

Six Auto Wrecks Reported In The County Recently

Four Persons Hurt; Property Damage Estimated At \$1,225 by Patrol

At least four persons were injured, none of them believed seriously, and a property damage, estimated at \$1,225, resulted in a series of six motor vehicle accidents on streets and highways in this county recently, according to information released this week by the Highway Patrol office in this county.

No report was filed until the latter part of last week, but it was said that John L. Daniel lost control of his 1940 Chevrolet and ran it into a telephone pole in Everetts early Sunday night, July 29. Making the investigation, Patrolman B. W. Parker estimated the damage to the car at \$125.

A minor accident was reported on the Hamilton-Palmyra road at 1:30 o'clock last Saturday afternoon when W. E. Bellamy of Scotland Neck started to make a turn into a farm with his 1947 Dodge oil truck and Mack Norwood Paul struck the vehicle with his 1940 Plymouth. Patrolman R. P. Naron, making the investigation, estimated the damage at \$25 to the car. No one was hurt.

Saturday morning at 5:45 o'clock, the Dodge driven by Raymond Williams and a 1941 Ford driven by J. D. Gurganus crashed at an intersection in the road leading from Highway 64 toward Flat Swamp. Gurganus suffered a cracked rib and Edward Andrews, 31, was slightly hurt about the knees. They were treated in the Bethel Clinic. Investigating the accident, Patrolman B. W. Parker estimated the damage to the Dodge at \$200 and that to the Ford at \$125.

There was a minor accident near Bear Grass Sunday afternoon, but Cpl. R. H. Chadwick, making the investigation, said no one was hurt and property damage was negligible.

About 7:00 o'clock Sunday evening, Ethel M. Jenkins, colored woman of Roper, ran into Roy D. Haislip's 1947 Mercury with her 1951 Ford on Highway 64 in Jamesville. The Jenkins car, traveling toward Plymouth, was on its left side of the street, Cpl. R. H. Chadwick said following an investigation. She was booked for reckless driving and charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license. The corporal said the damage to each car would approximate \$300. Paul Koenig, 39, of Wilson and a passenger in the Haislip car, suffered a painful cut over one eye.

Willie Perkins of Hamilton, driving out of a side road, over-shot Highway 903 near Gold Point at 12:30 o'clock yesterday morning and landed his 1941 Oldsmobile in an embankment across the highway. He suffered a slight head injury and did about \$150 damage to his car, according to Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation.

Jamesville Ruritans Hold Regular Meeting

The Ruritan Club of Jamesville held its regular meeting Monday, August 6, 1951, at 8:00 P. M., in the Jamesville School lunch room. After a delicious supper, which was served by the Ladies of the Jamesville Christian Church, a short business meeting was held. The program was omitted and the meeting was adjourned so that the farmers could return to their tobacco barns. Earl L. Sawyer, Reporter.

INCOME

Williamston has received \$2,846.00 as its part of the intangible tax listed and collected by State Department of Revenue. The amount is about \$200 greater than the \$2,641 received last fiscal year.

No report has been received, but the town is expecting about \$16,000 as its share of the Powell Bill street fund. The street money is to be made available in October. The allocation is made on the basis of \$435 a mile of streets and \$151 per capita.

Plan Good Will Caravan In The County Next Week

On Wednesday, August 15, Williamston will send out its good-will caravan, promoting the Williamston Tobacco Market, to all parts of Martin County, it was announced today by Al Sweatt, Manager of the Williamston Boosters, Inc.

The Motorcade, consisting of the Williamston High School Band, local merchants and other townspeople will assemble at the warehouse on that date and will begin to roll about 8:30 AM. The tour will go into the northwestern part

QUARTERS

Following the practice of the past few years, the Williamston Boosters will again list rooms and apartments available for rent during the tobacco marketing season, it was announced today by Al Sweatt, Manager of that organization.

Mr. Sweatt stated that he has already had several requests for furnished apartments and that he has no listings for accommodations of that type. If you have any apartments or rooms available, you are urged to contact Mr. Sweatt at his office by calling 3123.

Mrs. J. L. Everett Dies In Hospital

Mrs. Jasper L. Everett died in a Rocky Mount hospital Saturday morning at 9:50 o'clock after a several-day illness.

The daughter of Mrs. F. L. Savage and the late Mr. Savage, she was born in Nash County 59 years ago, moving to this county in 1915. In August of that year she was married to Mr. Everett who died some time ago.

