

## Several Highway Accidents in The County Recently

Two Persons Painfully But Not Badly Injured In Two Accidents

Two persons were injured painfully but reportedly not seriously and property damage was fairly limited in a series of highway accidents in this county over the week-end, according to reports released by the State Highway Patrol office.

Lizzie Mae Riddick, about 14 years of age, was badly bruised and skinned about her body and suffered a several-stitch cut in her head when she fell out of a moving car last Saturday night. Following overnight treatment in a local hospital she was able to continue to her home. Details of the accident could not be had immediately. It was reported that she was riding with her brother, that the door of the car was not fastened securely and that when she took hold of the latch handle the door flew open and she fell out, while the car was moving at about 45 miles an hour.

Jesse V. Peele, colored, was driving his 1940 Dodge on the Jones road over in Williams Township about 10:30 o'clock last Saturday night when something went wrong with the steering mechanism, causing the car to go out of control and into a ditch. Peele was not injured and damage to the machine was limited to about \$25.

Driving toward Hamilton on Highway 125 at 3:00 o'clock Sunday morning, Charlie Cherry, Jr., colored of Poplar Point, lost control of his 1949 Chevrolet when he was blinded by the lights of an approaching car. The machine, after running off the road to the right, swerved to the left and turned over about one and one-half times, coming to a stop on its top with Cherry pinned in it. Persons, living near the scene of the accident, heard his calls for help and before the car could be righted, Cherry broke a glass and crawled out. He was removed to a hospital where he was discharged a few hours later following treatment. He suffered only painful bruises and abrasions, it was reported. Damage to the car was estimated at \$500 or more.

L. C. Carraway, colored of Durham, was arrested in Williamston about 6:00 o'clock Sunday evening after he allegedly struck a car just this side of Gardner's Creek bridge and continued without stopping. He was passing a car being driven by Elizabeth Smith Horton of Plymouth. Damage to the Horton Studebaker was negli-

(Continued on Page Eight)

## Father Of Local Minister Passes

Russell W. Conklin, father of the Rev. E. Gordon Conklin of Williamston, died in the Suburban Hospital Bethesda, Maryland, last Friday night about 10:00 o'clock. Suffering with a heart condition, he had been seriously ill since last July.

Funeral services were conducted in the Rockville, Maryland, Baptist Church yesterday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. J. H. Gamble.

Mr. Conklin was born in Middleburg, New York, 57 years ago and moved when a young man to Maryland where he made his home while working with the Interstate Commerce Commission. Besides his son here he is survived by his widow and a son, Warren Conklin, of the home.

## ROUND-UP

Thirteen persons were arrested and jailed during the week-end round-up by local, county and State officers. Six were booked for public drunkenness, and one each for breaking and entering, speeding, drunken driving, reckless driving and speeding 90 miles an hour, hit-and-run driving and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license. The thirteenth man was arrested and jailed for Pitt County authorities.

Only one white man was included in the group. The ages of the 13 ranged from 17 to 56 years.

## Princesses At Recent Festival Here



Representing towns and communities throughout this section of the State, seventeen young ladies attended Williamston's sixth annual harvest festival here. From the list of seventeen princesses, Miss Peggy Waters of Windsor was chosen queen. Miss Elizabeth Walker, 1953 festival queen of Enfield, is along in the front row and the new queen is directly behind her in the third row. The names of the other princesses are: Misses Jean Vaughan of Anoskie, Nancy Ward of Bear Grass, Lois James of Bethel, Miriam Joyner of Enfield, Carolyn Ashley of Edenton, Ann Styons of Jamesville, Mary Waldo House of Hamilton, Eve Russell of Hertford Ina Faye Wells of Plymouth, Penn Strandberg of Rocky Mount, Carolyn Chesson of Roper, Trudy Staton of Scotland Neck, Mary Eleanor Tew of Tarboro, Jane Martin of Robersonville, Pat Mayne of Washington, and Patricia Wynne of Williamston.

