

Four Accidents On County Roads During Week-end

No One Badly Hurt In The Series, Patrolmen Reported

Several persons were injured, none of them seriously in a series of four automobile accidents on Martin County highways and streets during the past week-end, according to reports coming from members of the State Highway Patrol.

William Arthur Biggs, three-year-old colored child, suffered a slight head injury when he ran into the highway and struck a car being driven by Miss Opal Jones on the old Everetts-Williamston Highway Sunday afternoon shortly after 5:00 o'clock. One report stated that he lost a few of his baby teeth. He was treated in a local hospital and was able to return to his home a short time later. The little fellow was playing cowboy with other children near his home when he darted into the highway. Patrolman B. W. Parker said following his investigation of the accident.

Chapple Dougherty, 52-year-old Negro, was cut on the nose and bruised about the body when his 1950 Chevrolet went out of control and turned over at least four times on Highway 17 about six miles south of Williamston Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock. Dougherty claims his 24-year-old son, Ivory, was operating the car, but there is some doubt about it, according to reliable reports which the patrol is still investigating.

The car, traveling toward Williamston, went out of control and plowed into a peanut field, tearing down two peanut stacks, and literally flying as much as 20 feet. It went about ninety yards after leaving the highway. One side of the car was ripped away and the machine had dirt about a foot deep in its body. The owner of the car apparently was thrown out when it made the first somersault. Investigating the accident, Patrolman R. P. Naron estimated the damage to the machine at about \$1000. Arrested for public drunkenness, Dougherty refused to report to a doctor for treatment or check-up. The son was booked for reckless driving.

No one was hurt but damage, estimated at \$280 resulted, when a 1950 Mercury and a 1942 Chevrolet pick-up truck crashed on Highway 64 about six miles east of Williamston last Saturday night at 9:20 o'clock. Marvin Stancil Browning of Winston-Salem was driving his Mercury toward Jamesville and started to pass Benjamin Barber in the pick-up truck. Barber said he gave a signal for a turn, and Browning said if there was a signal he did not see it and was making ready to pass when the truck started making a turn. Investigating the accident, Patrolman Carl Gilchrist said the main damage, \$250, was done to the Mercury.

There was a minor accident on Washington Street here Saturday night about 9:30 o'clock when Elmer Rogers sideswiped another

County Boys Will Leave For Japan

At least two Martin County young men, Lt. Lawrence G. Lindsley of Williamston, and Warrant Officer N. Irving Hyman, of Oak City, are slated to sever connections with the National Guard unit and report for duty in the Far Eastern Command.

Hyman, completing a furlough at home, is slated to leave for Japan within the next few days. Lindsley, due home for a thirty- or forty-day leave, is to report to Camp Stoneman, California, in late January of early February. Except for the two transfers to the Far East, temporary withdrawals for schooling in other areas and the discharge of a few where hardship was claimed, the Martin County unit of the National Guard has been held intact down at Camp Stewart.

"Skuttlebutt" from the camp points to a withdrawal of the National Guard from Georgia to a station along the east coast, possibly somewhere between Norfolk and Philadelphia.

Health Center Opened In New Quarters Here Today

Martin County's Health Department is now located in its new quarters—a modern, one-story brick structure—on the corner of Ray and Harrell Streets. The moving task was handled for the most part yesterday, and while the staff has not had time to recover from the moving operations the department is carrying on its usual activities.

Since it was organized fifteen years ago next July, the department occupied offices in Williamston's City Hall. Applications to rent most of the offices vacated by the department have been received, it was learned.

The new Health Center, housing a modern clinic and offices, was constructed at a cost of ap-

proximately \$58,000, the county appropriating right at \$20,000. The Carolina Medical Care Commission and the federal government paying the remainder. The grounds have been landscaped, and while some of the surroundings are many decades removed from an ideal health condition, the setting is attractive and has great potentials.

Representatives of the Medical Care Commission inspected the structure last Friday with county officials, including Board Chairman J. H. Edwards and Clerk J. Sam Getsinger. Permission was granted the department to occupy the building, but final settlement with the contractors is being delayed until certain requirements, specified in the contract, are met.

Delay Murder Case Trials Until March

Court Expected To End Its Work Late Wednesday

Lone Case Reached the Jury First Day of One-Week Criminal Term

Opening a one-week term here yesterday, the Martin County Superior Court encountered just about every obstacle in the book, but shortly before noon today it had cleared most of the cases from the docket and virtually paved the way for adjournment by late tomorrow.

