

Seventh Fatality On Highways In County

Amariah Harrell Killed Instantly Early Last Night

Aged Man Dashed Into The Highway In Front Of Small Truck

The seventh fatality on Martin County highways in the old year was reported just a few hours from its close last evening when Amariah "Rye" Harrell, 75, was instantly killed on the highway between Hamilton and Palmyra, about three miles this side of Palmyra. Investigating the death, Coroner W. W. Biggs ruled that no formal inquest was necessary, and no charge was considered.

Harrell, living with his nephew, Raymond Harrell, at a store on the Old River Road, suffered fractures of both legs, a broken neck and two skull fractures.

Jerry Coffield, 9, and Ronnie Coffield, 7, witnessed the accident, and they told investigating officers, Deputy Sheriff Wiley Craft and Patrolman B. W. Parker, that Harrell dashed into the road after a car had passed and into the path of the truck coming from the opposite direction.

James Clifton Pate, Oak City man who works in Scotland Neck, was driving a paneled Chevrolet truck toward Hamilton and struck Harrell, knocking him a few feet off the highway to the left. The identity of the car moving toward Palmyra was not determined. Pate, accompanied by his wife and a friend, said that the victim was dressed in dark clothes and that he never saw him even in time to apply the brakes on his truck.

Mr. Harrell was born on March 3, 1876, in Goose Nest Township where he lived and farmed all his life.

Funeral services will be conducted at the graveside in the Williams Chapel churchyard not far from his home Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. The body will remain at the Biggs Funeral Home here until a short time before the service.

Hold Funeral For Accident Victim

Funeral services were conducted in the Community Christian Church near Williamston last Friday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock for William Joseph (Willie B.) Bullock who was fatally injured in an automobile accident the previous Wednesday. The Rev. Tom Harris conducted the rites and interment was in the Wynne Cemetery in Cross Roads Township.

Mr. Bullock was born in this county 24 years ago on October 7, 1927, and lived all his life on the farm. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him, and considered the welfare and interest of others before his own. He never married, but had planned to shortly before his death.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Fannie Bullock Tyson of Washington; his grandmother, Mrs. Crissie Bullock of Poplar Point; four brothers, Calvin Bullock of Scotland Neck, Jasper Bullock of Palmyra, Clarence Bullock of Poplar Point, and Junior Bullock of Washington; two sisters, Virginia and Joyce Bullock of Washington.

Few Changes In Business Here

As far as it could be learned today comparatively few business changes are in the offing locally. Martin's Bakery, a familiar place of business on Washington Street for several years, is moving to Kinston, reports declaring that Mr. Martin Moore, owner and operator, had been made an attractive offer to go into business in the Lenoir County town.

It was also reported that business personnel in the town is continuing about the same as it was in 1951.

YANKS COMING

After spending Christmas at home and spurred by a cold snap, the Yanks started moving south in large numbers last week. No official estimates are to be had, but thousands traveled through here daily for several days. Most of the travelers were out of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey.

Funeral Sunday In Cross Roads For J. F. Wynne

Well-Known County Farmer Died In Wilson Hospital Friday Afternoon

Funeral services were conducted in Cross Roads Christian Chapel Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for James Furney (Bud) Wynne, well-known county farmer who died in a Wilson hospital last Friday at 1:30 o'clock. The pastor, the Rev. Preston E. Cayton, assisted by the Rev. James M. Perry, of Robersonville, and the Rev. R. A. Phillips of Washington, conducted the last rites. Interment was in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Mr. Wynne had been in declining health for several years and was confined to his bed for months, spending the last several in the hospital at Wilson.

A son of the late James Henry and Sallie Mobley Wynne, he was born in Cross Roads Township sixty-two years ago, on September 27, 1889, living and farming there all his life. He was a member of the church at Christian Chapel, and played the role of a good neighbor and friend.