## Farm Bureau-Crop Groups To Meet Wednesday Night

An important meeting of the Martin County Farm Bureau membership and leaders in the CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) movement will be held in the courthouse Wednesday evening of this week at 7:30 o'clock, it was announced by Chas. L. Daniel, Bureau president, and Mrs. Elizabeth P. Harrison, secretary of the CROP committee. The public is invited and religious leaders are urged to attend.

Preparatory to the holding of the State meeting of the North Carolina Farm Bureau convention in Raleigh early next week, the Martin County unit of the organization will hear a grass roots discussion of the farm program. If Martin County farmers are interested in the farm program, including acreage control and support prices, they should attend.

## HOLIDAY

Wednesday, Armistice Day, is being observed as a limited holiday here. The banks, post office and ABC store will be closed all day, and the Virginia Electric and Power Company will close its offices for a half a day, beginning at 12:00 o'clock.

Other business will be continued as usual. No mail deliveries are to be made in the town or rural areas, it was explained.

No program marking the Armistice Day anniversary has been planned locally.

## Add County Fees To The Treasury

The county fee system, plus fines and forfeitures of the county court, added \$6,547.04 to the Martin County treasury last month, according to reports filed with the board of commissioners a few days ago.

Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne turned into the treasury what is believed to be a record amount. Fines in the county court during the month amounted to \$3,305 and court costs added up to \$1,964. Miscellaneous fees, those received mostly for recordings, added up to \$332.79, making a total of \$5,602.29.

Register of Deeds J. Sam Getzinger also reported a record amount in fees. More papers are being recorded this fall than in any other corresponding period in years. Most of the papers represent purchases of automobiles and appliances, it was learned. The register's office reported \$645.25 in fees during the month. Sheriff M. W. Holloman reported \$299.50 in fees; representing service mostly on civil papers.

the meeting and offer resolutions to that end. If they have other suggestions relating to the farm program, they are invited to attend the meeting and take part in the discussions. Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson claims that the farmers do not want government interference, that they should be allowed to "go it alone". It is generally conceded that Martin County farmers do not agree with Mr. Benson. But they must register their disagreement and they will have an opportunity to state their position at the meeting Wednesday night.

Martin County is being asked to contribute 1,000 pounds of peanut butter to the destitute victims of war and poverty overseas. Plans for handling the humane and urgent task will be formulated at the joint meeting, it was explained.

## Native Of County Dies In Nashville

Funeral services were conducted in the Nashville Baptist Church yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock for Mrs. Annie Robbs Armstrong, a native of Martin County, who died at her home there last Saturday night. The Rev. Durham Ipeck, assisted by Dr. W. R. Cullum of Wake Forest, officiated. Interment was in Pineview Cemetery at Spring Hope.

Mrs. Armstrong was born in Hamilton 82 years ago, the daughter of the late Martin County Superior Court Clerk James A. Hobbs and wife, Debbie Long Hobbs. In early womanhood she was married to Frank Armstrong and later made her home in Hobbs for many years. She also lived in Virginia a short time, but in late years she had made her home in Nashville with her daughter, Mrs. Itimous Valentine. She had been in feeble health for some time, but was fairly active until a short time ago when a heart condition developed.

She visited Williamston often when her father was clerk of court, and came here for a last visit for the premiere showing of "12 O'clock High", a war picture which was centered around her son, Major General Frank Armstrong.

Mrs. Armstrong was a faithful member of the Baptist Church and was active in North Nashville Home Demonstration Club. Besides her daughter with whom she had made her home for a long time, and her son is now stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, she is survived by a sister, Mrs. J. D. Howell of Washington.

## Federation Day Held In County Last Saturday

Bear Grass Has Outstanding Club of Year And Gets Defense Bond

Martin County Home Demonstration Club Women held their annual Federation Day on Friday November 6, 1953, at the Bear Grass Presbyterian Church with the Bear Grass Club as hostess. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Walter Wynne, county council president. Miss Sarah Wobbleton gave the devotional, using John 3:16 as her topic. Mrs. Wynne extended greetings to all the visiting club members and guests.