Funeral services were conducted in the Roberson Funeral Home in Robersonville Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the Rev. J. M. Perry, assisted by Elder Wm. E. Grimes. Interment was in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Surviving are three daughters, Evelyn Everett and Mrs. Mary Ruth Perry, both of Corpus Christi, Tex., and Mrs. W. J. Etheridge of the home; three sons, Earl H. Everett, stationed with the Navy in Bermuda, Pvt. Gail Everett of Fort Hood, Tex., and Harry K. Everett of Robersonville; her mother, Mrs. F. L. Savage of Rocky Mount; one sister, Mrs. Annie Wheelless of Rocky Mount; five brothers, John Savage, Gaston Savage, Marshall Savage, Leroy Savage and Travis Savage, all of Williamston; and eight grandchildren.

Barn Burned In County Thursday

A tobacco curing barn, belonging to Farmer Daniel G. Griffin, was destroyed by fire on the Hollis farm near Cross Roads last Thursday morning, almost twenty-four hours after the curing process had been completed.

The farmer, cutting the oil off Wednesday morning, returned later and found the temperature dropping and everything in shape. The next morning the barn caught fire and burned, the owner explaining he had no idea how the fire started.

It was the seventh tobacco curing barn fire in the county so far this season.

Firemen Called Out Friday Afternoon

Firemen were called to the home of Hezekiah Price near the Bamby Bread warehouse in West End at 4:00 o'clock last Friday afternoon when an oil stove went out of control and threatened the small home on the Roberson farm.

Hands, working in tobacco just across the road, used dirt and put the fire out.

Firemen were called to the same farm two weeks ago when lightning fired a barn just to the rear of the Price dwelling.

Town Board Has Regular Meeting Here Last Night

Discuss Varied Matters and Start Investigation Of White Way

In a two-hour meeting last night, Williamston's town commissioners discussed a number of matters and received reports from the various departments.

Action to curb unnecessary noise in various places in town was considered, the board instructing the mayor to write business operators and appeal for their cooperation. The complaints, it was admitted, are well founded and the board members expressed themselves in favor of curbing some of the unnecessary and objectionable noise. It is possible that street telephones will be ordered removed and some arrests made if prevailing practices are not checked.

The possibility of installing a white way in the business sections was discussed, and the proposal is to be discussed with power company officials.

A request for a sewer line on New Street, leading off Sycamore, was received and the installation of a line was ordered.

Treasurer Marion Cobb said that the town had a cash balance of \$21,359.17 in the bank, including \$1,595.41 in the sewer tax fund. Income from parking meters last month exceeded \$600, and collections on the 1951 tax levy amounted to \$10,831.39 up until August 1. Past due taxes on the 1950 levy amount to \$2,194.31.

A petition was received, calling for curb and gutter and sidewalks on Lee Street from Liberty to Roosevelt Drive. The petition takes its place behind one submitted some time ago and calling for curb and gutter on School Drive.

The police department was granted permission to sponsor a circus this fall, the income to go into a relief or retirement fund.

The board briefly discussed the addition of a colored citizen to the police department for work in certain sections of the town. No action was taken.

Advised that the sewer contract project is about complete, the board is to meet in special session shortly for a final settlement with (Continued on page eight)

Upward Trend In Tobacco Prices

During the third week of sales for Georgia-Florida flue-cured tobacco average prices for most grades were \$1.00 to \$4.00 more than for the week before.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that despite the upward trend in prices for grades, the general average was forced downward because of lower quality. For week ending August 3 gross sales totaled 45,587,250 pounds for \$49.15 per hundred. The volume was only slightly larger but the average was \$1.48 below the previous week. Season gross sales were brought to 108,060,261 pounds for \$59.36 per hundred.

Improvement in prices was general for leaf, lugs and primings. Most cutters were about steady. Some nondescript was a little lower. Largest gains were for low and common leaf offerings. Practical top price remained at \$65.00. Some top grades brought one and two bids more.

Increased proportions of low, common and nondescript offerings lowered the quality. Most baskets contained common to fair leaf, low to good lugs, low cutters and nondescript. The week before most baskets were low to fine lugs, low and fair leaf, low cutters and nondescript, in that order.

Weekly receipts of the Stabilization Corporation, under the Government loan program, were estimated at slightly under 6 percent. Season deliveries are slightly over 10 percent.

A heavy volume has been marketed daily since the season began. Continued heavy sales are expected all of this week. Marketing has been in progress twelve sales days. During the corresponding period last year 98,681,715 pounds had been sold for \$50.97.

Surviving in addition to his parents are three brothers. A. C. of Kingston, Sam of Williamston and George R. Bullock of the home; four sisters, Mrs. Julius Hart and Mrs. L. C. Hatch, both of Norfolk, Va., Mrs. Gilbert Caraway and Margaret Bullock, both of the home; two half-brothers, Wadie Bullock of Tarboro, Route 1, and J. J. Bullock of Greenville; two half-sisters, Mrs. Jack Keel of Greenville and Mrs. Herbert Randolph of Greenville, Route 2.