New Year Given Warm Greeting

The New Year was given a reasonably noisy welcome here and throughout the county, and aside from a fatal highway accident earlier in the last evening of the old year, the event was marked without serious incident.

Fireworks, although outlawed by State legislation, were heard along with a few dynamite blasts and mill whistles, but the auto horn blowers really took over, the last "bump" coming when the New Year was an hour old.

There were religious services in some of the churches in the town and county. New Year parties centered around television sets were brief.

A heavy fog, closing in on the area, did not dampen the noise.

Makes Report On Seal Sale Drive

The annual sale of tuberculosis seals and bonds in this county is progressing favorably, according to a preliminary report released today by Chairman W. G. Peele. Although the drive is still incomplete, Mr. Peele stated that preliminary reports from Griffins Poplar Point, Robersonville and Williamston Townships show a total of \$2,057.36 raised to date.

Since there are six more townships to report, the chairman is confident the goal of \$3,000 will be achieved in ample time to help finance the mass mobile X-ray work scheduled to get under way in the county the latter part of next week.

Highway Deaths To Outpace War Next Few Weeks

Millionth Highway Death Was Reported On December 22

New York, January 1—The automobile will outpace war as a mass killer of Americans sometime in February, when its fatality toll will exceed for the first time in the history of the total of the nation's military dead since 1775, unless the new year starts with a marked decline in traffic deaths and Korean casualties increase greatly in the meantime, the Association of Casualty and Surety Companies said today.

At the end of the first year and a half of the Korean conflict on December 25, military deaths in all U. S. wars since the Revolution started had reached approximately 1,004,000, according to the Association's comparative study of war and traffic fatalities. The automobile killed its millionth victim on December 22. Its toll on Christmas Day, when the Korean war was 18 months old, was approximately 500 over that historic mark, 3,500 below the all-time total of war deaths but 56,500 higher than the tally of 944,000 motor vehicle fatalities at the start of the Korean war on June 25, 1950. In the same 18 months the Department of Defense has reported about 17,800 U. S. military deaths in Korea.

Barring resumption of full-scale war and far greater American casualties in Korea or a huge reduction in the motor vehicle toll during the next few weeks, the automobile will soon overtake war's head start of 125 years in which 530,000 military deaths had occurred before the motor age claimed its first victim just before the twentieth century began, the Association declared. At the 18-month mark of Korean hostilities, traffic fatalities were occurring seven times faster than those of war, claiming in one day as many American lives as the total lost in one week's fighting in Korea.

The historic death race between these two mass killers toward their respective million marks ended with war claiming the life of a new unknown soldier, "GI-X," in Korea last September 3 or 4, according to the Association's study. His civilian counterpart in traffic accidents, "Victim X," died about 110 days later. Both "GI-X" and "Victim X" will remain unknown, it added, although some attempts have been made to establish the identity of the millionth traffic victim, of which no one can be certain because of incomplete early statistics. However, the deaths of these historic victims of war and the automobile a little more than three and a half months apart have centered attention on the relative deadliness of occasional American wars and daily traffic accidents, the Association said in pointing out that within two months the automobile will take a commanding lead as the deadliest of the two wholesale destroyers of American lives.

"Americans must face that the automobile is a bigger killer of their sons and daughters than our wars," said Thomas N. Boate, public safety director of the Association and acting manager of its accident prevention department, in commenting on the study. "The new year should witness the most determined effort ever made by the nation to reduce the tremendous loss of life in highway accidents."

"An even greater highway safety movement than that which sought to delay the death of 'Victim X,' the millionth traffic fatality, must be launched immediately to save lives that otherwise will be lost because of carelessness and law violations by drivers during 1952. During the Christmas holidays, just after the millionth automobile death occurred, traffic deaths were reported to be continuing gravely ill."