Mrs. Cecil Powell, Secretary of the County Council, called the roll by clubs, there being over one hundred club members present. Minutes of last Federation Day were read and approved as read.

After the singing of "Song of Peace", Mrs. Wynne introduced Mrs. V. I. Hockaday of Roanoke Rapids, 21st district chairman of Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. Mrs. Hockaday gave a very interesting report on her recent citizenship and education meetings held at the United Nations Building in New York. She also told of her sight-seeing tour, which brought back many memories to the fifty Martin County women who toured New York in the early summer.

Lunch was served in the Sunday school rooms next to the church. After lunch, Mrs. Thad Harrison, the home agent, led the group in singing several selections. Mrs. June Harris, Mrs. Seth Davis and Mrs. Williams gave the county report. Mrs. Julia Mizelle read a report and Mrs. Harrison gave out the awards. Bear Grass Club was named as the outstanding club for the third consecutive year, was awarded a \$25.00 war bond. Mrs. Harrison extended an invitation to all the women to visit her new home, at the close

(Continued on Page Eight)

## Rains Relieving Drought in Area

While the prolonged drought has not been broken in its entirety, rains since last Thursday morning have greatly relieved the situation. Slightly more than an inch—1.14 to be exact—fell last Thursday and Friday morning. Another quarter of an inch of rain fell last night to bring the total up to about 1.38 inches this month. A storm off the coast last Saturday dropped the river at this point to 2.2 feet, the next lowest reading on record. Bridgekeeper Hugh Spruill said.

## George L. Brown Died In Hospital Saturday Evening

Funeral Service Held In Community Church Monday

George Littleberry Brown, retired farmer, died in a local hospital last Saturday night at 8:45 o'clock. He had been in declining health for almost two years and his condition was critical for several months. He was a patient in the hospital for about six weeks.

Mr. Brown was born in Conetoe, Edgecombe County, 75 years ago on June 18, 1878, the son of the late Joseph and Martha Lee Brown. After spending his early life there on the farm, he moved to Martin County in 1912, locating near Robersonville and marrying Mattie Elizabeth Coburn who died about a year ago. About 1919 he moved to the Blackstone, Virginia, section, where he continued to farm. Returning to this county a few years later, he located near Williamston where he continued his farm work until declining health forced his retirement. He was an able farmer and a good neighbor.

Surviving are seven sons, Walter, Ernest, Lee, Jesse and Herbert Brown, all of Williamston, Joe Henry Brown of Norfolk and Harvey Brown, U. S. Army, stationed in England; four daughters, Mrs. Martha Nelson Holliday, Mrs. Alice Roberson, Miss Bettie Brown, all of Williamston, and Mrs. Nellie Baggett of Windsor; five sisters, Mrs. Bettie Harrell and Mrs. Julia Moore of Scotland Neck, Mrs. Claude Warren of Williamston, Mrs. Mollie Moore of Rocky Mount and Mrs. Hannah Landing of Creedmoor, and twenty-five grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in the Community Christian Church Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by the Rev. Dallas Ayers. Interment was in the Robersonville Cemetery.

## Farmers To Get Farm Prospectus

Martin County agricultural workers and leaders will get the latest information on what to expect on the farm front next year at a meeting to be held in the courthouse, Friday, November 13.

F. B. Brandon, county agent for the State College Agricultural Extension Service, said today that a series of 101 meetings will be held in 99 of the state's 100 counties this month, "to give the farm people information that will help them adjust to the farming picture next year." Brandon said meetings will be held in every county except Craven.

The meetings will be conducted by five teams of farm management and marketing specialists from State College under the supervision of C. B. Ratchford, in charge of extension farm management and marketing, the agent said.

