

Fewer Marriages Recorded In The County Last Year

Last-Minute Rush Fails To Pull Average Up For The Period

The number of marriages in Martin County last year dropped to the lowest figure in five years. While the decrease was limited to eight compared with 1949 records, it was 123 below the 1946 issuance, a record. During the past twenty years, the marriage license bureau in this county has, on an average, issued 232 licenses each year, leaving 1950 issuance twenty below the average, but considerably above the low of 123 recorded for the depression year of 1931.

For the second time in a row, the number of licenses issued were equally divided among the races in 1950—106 to white and 106 to colored couples for a total of 212.

The issuance for last month was trailing badly until December when twenty-eight licenses were issued, but even the last-minute rush did not pull the average up for the year.

Licenses were issued to thirteen white and fifteen colored couples in the county last month, as follows:

White

Thomas H. Stewart and Ina Mae Wright, both of Raleigh.

Robert Norman Hales of Durham and Mary Lou Coltrain of Williamston.

William Gray Gurganus of RFD 1, Robersonville, and Annie Bass of RFD 1, Bethel.

Harry Eller Heafner of Windsor and Sally Louise Roberson of Williamston.

Edgar Scott of RFD 1, Bethel, and Pauline Whitfield of Oak City.

Cecil R. Batts, Jr., of Robersonville and Thelma Carrow of Williamston.

Eh Mills Henry Ayers and Nellie Faye Whitaker, both of Robersonville.

Sherman E. Long, Jr., of Durham and Sallie Elizabeth Hardison of Williamston.

Frank T. Hill of Greensboro and Mary Louise Griffin of Williamston.

Jesse S. Fulford of Hamilton and Mattie Wynne Leggett of RFD 1, Robersonville.

John D. Price, Jr., and Sarah Frances Barber, both of Jamesville.

Dalton Purvis of RFD 1, Bethel, and Velma Stocks of Robersonville.

Duelon Van Heath and Elsie Ieclan Williams, both of Jamesville.

George Lee Walker and Queen Esther Bazemore, both of RFD 1, Windsor.

Lawyer Bell and Carrie Mae Rogers, both of Williamston.

Elisha Crandall, Jr., and Mary Lena Sheppard, both of Robersonville.

Milton Solmon and Roberta Brown, both of Hobgood.

Johnnie Mac Manning and Elsie Cooper, both of RFD 2, Windsor.

(Continued on page six)

Farm Group Against Auto Insurance Plan

ROUND-UP

All, or nearly all, was quiet on the crime front in this county as the old year spent itself, according to information coming from the sheriff's office. Following a reasonably quiet Christmas period, there were only two arrests during the last week-end of the old year.

One person was taken into custody for being absent from the services without leave, and one was booked for public drunkenness. One was white, and their ages ranged from 23 to 45 years.

Jamesville Man Died Suddenly in Plymouth Clinic

Funeral Service Is Being Conducted At Home This Afternoon

Phillip Cecil Blount, Sr., member of one of eastern North Carolina oldest families, died suddenly in the Plymouth Clinic Monday morning at 10:30 o'clock of a heart attack. Mr. Blount, a citizen of Jamesville for many years, had been troubled with a heart condition for some time, but it was not considered serious. He went to the clinic for a check-up and treatment, and was leaving when he suffered the attack. He was returned to the clinic where he died within a few minutes.

The son of the late James E. and Claudia Johnston Blount, he was born in the old Blount plantation home near Mackeys, Washington County, 65 years ago on May 1, 1885, and spent his early life there. When a young man he located in Jamesville and was connected with the Dennis Simmons Lumber Company until the plant was closed there. He was then associated with plants at Hollister, Beaufort, Wallace in this State and at Marion, South Carolina, before returning to his old home in Jamesville about 18 years ago.

He was a member of the Episcopal church. His ancestors figured prominently in the early history of this section of the State, a relative having been associated with the North Carolina Historical Commission in later years.

In early manhood he was married. (Continued from Page Six)

Explain Delay In Fire Alarm

Misunderstanding about a reported delay in handling the fire alarm for the Cotton Club here early yesterday morning has been cleared up.

Night Officer Arthur Perry explained that he and Officer Jones were on duty at the time (about 2:30 o'clock a. m.), that no telephone alarm was received. "We were making ready to make one of our rounds when two marines drove up and said there was a fire," Officer Perry said, explaining that that was the first they knew anything about a fire. "The marines were unable to tell where the fire was, and Officer Jones took them in the police car to locate it, and I stood by the police radio for directions," the officer added.