County Man Hurt In Car Accident

George Corey, young man of the Farm Life community, was painfully cut about the forehead, and Franklin Hardison, Sug Manning and James Darrell Manning, also of this county, were bruised and shocked when their car was in collision with another motor vehicle at an intersection in Fountain Sunday night. Hardison was driving Corey's Ford at the time. Six or more stitches were needed to close the cut over Corey's right eye, and his car was wrecked beyond repair.

Man Recovering with Four Pistol Bullets In His Chest

Rossvell Mackey, 49-year-old local colored man, is recovering with four small caliber bullets in his chest, according to a report released today by Williamston officers. Two bullets were said to have lodged close to the heart, another punctured a lung while still another rests in the lower chest. Given first aid treatment here, the victim was removed to Duke hospital where he was discharged following treatment lasting less than a week.

Coming here from Belhaven nine or ten years ago, Mackey divorced his wife and was making his home with Christine Brown, as his general housekeeper, officers said. On the night of December 22, his daughter, Queen Esther Jackson, en route from Cheriton, Va., with her husband, to visit her mother in Beaufort County, stopped to see her father. The following morning, the Brown woman was slugged by Esther Jackson. Mackey ordered his daughter and her husband out of the old Wilson hall on Warren Street. Jackson claims he left the room and was waiting in the hall for his wife to pack. Mackey allegedly went after him with a foot tub, and Jackson fired the four shots into him without further ceremony, two of the bullets making only one hole.

Plans Going Forward For March Of Dimes

Mystery Radio Program To Be Special Feature

Dr. J. A. Edens and C. E. Mangum Will Chairmen The 1952 Drive

Plans are just about complete for launching the 1952 March of Dimes in this county. Chairmen Jim Edens and C. E. Mangum announced today. Sponsored by the Williamston Jaycees in the name of infantile paralysis in every nook and corner in Martin County, the drive is to be centered in the several schools, white and colored. However, the chairmen are planning a mystery radio program to support the drive and direct mail appeals will again be made.

No quota has been assigned this county, but it has been pointed out that the treasury funds are comparatively low, the amount on hand being considered hardly large enough to support a single case.

Reviewing the operations of the infantile paralysis fund in 1951, Chairman Edens said that \$577.50 was spent on the one new case reported in the county in 1951. Treatment of an old case during the year cost \$275. Braces and shoes, purchased for two other cases, cost \$138.50. Since Martin County drew heavily from the national fund to finance a peak case load several years ago, the local unit advanced \$50 to those chapters whose funds were exhausted last year. In all, the chapter spent \$1,747.71 in 1951.

In 1951, the chapter received \$2,316.01 as its share of the money raised in the March of Dimes drive, the balance on hand the first of 1951 boosting the total to \$2,478.53. The 1951 total expenditures were \$1,747.71, leaving a balance as of this January 1 in the sum of \$730.82.

Chairman Edens said that the radio program, planned for the afternoon of January 13, is expected to attract wide attention throughout the county. Details are being worked out and plans will be announced as they are developed.

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Eleven Accidents In Martin County During Holiday Season

Involuntary Manslaughter Charge Pending Against One Of Car Drivers

Aggravated by a series of eleven accidents during the holiday season, carnage on the highways and streets in Martin County reached a shocking total as the old year tore to an end.

There were at least 261 motor vehicle accidents during the year, leaving seven dead, 138 injured and property loss conservatively estimated at \$61,840.

The terrifying record reached a horrible climax right at Christmas time when one person was killed and eleven others were injured, several of them critically, December 31.

Working night and day, Patrolman B. W. Parker and R. P. Narron investigated eleven accidents in the eight-day period ending December 22 when Elmer Purvis was driving on a rural road not far from Gold Point and swerved his car in an effort to miss striking another driven by William Earl Bland of Hobgood, Purvis' 1949 Hudson turned over, causing about \$10 damage to the machine.

