

Skids Placed Under Illicit Liquor Traffic

Downward Trend Reported In The Business Lately

Enforcement Officers Look Toward Dry Times In Martin County

Recent activities carried on by ABC Officers Joe H. Roebuck and Cecil Bullock are said to have just about placed skids under the illicit liquor manufacturing business in Martin County, and Chief Enforcement Officer Roebuck is predicting mighty dry times on the illicit liquor front in the future.

Reporting the most extensive operations in the history of liquor business in this county, either with or without prohibition, the officers last year turned the tide, leaving the illicit manufacturers without an economic leg to stand on. "There'll be a few who will continue in the business, but fewer still will find their operations profitable," Officer Roebuck declared.

During the month of December, the officers destroyed an even dozen liquor stills in the county and wrecked eight partial plants. At least six of the plants never had been placed in operation, the officers finding and wrecking them before the liquor manufacturing ingredients could ferment. In addition to wrecking the twenty plants, the officers in December poured out 5,300 gallons of mash and more than forty gallons of white liquor. Six persons were arrested. Three of them have been convicted in the courts of the county, and trials are pending for three others.

Reviewing the record for the past year, Officer Roebuck said that 170 stills were wrecked in addition to a number of plants partially equipped. Approximately one-third of the plants were equipped with copper kettles. Crude barrels and tin stills were used at the other plants.

The officers poured out 52,850 gallons of mash and 211 gallons of bush liquor. Twenty-seven persons were arrested, and twenty-four of them have been tried and convicted in the courts. Three others are facing trial. Fines imposed in the courts amounted to \$1,875, and the road sentences totaled 102 months. The officers traveled 14,636 miles, handling enforcement work.

Unofficial estimates place the dubious value of the illicit liquor manufacturing business in this county at about \$75,000 last year. Some few operators made money, but most of them are believed to have lost money.

The beer was valued at 25 cents a gallon, making a total of \$13,212.50. The plants cost on an average, about \$100 each, adding \$17,000 to the investment. Liquor, confiscated, cost about \$800. In other words, it cost the illicit manufacturers at least \$33,012.50 to do business, and if the gross was no more than \$75,000 then some of the operators worked on a mighty narrow margin of profit, considering the risk. These costs include...

Examination For Oak City Office

An examination for filling the position of postmaster at Oak City has been announced by Mrs. Pauline J. Rawls, acting postmistress. The examination is held pursuant to an act of Congress, approved June 25, 1938, which placed Presidential postmaster position within the classified civil service.

Applications must be filed with the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C., not later than January 25.

Requirements for the examination are given in detail in forms available at the Oak City office. Applications must be in the hands of the Commission in Washington, D. C., on or before January 25, it

BONDS

Two hundred Town of Williamston bonds of the \$1,000 denomination are being signed by Mayor Robt. Cowen and Treasurer Marion Cobb today. The bonds, floated to finance a \$200,000 water and sewer line expansion program, will be delivered to Raleigh late today and turned over to the banks in New York Saturday.

During the meantime, work is progressing on both the sewer line extensions and foundation for a water tank.

Three Accidents On Main Street During Two Days

No One Hurt But Property Loss Certain To Exceed \$2,000 Figure

As far as it could be learned, motorists traveled highways and streets in this county without accident on the first day of the year, but the wrecking business was launched before the second day was spent.

Tuesday afternoon about 12:00 o'clock, Ben Ward, Jr., was delivering from a local filling station Julius Gurganus' new Plymouth sedan to the Gurganus home on West Main Street. He had almost completed a left turn into the driveway when Thomas T. Ruffin, also colored, of Bertie plowed into the side of the Plymouth with his 1947 Ford, doing about \$200 damage to his own car and about \$300 damage to the Plymouth, according to estimates offered by local police who made the investigation.

A hearing will be held in the case tomorrow evening. Ward is charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, and Ruffin is charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes.