With Judge Walter J. Bone of Nashville on the bench, the court is hearing mostly criminal cases, the clerk explaining that there were a few Christmas divorces to be heard upon the completion of the criminal trials.

The cases in which Gus Andrews and Castannie Sutton are charged with the murder of Alton Lee Sheppard, colored, near Parmele on October 28 were continued when it was noted that a material witness, Justus Andrews, was in the hospital recovering from a major operation. True bills were returned in open court Monday morning by the grand jury, and the trials are now scheduled to be called at the next March term. During the meantime, it is fairly certain that the Sutton woman will continue in the county jail in default of a \$5,000 bond. Andrews continues at liberty under a \$1000 bond in the sum of \$3,000.

The case in which James Elmer Godard was charged with speeding and resisting arrest bogged completely down and after wrangling for hours, the court ordered a juror withdrawn and the case docketed for trial next March.

The State completed its evidence in the case, charging the defendant speeded between Oak City and Hamilton at 65 miles an hour, that he failed to appear when cited to the county court. Papers were issued for the man's arrest, the State charging that he resisted arrest and threatened the life of Patrolman R. P. Naron. The defense then went to great lengths in maintaining that the papers or capias, calling for the defendant's arrest, were not valid, alleging that no court order was included in the permanent court records. Solicitor Geo. Fountain maintained that the capias was valid on its face, and evidence was offered to that effect.

Monday afternoon, Judge Bone ordered the withdrawal of a juror and the case goes over until the March term.

The non-support case against Walter Barnes was continued under prayer for judgment.

The non-support case against Dallas Johnson was continued, and something was said about the possibility of it being not pressed. After appealing from a judgment handed down in the county court, Alonzo Lee Mills, charged with speeding, pleaded guilty and was fined \$25, plus costs. The judgment was the same handed down in the county court.

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INTRUDER

Good-naturedly, Attorney H. S. Ward of Washington walked right into the middle of a trial in superior court here yesterday afternoon, mumbling deeply as he advanced and then exchanged greetings with members of the bar and bench. He stated his business and took leave of absence, the court never stopping its work in the selection of a trial jury.

Well in his eighties, the Washington attorney always brings a smile or a chuckle when he visits the court.

Patient Waiting Pays Off Friday For Law Officers

Two Men Arrested at Crude Liquor Still Near Parmele

Twelve hours of patient waiting paid off for law enforcement officers in this county last Friday night when they arrested two men for violating the liquor laws.

Spotting an illicit liquor manufacturing plant about one-half mile west of Parmele between U. S. Highway 64 and the railroad, the officers, including those from the ABC enforcement division, the sheriff's office and Robersonville's township constable and deputy, Dennis Roberson, took a stand about 75 yards from the still shortly after 8:00 o'clock Friday evening. The law was waiting to score against transporters as well as the manufacturers. The transporters just did not show up, and after waiting until 8:00 o'clock Saturday morning, the officers moved in and arrested James Briley, 48, and William Augustus Reddick, 51. A third man, a stranger to the other two, according to their story, escaped.

Briley and Reddick were moving out of the woods with seven gallons of "poison" lightning. The sheriff laid his hands on both of them as they passed along a beaten path, but one got away. Deputy Roy Peel snagged him, holding to his foot, the fellow failing to get away even though he kicked.

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Blood Donor Volunteers Coming Up Short

The number of volunteers offering to give blood when the Red Cross bloodmobile makes its third visit here on Friday of this week, is coming up short, according to a semi-final report released this morning by Bill Spivey and Wheeler Manning, chairmen of the recruiting committee.

"We had expected right at 300 volunteers," the recruiters said, but up until shortly before noon today a few less than 200 had signed up to be at the center in the American Legion Hut on Fri-

Native Of County Died Last Friday In Philadelphia

Funeral Held Sunday In Spring Green Church for Nicodemus Roebuck

Funeral services were conducted in the Spring Green Primitive Baptist Church near his boyhood home in Poplar Point Township Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Nicodemus Roebuck who died in Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, last Friday afternoon at 12:45 o'clock. Elder A. B. Ayers and the Rev. E. R. Stewart, Baptist minister of Hamilton, conducted the service, and interment was in the church cemetery. Boyhood friends and acquaintances from over the county and other sections filled the church for the service, and members of the Hamilton choir sang.

The son of the late George R. and Elinza Dell White Roebuck, he was born in this county near Spring Green fifty years ago on October 13, 1901. After spending his early life on the family farm, he went to Virginia where he before locating in Philadelphia about 28 years ago. He was prominently engaged in the commercial refrigeration business.