Bland's 1948 Chevrolet was damaged about \$75, according to Patrolman Parker who made the investigation. Late Sunday afternoon, business started increasing with Patrolman Parker investigating an accident between Gold Point and Hassell and Patrolman Narron looking after one in Oak City. Both accidents were caused directly or indirectly by loose hogs. Clayton Earl Council, colored of Oak City, ditched his 1939 Chevrolet to avoid striking a hog that ran into the road. Patrolman Parker said, fifteen minutes later at 6:00 o'clock, Patrolman Narron said Albert Thompson did \$100 damage to Thompson's 1950 Ford when it struck a hog in Oak City. Very little damage was done to Council's car in his accident.

About 8:00 o'clock in the morning of December 24, William Little lost control of his 1950 pickup truck and ditched it on the Rogers Road in Bear Grass Township when a wheel ran off. Patrolman Narron, making the investigation, estimated the damage at \$100.

At 10:00 o'clock that same morning two trucks owned by Larry Barnhill of Wallace's Station were involved in an accident at the Pollard farm near Robersonville. Wallace Purvis, driving one of the trucks, had stopped to pick up a load of corn, and Jerry Whichard, driving the second truck, ran it into the rear of the first one, causing about \$150 damage, according to the investigating officer, Patrolman Parker.

An hour later two cars, one driven by Bobby Shelton Stalls of RFD 3, Williamston, and a 1949 Chevrolet driven by Mack Donald Lewis of Hamilton, were in collision near the Whitley farm not far from Williamston on Highway 125. The combined damage was estimated at \$150 by Patrolman Narron following his investigation.

Before the patrolman could complete his investigation at the wreck near Williamston he was called to a minor wreck at the intersection of Highways 11 and 44. Hardly \$25 damage was done to E. T. Smith's 1951 Dodge, and none to the other vehicle, a wrecker driven by James Speller for the Roanoke Chevrolet Company.

Christmas afternoon at 2:45 o'clock, Joe Vance Roebuck drove his 1951 Mercury into an intersection on the Gold Point-Hassell Road and crashed with a 1951 English Ford driven by Jesse Julian Bazemore of RFD 1, Bethel, causing about \$75 damage to his own and about \$100 damage to the other machine, according to Patrolman Narron.

At 3:45 o'clock Christmas afternoon three persons were injured, two of them painfully, when two cars were in collision near Conoho Church on Highway 125. Dallas Dunn Williams of Hampton, Va., driver of a 1951 Ford, suffered head and chest injuries, and Mrs. Williams suffered head injuries. They were removed to a Tarboro hospital last week-end for treatment. Mrs. John M. Bowen continues quite ill there, according to last reports reaching here.

Car Accidents - Mar. Holiday Season Here

LONE CALL

Local firemen had little business created for them during the holiday season, Chief G. P. Hall reporting that only one call was received during the entire holiday period, and that came early the afternoon before Christmas. The call was to a small grass fire in West End.

Local and county officers, except for a serious gun attack and a few arrests, reported a reasonably quiet holiday season.

Clifton L. Keel Dies Following A Long Illness

Funeral For County Farmer Held Monday in Church At Robersonville

Clifton L. Keel, well-known Martin County farmer and a community leader of near Robersonville, died at his home there last Saturday night at 10:35 o'clock. He had been in declining health for about two years.

A son of the late H. L. and Jeanette Edmondson Keel, he was born in this county 48 years ago, living and farming near Robersonville all his life. He was a member of the Christian Church at Gold Point for many years. Funeral services were conducted in the Robersonville Christian Church Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. James M. Perry, and interment was in the Robersonville Cemetery.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Tessie Mae Vanderford who survives with one son, C. L. Keel, Jr., of the home; three daughters, Mrs. J. D. Mumford of Greenville, Mrs. Edward A. Roberson of Robersonville, and Sheron Keel of the home; two brothers, Ernest and Ervin Keel of Robersonville; two sisters, Mrs. Edgar Ballard and Mrs. Ervin James of Robersonville; two half-brothers, Kenneth Keel, now serving in the Air Force at Shepherd Field in Texas, and Bernest Keel of Opelousas, La.; two half-sisters, Mrs. Mac Roebuck (Continued on Page Eight)

Youth Painfully Burned Monday

Johnny Mack Rawls, eight years old, was painfully but believed not seriously burned at 1:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon when he poured kerosene on fire and flames leaped into his face. His hair was badly singed and his face blistered.

