rev. Carl Ousley, assisted by Rev. Stewart B. Simms, pastor of Williamston's Memorial Baptist Church. Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Mrs. Anderson, well known citizen of Edgecombe County where she managed extensive farming operations near Tarboro, had visited in Williamston with her daughter, Mrs. C. A. Harrison, over a period of years during which time she endeared herself to so many local people who remember her for genuine friendliness and thoughtfulness.

Surviving besides her daughter here are two sons, Samuel W. Anderson of Whitakers, and Dr. R. S. Anderson of the home; six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two nieces.

## Native Of County Killed In Korea

Cpl. Jesse Royster Jenkins, native of this county, was killed in action in Korea, according to a report received by relatives from the Defense Department this week. No date was mentioned, but it is thought he lost his life the latter part of November.

The son of Mr. Jesse Jenkins and wife, Mrs. Minnie Whitaker of Tarboro, Cpl. Jenkins was born near Parmele about 44 years ago. After spending his early life in this county, he moved with his family to Tarboro about 38 years ago. He served in World War II, and re-enlisted in the service several years ago.

He is a cousin of Messrs. Claude Jenkins and Bod Taylor, and Mrs. Dennis Hardy of Williamston, and has other relatives in the county.

## Critically Shot, Child Improves

David Taylor, four-year-old son of Roosevelt Taylor was critically shot by his six-year-old brother, at their home in Hamilton last Thursday. Using an air gun, the older brother fired from close range, the pellet piercing the child's temple and coursing through most of the brain.

Given first aid treatment in a local hospital, the victim was removed to Duke Hospital with a patrol escort and underwent an operation. Last reports stated his condition was improving, that he was able to talk.

## Draw Jurors For Special Term Of Court in January

### Martin County Drainage District No. 1 Cases Are To Be Heard

Thirty Martin County citizens were drawn Thursday afternoon for jury duty during the one week special term of the Martin County Superior court opening on Monday, January 22. They will hear cases involving a drainage project centered in Bear Grass Township.

Chairman John H. Edwards of the Martin County Board of Commissioners, Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne, and Elbert S. Peel and Clarence Griffin, attorneys representing the litigants, were at the jury drawing.

The special term was called by Governor Kerr Scott upon the request of the county commissioners after the court found it did not have time to hear the cases at the December term.

Judge W. I. Halstead of South Mills is scheduled to preside over the term.

No jurors were drawn from Bear Grass, Cross Roads or Robersonville because the litigants are well known in those districts. Names of jurors drawn in the other districts follow, by township:

Jamesville: Paul W. Allen, Royal Gurganus, John D. Williams, Dan Fagan, James H. Hardison and S. L. Ellis.

Williams Township: W. L. Manning, Jr.

Griffins Township: W. D. Daniel, Dalma G. Manning, John A. Ward and W. Marion Lilley.

Williamston Township: Henry A. Roberson, Ernest P. Capps, W. T. Ross, W. Edward Cox, C. O. Price, Herbert S. Whitley, Fred L. Chesson, W. H. Tarkington, D. W. Manning, John Hatton Gurganus.

Poplar Point Township: W. L. Edwards and Luther G. Leggett.

Hamilton Township: S. B. Brown, R. E. Downs and John David Etheridge.

Goose Nest Township: Norman Turner, John Daniel, J. W. Bellflower and Heber Smith, Jr.

## Announce Prizes For Decorations

Prizes were announced for the best holiday decorations this week by the Williamston Boosters, sponsors of the contest.

Mr. and Mrs. Boudurant were awarded a prize for the most original decoration at their home on Marshall Avenue. The prize for the best house-top display went to Mr. and Mrs. Noah Hardison on South Houghton Street, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sessoms were awarded a prize for the best doorway.

Young vandals, their operations being recognized as a prankish stunt, are causing much concern among those who would add to the Christmas scenes. Last year, forty bulbs were removed from one tree. This year the tree was stripped of nearly everyone of its lights. "We do not want to punish anyone, but the work of the thoughtless ones is causing concern, and parents possibly could do something about it if they were to check up on surplus lights brought in by the children," a tree owner said.

Judging took place Sunday evening, December 24, between the hours of 8:00 PM and 10:30 PM. James Bulluck acted as guide for the judges and these were Norman Everett of Hamilton, Lawrence Eason Lilly of Farm Life and Reuben Williams also of Farm Life.

The judging was very difficult, according to all reports and final decisions were made only after much deliberation. The Boosters' secretary stated that it was very gratifying to have so many entrants and their participation is sincerely appreciated.