Petition Board To Eliminate Segregation In County Schools

Negro Lawyer and Eight Petitioners At Board Meeting

While Facilities Not Equal Allegations Not True Altogether

Below is a petition, alleging inequalities in the plants and facilities of the several schools in this county, and demanding an end to segregation in the Martin County schools. The petition was presented by a group of eight Negro men and women, mostly from the Parmele, Robersonville and Gold Point sections, and read by Herman Taylor, Negro lawyer of Raleigh. The petition follows in detail:

The undersigned, parents of Negro children attending and eligible to attend the public elementary and high schools maintained in and for Martin County, having duly and carefully considered the Statistical Report filed by the Superintendent of Martin County schools and before the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the school year 1949-50, the latest such report available to date, call to this Board's attention the following facts:

1. That the figures in said report show that the Negro pupils comprise approximately fifty-three percent of the total pupils, both white and Negro, attending schools in Martin County.

2. That of fifty-one school buses being operated in Martin County by this board for the transportation of school children, only eleven of such buses are used for and made available to Negro school children, with the result that, according to figures showing pupils transported daily, this Board maintains, on the average, one bus for every fifty-four white children, and one bus for every ninety-two Negro children.

3. That although the Negro school population exceeds that of the white, this Board employs approximately twenty more teachers in the white schools than are employed in the Negro schools, with the result that the Negro schools are seriously understaffed, resulting in an obvious handicap to the Negro children.

4. That although the Negro school population exceeds that of the white, this Board has provided in Martin County for white children school property with a total valuation of \$959,850.00, while at the same time providing for Negro children school property with a total valuation of only \$304,400.00; similarly, that of the fourteen schools maintained for white school children, all are constructed of brick, with the exception of one two-teacher school at Hassell (the only two-teacher school maintained for white school children), while of the twenty-one schools maintained for Negroes, only two are of brick construction.

5. That while there are gymnasiums in five of the white schools, not one of the schools maintained for Negroes has a gymnasium; similarly, that while shop facilities are maintained in

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SCHOOL DATES

Dates for opening the Martin County schools and the holiday schedule for the year were fixed by the Martin County Board of Education in session Monday. Colored teachers will meet on September 3, and the colored schools will open the next day.

The white schools open the term on Wednesday, September 5, following a meeting of white teachers on Tuesday.

Two days will be observed for Thanksgiving. The schools will close at noon, December 21, for Christmas and resume activities on January 2. Easter Monday, April 13, will be observed as a holiday. If no time is lost the schools will close, the colored on May 23 and the white on May 26.

District Highway Commissioner Has Address For Club

Reviews Highway Program In Talk To Bear Grass Ruritans Monday

Mr. Henry G. Shelton, Highway Commissioner, and members of the Martin Co. Board of Commissioners were guests of the Bear Grass Ruritan Club on Monday night, August 6.

Mr. Shelton was the guest speaker and was introduced by Mr. E. C. Harrison. In his opening remarks concerning this introduction, Mr. Shelton said that after hearing all these nice things Mr. Harrison had to say about him "I can hardly wait to hear what I'm going to say."

Mr. Shelton talked about the general road program in North Carolina and in Martin County. The types of roads are the Primary, Secondary, Federal-Secondary, and Bond roads. The Federal Government gets a little arbitrary in the spending of Federal funds on Primary roads, but a special appropriation has been passed for the improvement of Highway 64 from Williamston to Plymouth.

Mr. Shelton stated that the Highway Commission has received a great deal of criticism from the lumber and logging industries and from the pulp mill people about the road weight limits. The Commission has listened to all these complaints and has made many of inquiries and investigations, and has decided that the limits will stay pretty much what they are, Mr. Shelton stated.

It is not the intention or policy of the Highway Commission to put any industry out of business, and where a bond road runs by a permanent industry the weight limits have been removed. But, where a logger uses a road for four or five weeks to haul out logs he will have to abide by these limits.

Merchants' Group Names Local Man

C. B. Clark, local druggist, has been named to the Government and Public Affairs Committee of the North Carolina Merchants Association. The announcement was made today by W. S. Wolfe of Mount Airy, president of the organization.

The function of the Government and Public Affairs Committee is to recommend to the Board of Directors what the Committee considers should be the attitude and policy of the Association, legislative, governmental and public affairs and, acting under instructions of the Board of Directors, it is to have control over such matters.

Petitioners Ask Board To Submit An Early Answer

Alleges Inequalities In The Several Schools In This County

What was described as a potential bombshell was dropped in this county Monday morning when a group of eight Negro men and women, headed by a Negro lawyer from Raleigh, asked that segregation be eliminated in the schools of this county.

The lengthy petition, appearing in another column of this paper, was read by the Negro attorney before a regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Education. Their cause presented, the Negro petitioners and their attorney filed out of the meeting room with very little comment and only one question having been asked. The petition referred to secondary schools, and clarifying the term, the spokesman said that included all schools, primary, elementary and high.