Yesterday morning about 2:00 o'clock, J. P. Raeford was driving his 1949 Dodge into town from Windsor when he fell asleep and ran into and tore down the gas tank at the Harris filling station on East Main Street. No estimate on the damage could be had immediately, but it will run into several hundred dollars, according to one report.

The big wreck in the series of three was reported yesterday afternoon when a tractor-trailer crashed into the rear of another at the Main and Watts intersection. It was estimated that the loss there will approximate \$1,500, but no one was hurt.

Three trucks, all belonging to J. K. Pinnell of Warrenton, were traveling east on the main street. One truck, a tractor-trailer, caught by the light and he stopped quickly. Joseph Macklin, Jr., driving the third truck, could not stop and crashed into the rear of the one driven by Debnam. The front end of the Dodge tractor was smashed. The engine was ripped from its base, the transmission was broken and the housing was damaged. Truck line operators, viewing the wreckage, said the loss would exceed \$1,500.

To Open Bids On School Projects

Meeting in special session here next Tuesday noon the Martin County Board of Education will open bids for the construction of three school projects—a new colored high school and an addition to the white school here and a gymnasium in Robersonville.

It was learned unofficially today that several contractors are bidding on the general construction work, but only one or two electrical and plumbing contractors had submitted bids.

Before opening the bids, the board will offer for sale to the highest bidder several abandoned school properties.

Scott Calls For Consolidation Of State's Advances

Reviews Work of His Administration at the Half-Way Mark

Governor Kerr Scott in his biennial message to the North Carolina General Assembly at noon today, reviewed the work of his administration during the past two years and proposed a "consolidation of the advance we have made, but not that we dig in for stoppage of the advance." He stressed the need for river valley development, and that he had worked with federal agencies on such a program.

Indirectly, the Chief Executive answered his critics on several points, and took a definite stand on a number of issues.

Explaining that he did not think it out of order, the Governor said:

"As I come before you to discuss my stewardship for the past two years and to advise with you about the second half of my term of office, I think that it is not out of order to say something about my own creed—the fundamental principles which have been guiding me—and to which I turn frequently in self-examination.

"I believe that the proper objective of our country is preservation of freedom under God, and that our State must be ready to support this objective at all costs.

"I believe that although the present world unrest is extremely dangerous to us, testing both our faith and our statesmanship, it can prove to be the travail of a better society.

"I believe that we must start at home when we want to build a better world; and although some of our plans for North Carolina may be affected temporarily by the general emergency, we must be firm in our purpose to continue improvement of public service.

"I believe in the high quality of the natural values of our State; that both people and material resources are worthy of great investment.

"I believe that the North Carolina of 1950 with more than four million inhabitants will be a State of eight million or more by 1980, and that we should plan with such probable increase in mind.

"I believe that proper management of this State to provide a good life for its present and prospective population demands not only the improvement of schools and roads, ports and other conventional facilities, but also the scientific development of every large river drainage area we have.

"These are articles of my own faith. I have tried to chart a course in the light of these beliefs. When I asked the people to give me the responsibility of the Governorship, I discussed a specific program. I advocated the extension of our road system to form a state-wide chain of paved secondary highways. I promised to strengthen our public school system. I advocated that the financial reserves that had accumulated and were lying without interest in the banks be put to work for service of the people.

Declaring he was for "free enterprise," Governor Scott said he looked forward to the development of dams in our river valleys and a greater conservation of our soils, adding that he favored the distribution of power from the river dams by existing systems.

While his budget message will come later, the Chief Executive made timely comment when he said:

"I believe in a balanced budget, but I believe also that if it is as important to balance the State's budget of social and economic needs as it is to balance its income and expense account. Let us strive to avoid the costly deficits that imperil the well-being of our people and defeat their cultural and economic growth. We must not bury the people's talents.