About ten years ago he suffered a heart attack, but after a stay of two months in the hospital and months of rest at home, he was able to continue his work on a limited scale until the first of this month when he suffered another attack. He was removed to the hospital, his condition becoming critical last Thursday when all members of the family were called to his bedside.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Cora Odom of Petersburg. Surviving besides his widow, are a son, Herbert Roebuck; a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Scott, both of Philadelphia; a brother, John Roebuck of Williamston; three sisters, Mrs. Carrie Dell Phippen of Philadelphia, Mrs. Mack Wynne and Mrs. Ben H. James, both of RFD 3, Williamston; and a half-sister, Mrs. Mandy White, also of RFD 3, Williamston.

Among those from out of the county who attended the funeral were, Mrs. Roebuck, Mrs. Dorothy Scott and son, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Roebuck and Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Notofranisco, all of Philadelphia, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Allen of Greenville, Mrs. Curtis Slankard, Mrs. Margaret P. Davis and Mrs. Friemyer, all of Plymouth.

Local Men Continue Ill In Rocky Mount Hospital

Messrs. C. B. Clark, Sr., and Jimmy Harris, prominent local business men, continue quite ill in a Rocky Mount hospital, according to reports received here shortly before noon today.

Suffering an attack last Wednesday night, Mr. Clark was removed to the Rocky Mount hospital Saturday and while there has been no great change in his condition, he was reported resting fairly well. Mr. Harris, after experiencing two restless nights, rested well last night, it was reported.

Doctor Closes His Office In Oak City

After practicing medicine and figuring prominently in the affairs of the Oak City community for more than quarter a century, Dr. E. E. Pittman was reported to have closed his office there last week-end. Experiencing declining health, the doctor left for Virginia Beach to make his home.

Blood Donor Volunteers Coming Up Short

unless the people get behind it and offer a greater support. The center will be open in the Legion Hut on Watts Street from 10:00 a. m. until 4:00 p. m., and anyone who has not already volunteered is asked to contact the Red Cross office at once or go to the hut during those hours.

It was explained that several groups had signed up almost 100 percent in support of the program, that five out of Mr. Yates' six-man transformer crew of the Virginia Electric and Power Com-

Big Lumber Mill Destroyed In Quarter-Million Dollar Fire Here Late Last Night

Devil Took Over At Piccolo Joint Saturday Evening

Two Persons Carved; Ice Pick In Another, And Another Shot

The devil took over at Jim Bell's piccolo joint near Gold Point late last Saturday evening, leaving in his wake one person badly shot, two others painfully cut, another gored with an ice pick and still others left wallowing in public drunkenness. The first phase of the disturbance was aired in Justice Chas. R. Mobley's court in Williamston's town hall Monday night. A few less than one hundred Negroes crowded into the hearing room and police station, the overflow lining the sidewalks on both sides of the street. The second and more serious phase of the trouble is scheduled to be aired by the trial justice next Monday night.

Three of the four defendants called in the first round-up were charged with disorderly conduct, and the fourth was charged with public drunkenness. Just what happened was not brought out in detail at the first hearing, and it is fairly evident that the witnesses are covering up something. No mention was made of it in open court, but onlookers were quoted as saying that one Kay Frances Wiggins, 19, drove an ice pick into Jack Tilley's shoulder, that possibly the incident touched off one happening after another. Both the Wiggins woman and Tilley along with Jero Jones, Jr., were taxed with \$5.85 costs each. Augustus Chances, booked for public drunkenness, was fined \$10, plus costs.

Next Monday night, if everything goes right, Willie James Lawrence, Thomas Purvis and the proprietor of the joint, Jim Bell, are to be given preliminary hearings in the cases in which they are charged with assaults with deadly weapons.

Lawrence is charged with stabbing Purvis. Purvis is charged with carving Lawrence, and Jim Bell is charged with shooting Purvis with a shot gun. Lawrence had a six-stitch gash in his shoulder and a bad cut in his hand when Purvis got through working him over. Purvis, after being stabbed in the leg, ran from Bell's place into the open road. Bell, using a 12-gauge gun, fired a load of No. 6 shot at Purvis who was in just about 150-foot range. Loaded with between 50 and 100 shot from his hips to his legs, Purvis was picked up by friends, carried to his home and later removed to Martin General Hospital where it was shot-picking time for a long time. He is expected to recover if no complications develop. Lawrence was treated in Wards' Clinic and was able to be out for the first hearing.