The lawyer spokesman said he was not singling out Martin County, alleging that similar conditions existed in his home town of Raleigh and throughout the State.

The petitioners said nothing, but the group spokesman asked that an answer to the petition be submitted without delay.

The paper was filed and the education board members will study its contents and discuss them with other officials. It was pointed out that some of the allegations are without foundation, and that the picture has changed and is being changed all along. There are lunchrooms in some of the colored schools. Shop facilities are available in more than one Negro school in the county. The bus load for Negroes is little or no higher than it is for whites.

Most of the gymnasiums in the county were not built with board of education funds, and white patrons have either built or equipped the lunchrooms. Negro education in Martin County has advanced faster in recent years than was the case with white schools. Negro teachers in this county receive a higher average salary than the whites.

The Negro school consolidation program is being advanced possibly even more rapidly than was the case with the white schools. Two Negro high school buildings are now being constructed, one of them including a modern gymnasium.

It has been pointed out, law or no law, that Negro education is advancing more rapidly under the present plan than it could possibly advance under any other, that possibly some of the petitioners are being misled.

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Recruit Women For Two Years

Sgt. Monteith, the local recruiting officer for the U. S. Army and U. S. Air Force, announced this week, that qualified women may now enlist in the WAC's for a two year period.

Previously, the shortest period a woman could enlist for, was three years. The minimum educational requirements are: applicant must be a high school graduate and at least 18 years old.

Sgt. Monteith is at Fort Bragg all day today on business, but will be on his regular route Wednesday.

Announce Birth And Death Of Son Friday

Mr. and Mrs. William Victor Andrews announce the birth and death of a son, William Victor Andrews, Jr., in a local hospital on Friday, August 3. Interment was in the Andrews family cemetery in Williams Township. Mrs. Andrews is the former Miss Ruby Hoggard.

Board Of County Commissioners In Meeting Monday

Very Little New Business Handled By Officials In Regular Session

Very little business was handled by the Martin County Commissioners in regular session Monday. Road projects were recommended, jurors were drawn for the September term of the superior court, and other matters were discussed but no final action was taken. The commissioners discussed hospitalization costs for indigents. Hospitalization is costing for that group about \$16,000 a year, it was learned.

A petition received by the board, asked that a road in Bear Grass Township, beginning on the Bear Grass Road near Clarence Bailey's residence and running southerly about one mile to William Shepard's residence be worked as a community project. The board also recommended that the Arthur Modlin road in Jamesville Township be worked as a community project.

Tax Collector M. L. Peel reported that \$317,351.13 of the \$336,635 tax levy for 1950 had been collected. All but \$7,578.24 of the \$313,706.69 levy for 1949 had been collected. There is a balance of \$5,014.35 due on the \$294,594.80 levy for 1948, and \$3,110.49 is due on the \$235,284.19 levy for 1947, the collector reported.

Sheriff M. W. Holloman reported fees in the sum of \$145.50 for July, the amount representing fees collected for serving papers.

The register of deeds reported an income of \$374.55 received in fees for filing papers, issuing certificates, licenses and other papers.

Income from the office of the clerk of court was listed in the sum of \$1,440.20, including \$625 in county court fines, \$85.90 in court costs and \$229.30 from recordings. All members of the board, including C. C. Martin, W. M. Harrison, J. H. Edwards, H. L. Robbuck and Henry S. Johnson, Jr., were present for the meeting which lasted until about 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

Local Boy Chosen Soldier Of Week

Sgt. James D. Rogerson, local young man, was chosen "Soldier of the Week" at Camp Stewart for the period, July 29, August 4. In a note of appreciation to the young soldier, the commanding officer, Brigadier General Clare H. Armstrong said:

"By means of a series of competitive tests, first at battery level and progressing successively through battalion, group and the final elimination test at this headquarters, you have demonstrated in an outstanding manner those qualities characteristic of the successful American soldier.

"Your final selection from among the many thousands of other soldiers with whom you competed indicates you possess high morale, intelligence, splendid military bearing and soldierly appearance, a good knowledge of tasks to be performed, conscientious attention to duty, a high degree of leadership ability and a comprehensive knowledge of the high lights of world affairs.

"I wish you every success during your Army career and during your subsequent efforts in the field of civilian endeavor."

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ROUND-UP

After the county jail had been empty from Monday until last Friday, various officers got busy and started filling it up last week-end. By late Saturday, nine persons had been arrested and temporarily detained there.

Four were booked for public drunkenness, two for drunken driving, and one each with an assault, breaking and entering and issuing a worthless check.

One of the nine was white and the ages of the group ranged from 29 to 40 years.