Someone saw the fire flare up and placed a call for the fire department. The little fellow was about as much surprised to see the fire truck drive up as firemen were to find out that the little fellow had been burned. There was no personal property damage, just all personal.

The Rawls family, taking over the Geo. Harris service station and store on East Main Street, had just moved into the quarters.

Earlier in the day, firemen were called to a home just off West Main Street when an oil heater went out of control in a home. No general alarm was sounded on that call.

ROUND-UP

Twenty persons in and around the county fell into the hands of the law during the past week, the count holding to a figure somewhat higher than usual. Eleven were booked for public drunkenness, five for assaults, three for drunken driving and one for disorderly conduct. Three were white and the ages of the group ranged from 21 to 53 years.

One Person Loses Life; Others Are Critically Injured

Property Loss and Number Injured At Shocking Figure For Year

Sorrow, aggravated by a fatal automobile accident, moved in to mark the holiday season for the town and community, the entire population seemingly sharing in the tragic turn of events.

After striking earlier in several homes, death moved to the highway, members of the North Carolina State Patrol reporting one person killed and several injured, two critically.

Willie Ray Bullock, 24-year-old farmer of near Williamston, was killed almost instantly and eight other persons were injured, two of them believed critically, when two cars collided just outside Williamston on Highway 125 early last Wednesday afternoon.

The injured include: Joseph Clayton Nicholson, 19, broken collar bone, broken foot, bruises and lacerations.

Alvis Roberson, 19, fracture of right arm above the wrist.

James Roberson, minor cuts and bruises.

Robert Edmonds, 46, of Oak City, minor injuries.

L. B. Hutchinson, 46, of Oak City, chest and head injuries.

Mrs. L. B. Hutchinson and Mrs. Leman Hollis, of Durham, scratches and bruises.

James Roberson who returned from Korea in August and was home on leave from Camp Rucker, Ala., was driving a 1947 Ford sedan toward Williamston with Nicholson, Bullock and Alvis Roberson riding with him. According to a report given Patrolman R. P. Narron, Roberson passed an oil truck near a curve in front of the old Whitley homeplace, and before he could get back on his side of the road crashed into a Chevrolet driven by Edmonds. The left door of the Ford struck near the front right of the Chevrolet, and parts of both cars were found scattered along the road and in a nearby field.

Bullock's head was crushed and it is believed he suffered a broken neck. He died before reaching the hospital. A Biggs ambulance moved the injured, carrying several of the victims to one and several to the other hospital.

Several members of the highway patrol were dispatched, after some delay, to the scene of the wreck along with local police.

Mrs. Hutchinson who had just left the hospital where she had had a broken foot put into a cast, was riding with the Edmonds, Mr. Hutchinson and her daughter, Mrs. Hollis.

The driver of the Ford is being charged with involuntary manslaughter and is at liberty under bond pending a hearing. He was scheduled to return to Camp Rucker today and said he would be getting out of the service after completing a four-year hitch in March of this year.

Discussing the accident shortly after his appearance bond had been arranged, Roberson said he (Continued on page eight)

Community Series Listed For Month

The following concerts will be held in the month of January the nearby towns. Jan. 21—Michael Rhodes, B. tone—Ahoskie. Jan. 22—Rey and Gov. Spanish Dancers—Kinston. Jan. 25—Raman String Ensemble—Rocky Mount. The next Martin County Community Concert will be held on January 25 when Michael Rhodes brings with him a pianist. Holders of Community tickets are welcomed at above concerts.