"A few seconds later Officer Jones radioed the location, and the alarm was sounded," the officer declared. It has been well established that the fire had gained so much headway before anybody discovered it that it would have been almost impossible to save the property. It was also declared that the firemen, battling in freezing weather, did a good job as it was. Persons, apparently upset and speaking without thinking, were said to have made some mighty broad statements during and after the fire.

Continues III

Mr. Geo. C. Griffin continues at his home in Griffins.

Legislature Will Open In Raleigh Tomorrow Noon

Senator Hugh G. Horton And Representative Anderson Leaving Today

North Carolina's General Assembly is moving in on Raleigh today, making ready for the opening tomorrow of what promises to be hectic but reasonably short biennial session.

District Senator H. G. Horton and Representative E. G. Anderson are leaving the county today for their seats. Neither had any comment to offer, but Representative Anderson said he was considering supporting Fred Royster of Vance County for speaker of the House at the caucus tonight. Each of the district's two senators—Horton and Sam Campen—and County Representative Anderson have said they would hold open minds and listen to the wishes of the people back home.

There has been little legislation of a county or local nature mentioned back home, but some relief from the county's costly court system is likely to be asked. It has been suggested that possibly jury trials in the recorder's court could be eliminated. Such action, it was pointed out, will not endanger one's right since a defendant could carry his appeal to the superior court. Possibly, the number of court terms in the county could be reduced since many sessions are called but few are fully utilized.

While such a measure may prove illegal, it is being suggested that a special law be passed, making it possible to indict owners for not listing property without going before the grand jury. If such law violations could be handled in the inferior courts, many of the problems now associated with tax listing could be eliminated, it was pointed out.

Following the party caucuses tonight when a hot race between Fred Royster of Vance County and W. Frank Taylor of Wayne County for speaker of the House, the lobbyists are expected to hold open house, and tomorrow at noon the Assembly is slated to get down to work.

At 11:00 o'clock Thursday morning, Governor Kerr Scott is to deliver his biennial message to the Assembly. The Governor is expected to review his first two years. While, under existing conditions, the Governor is likely to propose a consolidation of the progress made during the past two years, it isn't likely he'll say stop the advance.

Check Damage To Rural Mail Boxes

Vandalism, centered along the rural mail routes in the Oak City area Christmas night, is being investigated by postal inspectors and the sheriff's office. Seven young men are said to have been questioned, but their names, turned over to the United States district attorney, could not be learned. An unofficial report said that an inspector questioned several of the group in the courthouse last week-end.

Using firecrackers, the young men were said to have blown open at least eleven mail boxes along the countryside. The boxes were ripped at the seams and were damaged beyond repair, it was said.

The use of fireworks was more prevalent in the county this year than at any time since they were supposed to have been banned by State law several years ago. The use was limited mainly to the rural areas. There were no injuries as a result of their use, as far as it could be learned.

Suffers Broken Hip In Fall Here Sunday Night

Breaking his left hip in two places when he slipped and fell at his home in the Tar Heel Apartments about 11:00 o'clock last Sunday night, Mr. Herman D. Taylor was reported to be resting well this morning in a local hospital. He underwent a long operation yesterday when the break was pinned.

List Takers Determine Values For County Personal Property

Several Painfully Hurt In Highway Accident Friday

Preliminary Report Lists 200 Road Wrecks In The County Last Year

Several persons were painfully hurt and more than one thousand dollars were added to the property loss in a series of highway accidents in this county last week-end, sending the wreck count for the year of 1950 to an even two hundred, according to preliminary reports released by the Martin County office of the State Highway Patrol. As the count now stands, there were 200 accidents, 87 persons injured, four killed and a property loss of \$14,560 on the highways and streets in this county last year.

In the last week-end series five persons were painfully hurt when a 1939 Plymouth driven by Davis Earl Purvis, RFD 1, Bethel, and a 1946 Ford, driven by Letheridge Mayo Hardin, Headquarters Station, Cherry Point, crashed on Highway No. 11 at Council's station about four miles out of Oak City Friday afternoon at 2:35 o'clock. Purvis, cut over the right eye and suffering a knee injury, was treated in the Robersonville Clinic. Hardin, cut on chin and knee, was treated in the Martin General Hospital and later removed to Cherry Point. Three other marines accompanying Hardin, were also hurt. W. D. Colborne suffered a broken left leg and was cut on the face. F. L. Benson was cut on his hand and face and almost lost several teeth. R. J. Buchanan was cut on the leg. A fifth marine, riding in the Hardin car, was not hurt. After the injured marines were treated in Martin General they were removed by ambulance to their base hospital, Cherry Point.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman John T. Rowe said that the Ford driven by the marine swerved in an effort to miss the Purvis car that had pulled out of the filling station. Damage to the Purvis car was estimated at \$300 and that the Ford at \$400.