He referred briefly to civil defense legislation and reviewed the road program, as follows:

"We have emphasized better roads as one of the most important

To Head March Of Dimes



Sponsoring the annual March of Dimes fund drive in this county, Williamston's Jaycees have named Bill Gray, left, and Hoke Roberson, right, chairmen. Final plans for the drive which is to get under way on January 15, will be made at a meeting of the Jaycees tomorrow evening. Following one of the worst polio epidemics in history, the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation is pleading for fifty million dollars this year, and asking this county to raise \$6,000.



THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Motorists, using the streets and highways in this county, last Sunday rode out the old year with the ugliest accident record on record. There's only one redeeming feature, and that is reflected in the death column count. Only four lives were snuffed out, not many compared with the 14 killed back yonder, but still too many.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

52nd Week			
Accidents Inj'd Killed	Damage	1950	1949
7	6	0	\$ 1,470
1949	0	0	00
Comparisons To Date			
1950	200	87	4 \$44,560
1949	142	87	4 \$44,560

Few Changes In County Faculty

Few changes in the county school faculty personnel were reported during the Christmas holiday break. One or two changed their names, and one or two resignations became effective.

After carrying on an effective work as principal of the Everetts School, Professor George McRorie resigned to enter business in Robersonville. He was succeeded at the school by R. L. Freeman of Elm City.

According to preliminary reports, attendance figures were up to normal Tuesday when the schools were reopened after the holidays.

College Develops Unique Topping-Suckering Device

A simple mechanical device that may save an untold amount of hand labor for flue-cured tobacco growers has been developed by agricultural engineers at N. C. State College.

The device consists of a pair of pruning clippers connected by plastic hose to a hand-operated spray tank. It is used to clip the tops from tobacco plants and apply a sucker-controlling compound in one simple operation.

Robert Wilson, a young engineer who joined the State College staff a little over two years ago, did most of the work on the new tool, which he calls the "Clip-Oil."

The clippers are altered so they will center and clip the tobacco stalk. Slight additional pressure on the handles releases a small amount of oil or other liquid from the tank, which is kept under pressure.

Last Rites For Mrs. Armstrong

Funeral services are being conducted in the Baptist church here this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. Blanche Harrison Armstrong who died suddenly at the home of her mother, Mrs. C. A. Harrison, Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock.

A former pastor of the Troy Methodist Church, Rev. C. P. Morris now of Durham, assisted by Rev. E. R. Shuller, local Methodist minister, and Rev. Stewart B. Simms, pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church here, will conduct the last rites. Interment will be in the family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery.

The wife of David Harrison Armstrong of Troy, she was visiting in the home of her mother when fatally stricken while telephoning Tuesday morning.

Local Firemen Get Two Calls

Firemen were called out twice in the past two days, but the fires were both minor.

The first call was to the Richard Vines home just beyond the Slaughter House on the McCaskey Road at 2:35 Tuesday afternoon. Sparks had fired the roof, but Vines, called from the Slaughter House, had the fire under control by the time firemen reached there.

Starting from a defective flue, fire burned the portion of one wall, some clothing and a piece of Bell Goss near the depot on Railroad Street at 11:35 o'clock yesterday morning. The damage was comparatively slight.

Hear Noted Tenor In Second Concert Series Last Night

Capacity House Grets Donald Dame and Accompanist In Auditorium

Donald Dame, noted tenor, came to town last evening for the second in a series of three Martin County Community Concert Association programs and was about to be held over by popular acclaim. His departure, scheduled for late evening, was delayed considerably by half dozen or more encores, the audience finally yielding out of consideration for the artist and his accompanist, Charles Ruetschi.

At the artist battled various obstacles, including terrible acoustics, his audience gradually warmed to him, the concert reading a great climax in the numerous encores.

Heard over the radio on the American Album of Familiar Music possibly by every one of his last-night listeners, the singer came to delight them in person and reveal a dynamic personality that captivated old and young.