The outlook for tobacco, cotton, feed, feed grains, wheat, peanuts, soybeans, forest products, beef, hogs, sheep, poultry, dairying, fruit and nut trees, vegetables, farm costs, home furnishings, housing and household equipment, will come in for discussion, according to Mr. Brandon.

The five teams of specialist, made up of Ratchford, D. D. Brown, Charles Williams, Guy Cassell, G. S. Abshier, J. M. Hunt, J. M. Hunter, J. M. Hunter, Cecil, John Curtis and W. Turner, will conduct the meetings.

## Scout Citation For County Man

A. B. Ayers, Jr., of Bear Grass, was recently given a citation by the East Carolina Council of the Boy Scouts of America for his work in support of the Council's 1953-54 budget.

He was awarded an especially engraved statuette for the community having the largest percent of increase in the number of dollars collected in 1953 as compared to any previous year. Mr. Ayers was not present at the recent meeting of the Council, and the statuette was presented to R. F. Lowery, Wasmarty District Campaign chairman.

It was announced at the meeting that 89 percent of the Council's budget of \$73,174 had been raised.

## Officers Investigate County Attack Case

### Victim Is Attacked Three Times Near Old Farm House

#### Aged Woman Was Hitch-Hiking from Bethel To Williamston

After an extensive investigation conducted during the past five days, officers today explained they had been unable to establish a valid lead in the triple rape of a 68-year-old woman between Williamston and Everetts last Wednesday afternoon. The investigation is being continued and more suspects are being brought under watch, Sheriff M. W. Holloman said today.

Planning a visit with her daughter near Williamston, Mrs. Annie Bell started hitch-hiking from her home in Bethel Wednesday afternoon. She caught a ride to Robersonville, and when it looked as if she would be stranded there, she started walking toward Williamston. After walking only a short distance, Mrs. Bell was picked up by a white youth who was driving a nice two-door car of greenish-blue color. A short distance east of Everetts, the boy turned off Highway 64 into a dirt road. Mrs. Bell insisted that it was the wrong road, but the boy merely said it was the way they were going. He drove on across the railroad and to a deserted farm house, parking in the back yard.

The aged woman told officers the young man raped her three times in the front seat, that she tried to get out of the car before it was stopped at the deserted spot. After the third attack, Mrs. Bell said she got out the door and started running down the road, her attacker in close pursuit. The young man turned back when he saw workmen in a nearby field, got into his car and drove away.

Mrs. Bell told Sheriff Holloman that she walked back to the highway, a distance of approximately one-half mile, and continued to her daughter's home. Her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Bowen, carried her to a hospital here for examination and treatment. She had lost right much blood, was painfully bruised and her clothes were torn, the officer said.

Excited, sick and upset, the victim and members of the family did not report the attacks until the following day.

Sheriff Holloman said that no definite license number of the car could be had, the officer explaining that the victim was so badly upset she could offer few facts to support an investigation.

## Former Resident Of County Passes

Funeral services were conducted in the Ashley Grove Baptist Church near Murfreesboro last Saturday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Willie Oscar James, former Martin County resident. The Rev. R. E. Johns, pastor, conducted the rites, assisted by the Rev. L. M. Sasser of Conway. Burial was in the church yard.

The son of the late Alonzo L. and Louisa Crandell James, he was born in Pitt County 57 years ago. When a young man he came to Martin County and located in the Everetts community where he was married to Miss Estelle Mobley. After farming a number of years, he was employed by the late J. S. Peel in the mercantile business at Everetts before going to Hertford County about twenty ago to engage in business and farming.

Surviving besides Mrs. James are two daughters, Mrs. W. G. Monsee of Yorktown, Va., and Mrs. W. T. Williams of Murfreesboro; two sons, William Edward James of Conway, and Robert Earl James of Murfreesboro. He also leaves six grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. W. B. Peele of Greenville; and three brothers, Solmie James, Zeno James, and Jasper James, all of Stokes.