The accident count for the year of 1950 is 200.

Crash on the streets of Robersonville last Saturday afternoon. Preliminary reports stated that, no one was hurt and that damage was negligible.

Last Thursday evening at 8:45 o'clock two cars, one a 1950 Ford owned by W. B. Batts, Sr., and driven by his son, and the other a 1950 Hudson owned by H. B. Holloman and driven by Chas. Mason Sheppard, crashed at Sunny Side Inn at the outskirts of Williamston on Highway 17. No one was hurt. Damage to the Ford was estimated at \$75 and that to the Hudson at \$100. Patrolman J. T. Rowe made the investigation.

Reviewing the accident record during the Christmas week-end, Patrolman W. B. Parker said Manuel E. Harris was painfully hurt when Harris lost control of his 1942 Chevrolet on a dirt road near Gold Point and turned it over after ripping down about fifty yards of Farmer Vanderford's fence. Harris suffered a four-stitch cut under his left eye and his face was badly skinned. Knocked unconscious, Harris was found in the car with the heater still in operation, the lights burning and gasoline dripping from the carburetor. Damage to the car was estimated at \$200 by Patrolman Parker, and Farmer Vanderford was quoted as saying that about \$35 will be required to repair the fence.

A minor wreck was also reported during the period on the streets of Robersonville when a Ford pick-up truck driven by David S. Page, RFD 3, Williamston, sideswiped a Chevrolet owned by Luther James of Norfolk and parked on the main street near the warehouses. Damage to the two cars was estimated at \$60.

Up until early last night no accidents had been reported in the New Year here.

IN CONCERT



Donald Dame, nationally known singer, will appear in the Williamston High School auditorium Wednesday evening of this week at 8:30 o'clock in the second of a series of three community concerts.

Dies Suddenly Of Heart Attack At Home Of Mother

Funeral Arrangements For Mrs. Blanche Harrison Armstrong Incomplete

Mrs. Blanche Harrison Armstrong, prominent young woman of Williamston and Troy, died suddenly at the home of her mother, Mrs. C. A. Harrison, on Academy Street at 10:00 o'clock this morning of a heart attack. Coming here from her home about three weeks ago to be with her sister who was ill, Mrs. Armstrong apparently was in her usual health earlier in the day and seemed to be in the best of spirit. She called for groceries about 9:30 o'clock and had attended to some of the household duties upstairs while her two small children played downstairs with the cook. Shortly after 10:00 o'clock the older of the two children went upstairs and found her at the telephone with the receiver off. It is thought that she started to make a normal telephone call when she was stricken, for the cook heard no call for help. Her sister and mother had left earlier for Rocky Mount where the sister was to receive medical treatment.

Medical aid was summoned and neighbors were called, but no assistance could be rendered. It was apparent that she had died suddenly and peacefully.

The daughter of Mrs. C. A. Harrison of Williamston and the (Continued on page six)

Graduated From Air Field Base

Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.—First Lieutenant Wheeler M. Anderson was graduated recently from the Air Force Communications School at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, it was announced by the base commander, Colonel George W. Parady.

Graduated from the Officer Communications School, Lt. Anderson will assume command of a communications squadron or group engaged in the operation and maintenance of the world wide network of radio and fixed wire facilities so vital in the completion of the Air Force mission.

Lt. Anderson, son of Mr. Oscar S. Anderson of Williamston, served with the 9th Air Force in France and Germany during World War II. He was awarded the European Theater Ribbon with Three Battle Stars and the Air Medal.

Prior to entering the Scott communications school, Lt. Anderson was stationed at Otis Air Force Base, Massachusetts. His brothers are Major Oscar S. and 1st Lt. Arthur Anderson both with the Air Force.

Meeting Held In Court House Last Saturday Morning

No Marked Change In Basic Values, But Anticipate Total Increase

Meeting in the courthouse last Saturday morning, the ten township list takers and Supervisor M. L. Peel fixed a tentative schedule of values for personal properties for taxation purposes in 1951. A study of the list reflects little or no change in the arbitrarily set values, but several of the list takers expressed the opinion that the total listings this year would reflect an increase over those recorded in 1950.

List-taking is now under way in several of the townships and will be continued through the 31st of this month. Listing after that time is subject to penalty and prosecution in the courts.

The list takers, in session several hours, worked diligently to establish a uniform system of values for personal property holdings. Real estate and fixed property values are not to be changed except in those cases where improvements have been made or where there have been losses as a result of fire or other elements.