As pointed out before, he imparted new meaning and impact to both music and text of traditional music and his superlative gifts of characterization and mimicking narrative song and comic aria, made his program a great and entertaining one. He sang all sorts of music, but the programmed number, "The Wind Mill" struck the most receptive chord, followed by "O Sing Again."

And then there were the request numbers that were so much enjoyed. It was beginning to appear as if he would be encoored right out of a week's work in one night.

Dame's voice has been ranked with the great following his work on stage and radio and his prowess was proved again last evening, leaving his admirers only to learn about his pleasing personality. The man appears much younger in person than he does in his pictures, and his public appearance enhanced his popularity among our people.

A special feature on the program came rather unexpectedly when his accompanist, Charles Ruetschi, offered two piano numbers and was acclaimed by the audience. While he was given no special booking, he rates a place in the list of artists.

Following the concert, Dame's friends cornered him on the stage for autographs, but a short time later he was escorted to the home economics room for coffee before he and Mr. Ruetschi left for an appointment in Alabama.

The next in the series of community concerts is scheduled for April 9 when Genevieve Rowe, soprano, appears on the program.

Native Of County Dies in Cleveland

Funeral services were conducted on Wednesday afternoon of last week in Cleveland, Ohio, for Henry Thomas Riddick, Martin County native, who died in a hospital there on December 23. Interment was in Cleveland's Knollwood Cemetery.

He had been in declining health for some time, and his condition had been critical for almost two weeks.

Mr. Riddick was born in Williams Township, this county, 63 years ago, the son of the late Noah Thomas and Charlie Anne Roberson Riddick. He spent his early life in the county and after attending the local schools and Buies Creek Academy he went to Pennsylvania where he made his home for a short time before locating in Cleveland.

Forty years ago last June he accepted a position with the Osborn Manufacturing Company in the Ohio City. At the time of his death he was office and personnel manager and assistant treasurer of the large concern.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Cora Buell of Cleveland; two sisters, Mrs. E. L. Exum of Moultrie, Ga., and Mrs. Ruth Brumby and two brothers, C. Ben and John F. Riddick, all of Gainesville, Fla.

A niece, Miss Edna Barnhill, of Williamston attended the funeral.

Abolish Jury Trials In The County Court

POSTPONED

First postponed on account of the New Year's holiday, the January meeting of Williamston's Town Commissioners was again delayed Tuesday evening on account of Mrs. David Armstrong's death. The board plans now to hold the meeting next Monday night at 8:00 o'clock.

Mayor Robt. Cowen said that little business was on the agenda.

Editor Jeter To Speak To County Contest Winners

Awards Will Be Made To The Sweet Potato Growers; Public Invited

By S. A. Tuten, Assistant Agent

Frank H. Jeter, Editor, North Carolina State College Extension Service, will be principal speaker at a meeting of 4-H Club members and Future Farmers of America who participated in the 1950 Martin County sweet potato contest. The meeting, which is open to anyone desiring to attend, will be held in the courthouse, Williamston, at 7:30 P. M., Wednesday, January 10th.

Mr. Jeter is widely known for his accomplishments as a farm information specialist. Radio listeners perhaps know him best for his farm news round-up which is heard over Station WPTF every week day at 12:15.

M. M. Levin, representing the Martin County Yam Growers Association, will make awards to boys who entered the Sweet Potato Contest.

Winners in the Contest are as follows:

First place: Fred Griffin, F. F. A., Jamesville. Others in top five: Gilbert Ange, F. F. A., Jamesville; William Harrison, 4-H, Jamesville; John Robert Modlin, F. F. A., Jamesville; C. A. Martin, 4-H, Jamesville.

2nd Group of Five: David Gurlin, 4-H, Farm Life; Calvin Oglesby, F. F. A., Oak City; Larry Jones, F. F. A., Jamesville; Dale Lilley, 4-H, Farm Life; Staniel Gardner, F. F. A., Jamesville.