## Carroll Roberson Accidentally Shot Hunting Saturday

### Youth Undergoes Operation And Is Expected To Recover

Carroll Saunders Roberson, 14-year-old farm youth, was critically wounded when accidentally shot on the farm of his father, John H. Roberson, in the Roberson Chapel community of Williamston Township early last Saturday afternoon. Removed to Duke Hospital, Durham, he underwent an operation immediately, and reports from the institution this morning pointed to his recovery provided no complications developed.

The young man, large for his age, started out with his brother, Raymond, of Williamston, shortly after the lunch hour to go hunting. When they reached a fairly wide ditch several hundred yards from the house, the older brother, Raymond, jumped the ditch and laid his gun down. Carroll was to relay his gun to the brother and then jump the ditch. Taking his 410 gauge gun by the barrel, the lad handed it to his brother who had barely touched the stock when the weapon fired. Just how it happened, neither of the boys could say. Apparently the safety was not well fastened and slipped just as the gun was being transferred. Just about the entire load of the No. 5 shot struck the boy in his right side just below the ribs. A few of the shots pierced the lung, part of which had to be removed in the operation. It is believed that no other vital organs were badly damaged. Although he lost considerable blood, the victim remained conscious until he was put to sleep for the operation.

The older brother yelled for help and while he was heard, members of the family thought the boys were calling to the dogs and did not heed the plea. A few minutes later Raymond ran to the house, reported the accidental shooting and collapsed. He was placed in a local hospital for treatment of shock. Members of the family were unable at first to place the wounded lad in the car and had to go for more help. He was delivered to a local hospital where he was given first aid treatment and prepared for the ambulance trip to Durham. Both the young men were said to have been worried over the condition of each other more than they were of their own.

The victim, if all goes well and doctors think it will, is expected home in about two weeks.

Relatives and quite a few friends were present when the oath was administered, including Mrs. Peel and sons, Junie and Bill Bob Peel, Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne, Mayor Rob. Cowen, R. J. and Francis Peel, Mrs. F. M. Manning and Governor Bill Umstead.

Solicitor Peel's new duties will keep him busy about twenty-six weeks out of the year, making it possible for him to maintain the partnership with his son, Elbert S. Peel, Jr. However, the firm will limit its practice to the civil courts.

## Youths Get Free Trip To New York

Henry Handy, Jr., and Billy Marshall, two local newspaper carriers, leave tomorrow afternoon on a free trip to New York. Each of the two lads added forty new subscribers to their list during a recent contest conducted by their paper.

The boys will be picked up here tomorrow afternoon by a representative of the paper and go to Suffolk where they are to board a special coach about 7:25 o'clock. When the boys get off the train at 6:25 o'clock Thursday morning they will be moved by special conveyance to their hotel where they are to make ready for three big days in the city. The schedule calls for extensive tours over the city, including stops at the Empire State, broadcasting studios, Statue of Liberty, a ride across the harbor, Radio City Music Hall, a swim in an indoor salt water pool, Chinatown. Following a television show Saturday night, the boys will leave by train at 12:30 o'clock, reaching Norfolk at 10:55 o'clock Sunday morning.

Henry and Billy are anxiously looking forward to the trip which promises to be a big event in their young lives. Quite a number of boys in other sections of eastern North Carolina and Virginia are making the trip with the two from Williamston.

Accepts Position With Local Furniture Firm

Robert Grady of Kinston has accepted a position with the Woolard Furniture Company here and entered upon his new duties last week.

A graduate of East Carolina College, the young man is a brother of Ed Grady, executive secretary of the Williamston Boosters, and was with a radio station in Kinston before coming here.

## BUS STATION

Representatives of the several bus lines operating buses through here are looking for a terminal today. It is hoped that some arrangements can be made to provide temporary service, at least.

During the meantime the traveling public is being exposed to the elements at the open-air station on South Elm Street. An appeal was made to the Utilities Commission last Friday, and members of the commission were shocked to learn about the condition that has existed here for weeks.