Motor vehicles, always listed a bit on the "high side" will carry a value possibly slightly higher than the 1950 figures in some cases. The values, as has been the case in past years, will be determined by the automotive Red Book. For instance, a 1950 Ford DeLuxe, listed in the book at \$1,472, will be valued for taxation purposes at \$1,030. The Styleline special Chevrolet, listed in the book at \$1,450, will be valued for taxation at \$1,100. Other types of motor vehicles will be listed accordingly.

In addition to including all new buildings, the list takers were instructed to check newly installed water systems which are to be placed on the books at forty percent.

Merchandise inventories are to be listed at two-thirds of their cash value.

New tractors are to be valued at two-thirds of their actual value, ten percent depreciation for each year of operation. A similar schedule will be in effect for fertilizer distributors.

Other items in the schedule are: tobacco sticks, \$5 per thousand; harness, \$5 a set; meat and lard, 15 cents a pound; horses \$100 and down; mules, \$200 and down; milk cows, \$100 and down; hogs and pigs on the hoof, 10 cents a pound; chickens, \$1 each; tobacco curing equipment, \$100 for a 20-foot barn, and \$75 for a 16-foot barn; lumber, \$30 per thousand. Refrigerators and deep freeze machines will be listed at two-thirds the original cost, less depreciation.

The list takers were instructed to follow the old schedule for other values with the understanding that values for peanuts would be discussed with the Martin County Commissioners before a listing figure would be fixed. Last year, peanuts were listed at \$6 per bag, but the listings were limited to two-thirds of the actual inventory.

A \$300 value was set for new 20-foot tobacco barns, and \$200 for (Continued on page six)

JACK POT?

Mrs. Lee Davenport was reported to have answered the questions on one of the jack pot radio programs last Friday, but it would seem that some one plays da "mean" joke on her. While it is possible that the report is authentic, it has the appearance of the work of a radio expert.

Mrs. Davenport heard the program, answered the questions and was assured she had won the money. An expert radio man could have rigged a broadcast from a nearby point and carried out the joke to perfection.

Spectacular Fire Struck Here Early Monday Morning

Cafe, Pool Room and Small Apartment Guttled On Washington Street

Striking swiftly and in 20-degree weather, a spectacular fire gutted the Cotton Club building on Washington Street here yesterday morning at 2:30 o'clock, wrecking Payton's pool room, Moran's Cafe and the Floyd Taylor family's apartment. Six persons, sleeping in the up-stairs apartment, barely escaped with their lives. It was reported that the family, mother and father and four children, had to break their way out when the main exit was blocked by fire. No one was hurt, but firemen, writer freezing on their hands and in their hair, suffered.

All of the town's available fire-fighting equipment was carried to the scene when the fire threatened the Dixie Motor Company building and the large Carolina tobacco warehouse. The firemen battled the fire almost two hours before bringing it under control.

Said to have started in Moran's cafe, the fire burned its way through a partition and into the stairway leading to the apartment and had a good start before even those in the apartment discovered it. There was some delay in getting in an alarm and by the time firemen reached there the fire was burning from the bottom to the top of the two-story wooden structure.

Although firemen connected several lines of hose and battled the fire from nearly every side, the heat cracked the big show room windows in the Dixie Motor Company and scorched the warehouse a few feet away on the other side.

Moran, operator of the cafe, said he turned out the gas stove and left his place of business at 11:30 o'clock that night and went to church. He left the church after the special service and went home without going back by the business.

The reflection of the fire could be seen for quite a distance. Members of the family in the apartment barely escaped with their lives, saving nothing except the clothes they wore.

No damage estimate could be had immediately, but the loss probably will exceed \$70,000 or \$12,000, according to a preliminary report.

The Taylor family had just recently purchased a \$450 radio, a new electric refrigerator and the home was well furnished throughout.

The cafe was equipped with expensive refrigerating units and there were five or six pool tables in the pool room.

Some insurance was carried on the property, but the owner, Bruce Payton of Washington, could not be reached for a figure.

The second fire call of the year was received at 6:55 o'clock last evening when a trash fire started to spread back of the Blue Star Cleaners.

Open Apartment House This Week

The four-unit apartment house recently completed by A. J. Manning on Simmons Avenue is being opened this week. The completion of the two-story brick structure is making it possible for three new families to move to Williamston. It has been declared that possibly thirty or more families would locate in Williamston if housing was available.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Alford and daughter of Raleigh are planning to move sometime this week. Mr. Alford is an insurance company adjuster. He has been here for some time but is just finding an apartment. Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Parsons and son are moving this week into another of the apartments. Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Earles and daughter are moving from Danville, Va., into a fourth apartment shortly. Mr. Earles is associated with the new Texas terminal here.