3rd Group of Five: Herman Hollis, F. F. A., Oak City; George James, 4-H, Robersonville; Billy

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Crowded Docket In County Court

A crowded docket, accumulated during a two-week holiday, is awaiting attention in the Martin County Recorder's Court, Clerk L. B. Wynne said today.

At least forty cases have been placed on the docket for trial next Monday, not including six jury trials set for trial later in the month.

Entering a Durham hospital for an operation today, Solicitor Clarence Griffin will not be at his desk, but Chas. A. Manning, former judge, will prosecute the docket next Monday, it was learned.

More than one-tenth of the defendants slated to appear before his honor, Judge R. T. Johnson, next Monday are charged with speeding. Five are charged with drunken driving, five with assault, two each with larceny, violating the liquor laws, non-support and issuing bad checks, four with operating motor vehicles without drivers' licenses, and one each with bastardy, disorderly conduct, false pretense, careless driving and violating the traffic laws.

The court observed Christmas Day and New Year's Day as holidays, and the session next Monday will be the first since December 17.

Jury trials are scheduled, three for January 15 and three for January 29. Four of them involve alleged drunken driving.

Board Would Try Jury Cases Only In Superior Court

Appropriate \$2,000 for the Purchase of National Guard Site

Finding the system costly, the Martin County Board of Commissioners, in regular session Tuesday, would abolish all jury trial in the Martin County Recorder's Court, leaving such trials to be handled only in the superior court. Upon a motion advanced by Commissioner W. M. Harrison and seconded by Commissioner Herbert L. Roebuck, the board went on record as favoring the elimination of jury trials in the county court. The clerk was instructed to make the recommendation known to Representative E. G. Anderson and Senator Hugh G. Horton.

At the present time, several jury trials are pending in the county court. In some cases defendants would ask for a jury trial and then plead guilty. In those cases where jury trials are called for and the defendant is found not guilty, the county bears the extra expense. Crowded dockets in the county court have made it necessary in some instances to delay trials longer than would have been necessary if they had been scheduled in the superior court.

No other changes in legislation as it relates to the county or local political subdivisions were suggested, but it is possible that others are being considered.

The board had very little business before its regular meeting, but adjournment did not come until almost 1:00 o'clock.

Acting upon a request from citizens in the area, the board recommended that the road in Griffins Township, running from the E. H. Manning farm southerly 1.7 miles to the Smithwick Creek-Hardison Mill Road be widened and stabilized. It was recommended by the board that eight-tenths of a mile of road running from the R. L. Perry farm on Highway 17 to the Perry-Bear Grass Road be widened and stabilized.

Other road petitions were before the board, but no action was taken.

Upon the motion of Commissioner H. S. Johnson and seconded by Commissioner W. M. Harrison, the board agreed to appropriate \$2,000 as the county's part for the purchase of a site for the Martin County unit of the National Guard, leaving Williamston and individuals to raise the remainder. The State and Federal governments propose to construct the necessary buildings for housing the unit, an anti-aircraft battery.

The board went on record as not being responsible for any livestock killed by dogs unless the claimants comply with the conditions set out in the special law. It is understood that the stock is killed, the owner must get three disinterested parties to view the carcass and assess the damage.

Reporting to the board, Tax Collector M. L. Peel said that \$104,967.33 of the \$230,494.68 tax levy for 1950 remained uncollected. All but \$11,124.61 of the \$302,189.45 levy for 1949 has been collected. Of the \$294,357.55 levy for 1948, \$6,686.34 remains uncollected. There is a balance due of \$3,575.02 on the \$235,185.59 levy for 1947.

W. Frank Taylor Speaker of House

W. Frank Taylor of Wayne County mustered strong forces from the start and won the speakership of the State House of Representatives over Fred Royster, representative from Vance County, at the Democratic caucus held in Raleigh Tuesday evening.

The legislature is settling down to work. Proposed laws are being drafted and will start pouring into the hopper without delay.