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Lone Eagle Reported For Duty In the Army Monday

Jack Smith, Jr., young farmer of Goose Nest Township playing the role of a lone eagle, reported Monday for final induction into the armed services. The only man called by the draft to report for final induction from this county in December, the young man left on a regular bus by schedule for the army station in Raleigh. Just why only one man was called and just before the holidays, no one can say other than that's the way of the draft.

No pre-induction call was received in this county for December. Unofficial reports maintain that

the draft will start taking young men in sizable numbers next month. According to the unofficial information, twenty-five Martin County men will be called for final induction and thirty-five will be called for pre-induction in January.

So far, approximately 175 Martin County men have been drafted into the armed forces since World War II.

According to information gained from one of the twelve men called from this county last month for pre-induction, only three passed.

Name Nominees For County P-MA Places

SMALL CROWDS

Proceedings in the superior courts in this county don't attract the attention now that they did in days gone by. This week, although there was a murder case on the docket, the spectators hardly filled one-half of the court room. At times there were less than fifty spectators in the room, and most of them apparently showed little interest in the proceedings.

Plans Completed For PMA Election In This County

Delegates To County Convention To Name Committee Friday

Plans have been completed for holding the Production-Marketing Administration community elections in this county on Thursday of this week. Preliminary reports reaching here indicate that "hot" elections are in the making in several areas while in others very little interest is in evidence.

At conventions held throughout the county last Thursday night, a slate was nominated in each district for community committee-men and delegates to the county convention. The nominees will be voted on in the election Thursday, each community to elect for its committee, a chairman, a vice chairman, regular member and one or two alternates. Each group will also elect a delegate and an alternate to the county convention to be held in the county agriculture building next Friday. The convention will elect the county committee.

The election Thursday of this week will be held from 9:00 a. m. until 6:00 p. m., in the following communities:

Jamesville I and II in Jamesville City Hall; Williams in the county house; Griffins at Stephen Manning's store; Bear Grass at Harrison's Garage in Bear Grass; Williamston and Poplar Point in

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Wells-Oats Plant Burns In Town's Most Costly Fire

More Than One Hundred Men Burned Out Of Jobs In Three-Hour Fire

The large lumber mill of the Wells-Oates Company on East Main Street here was destroyed in the most costly fire in the town's history late last night and early this morning. Preliminary estimates gained from reliable sources, placed the loss at one-quarter million dollars.

Owners of the plant, one of the town's largest in the heavy industry field, could not be reached immediately, and local representatives along with the entire populace were so stunned by the destruction that few details could be learned early today.

Starting about 11:30 o'clock last night, the fire burned itself out in a little less than three hours. The fire was confined to the main mill, firemen, encountering many obstacles, saving part of the grading sheds and just about all of the timber in the mill and on the lot.

Joe Smith, working the first watchman's shift, said he walked through the second story of the main part of the mill about 11:20 o'clock, saw no sign of fire and joined the second shift watchman in the boiler room. Traveling toward the river wharf, Francis Leggett saw the fire and sounded an alarm. The watchman said, "It was one big puff and the building was a roaring inferno." Smith added, "All the fire departments in this section of the country could not have saved the mill."

The fire started on the second floor about the middle of the plant, and by the time a general alarm was sounded it had spread from one end of the mill to the other. Occupants in nearby houses and stores immediately started moving out their worldly goods, and just about everything in the immediate vicinity was wrecked or damaged.

All of the town's fire-fighting equipment was moved to the plant with minimum delay. Company employees were found trying to hook up the plant's hose lines. One truck was placed in operation at a hydrant on the street leading to the river wharf. The second truck, trying to reach a hydrant back of the plant, got stuck, and the hydrant pressure in that area almost rendered the firemen helpless there. Once freed, the pumper was spotted on the big water mains on the main street more than a block from the plant, and firemen were able to check the fire at the grading shed and at the boiler room.

The plant had been electrified less than six months ago, the motors and equipment costing right at \$25,000.00, it was conservatively estimated.

Eighty-five men were employed in the mill proper, and about fifty others in the logwoods were dependent upon it for employment.

The local manger, Frank E. Weston, said he could not say what the company planned to do.

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Haywood Moore Awarded Badge

With the 25th Infantry Division in Korea—Pfc. Haywood L. Moore, RFD 2, Williamston, N. C., has been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, a symbol of close-quarter fighting with the enemy, while serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Korea.

The badge, consisting of a miniature replica of a Revolutionary War Flintlock mounted on a blue background and superimposed on a silver wreath, distinguishes the actual fighting men from rear area and service troops.

Moore is assigned to Company H of the 25th Division's 27th Infantry Regiment.

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