

THE ENTERPRISE

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Three Injured In Series Of Wrecks On County Roads

Property Damage Reported In Excess Of Two Thousand Dollars

Three persons were injured, one of them critically, in a series of four automobile accidents in this county during the past week-end. Leon McKinley Biggs, 21-year-old colored man, suffered a broken back and James Benjamin Howell suffered a broken shoulder when their car, a 1950 Ford, went out of control and turned over on U. S. Highway 17 about four miles south of Williamston. The car, owned by Donald Woolard, went into a field and turned over. Woolard was said to have been asleep and was not hurt. The accident was reported about 2:00 o'clock Saturday morning. The injured were removed to a hospital for treatment. Damage to the car was estimated at \$800.

Jim Wynne of RFD 2, Williamston, suffered a several-stitch cut in his head when the 1950 Mercury he was driving literally went wild on a rural road out from Jamesville about 11:00 o'clock last Saturday night. Three passengers in the car were not injured, according to Patrolman Carl Gilchrist who made the investigation. The car went out of control in a curve, jumped a ditch, tore through a fence and turned over in a pasture, about 68 yards away. Damage to the car was estimated at \$650.

Sunday morning at 1:00 o'clock Zolly Brinkley was turning his 1947 Chevrolet around and stuck it in a ditch near the Taylor farm on Highway 125, leaving the front end in the highway. Jesus Lawrence came along about that time and plowed into the stalled car with his 1946 Ford, causing about \$200 damage to each machine. No one was hurt.

Driving east on Highway 64 between Robersonville and Everetts, William Vines of Tarboro swerved the 1942 Chevrolet truck he was driving to miss a loose mule in the road. He lost control and the machine turned over, resulting in about \$200 damage to the truck. The mule was not hit. Vines and his two companions were not hurt.

Vines returned to Tarboro, got another and was on the return trip to Edenton when he was stopped for exceeding the speed limit by the same patrolman who investigated the accident.

Korean Vet Class Starts January 1

Korean veterans who wish to enter a Veteran Farm Training Class which begins at Jamesville in January are being reminded it will be necessary for them to get in touch with Vaiden B. Hairr at Jamesville High School not later than Saturday, December 12.

Those in other sections will, of course, need to contact the instructor or supervisor in their school district or area. Mr. Hairr said yesterday that it is important for the prospective trainees to get their names on the rolls early.

Firemen Called To North Houghton Street

Local firemen were called out yesterday morning at 10:35 o'clock when a grass fire threatened to spread to a tent housing a revival team on North Houghton Street. The fire did not reach the tent and no damage was reported.

ROUND-UP

Following a period of little activity on the crime front in this area, officers worked over time last week-end rounding up alleged law violators.

By late Sunday thirteen persons had been arrested and jailed, six for public drunkenness, two for drunken driving and one each for forgery, non-support, assault on a female, assault with deadly weapon and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

The list included five white persons and two colored women, and the ages of the group ranged from 15 to 53 years.

Crop Drive Is About Half Completed In This County

The annual drive to raise \$3,000 or its equivalent in farm commodities for the suffering in war-torn lands overseas was reported half complete in this county late last night by Chairman Mayo Hardison. It was explained that the reports were complete for only two townships—Robersonville, with a quota of \$450, had raised and reported \$486.70, and little Poplar Point accounted for its full quota of \$150, Mr. Hardison said.

Incomplete reports showed Williamston had raised \$303.00, Goose Nest with \$235.50 in hand was pushing on toward its \$300 goal, and Hamilton had raised

\$221.17 of its \$300 quota, the chairman announced.

Five townships—Jamesville, Williams, Bear Grass, Griffins and Cross Roads—had submitted no reports when the chairman and a few canvassers met last night. Mr. Hardison said that the \$1,396.37 now in hand would be greatly boosted by late reports, but that liberal giving will be needed if the \$3,000 county goal is reached.

Those persons who have not been contacted and who would have a part in the humane effort are asked to send their contributions either to Chairman Hardison or the Rev. Thomas Hastings in Williamston.

Bus Station Question Discussed By Board

Coast Line And Board Two Feet Apart On Street

Refuse To Accept Harrison Street Under Present Conditions

The Carolina Coach Company through its attorneys appealed to the town commissioners in regular session last night to explore the possibility of locating a bus station on Smithwick Street just to the rear of the Hotel George Reynolds. The company expressed the opinion that possibly some of the objections to the site could be ironed out, and proposed a meeting of its representatives with the town officials. The board expressed a willingness to meet with the representatives, but pointed out that there had been no change in the physical factors surrounding the site, that studies had been made of the location and that little or nothing could be accomplished at a conference.

No date for a meeting was mentioned, but the officials pointed out that something should be done to improve bus terminal facilities.

Town Attorney Chas. H. Manning reported to the meeting that the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company had agreed to permit the town to pave within ten feet of the center of its track on Railroad Street between Washington and Smithwick Streets. Recognizing the need for paving within at least eight feet of the center of the track, the officials instructed the attorney to continue negotiations with the company officials with the possibility that if the negotiations fail the owner will carry its case to the courts.

It is agreed that the railroad company is to share no part of the paving costs. The company also requests the town to recognize a lease on the property as a deed and accept all responsibility for any and all accidents that might happen on the street. The terms were not acceptable. During the meantime, the street continues to wash and traffic bounces along from one end to the other.

Harrison Street, running from Main between Darden's and Rose's stores to the railroad, was considered unacceptable under the terms set out by some of the property owners.

Taxi franchises were transferred from Simon Gurganus to William Brown and from W. G. Blythe to John Gurganus. An application for a second Blythe franchise was held in abeyance, pending further investigation.

One of the town's deep wells (Continued on Page Seven)

Minor Accident On Street Here

No one was injured and property damage was limited in a minor automobile accident on the main street near the old bus station here last Friday about 4:30 o'clock p. m.

Two cars, one driven by Billy Sharber of Elizabeth City and the other driven by Lawrence Coltrain of Everetts, were in collision. Local officers investigated and estimated the combined damage at less than \$100.

Ask Support For Referendums On Cotton-Peanuts

December 15 Vote Rated The Most Important In A Long Time

Meeting with newsmen in Raleigh last week, farm leaders discussed the December 15 referendums on peanut and cotton quotas, and, pleading for a large and favorable vote, declared that the referendums were the most important things scheduled in this State in a long time.

Results of the voting not only will affect cotton and peanut prices in 1954 but also will have a far-reaching influence on the entire national farm program, it was said.

M. G. Mann, general manager of the cotton association, declared that developments in Washington are "tending to practically destroy the whole soil conservation program" and pose a real threat to all commodity and price support programs.

"A transfer to the states of all conservation activities," he asserted in a written statement, "would eliminate the now existing framework for administering our commodity and price support programs."

Mann said that of all the New Deal ideas to help agriculture, "I think the soil conservation program started by Roosevelt was the greatest forward step ever taken. But now it is being threatened by developments in Washington. I'm afraid it's about to be down and possibly eventually destroyed."

"All gains have come under the Democrats. Now a new group is in charge, and there's a tendency in Washington to say that everything developed in the last 18 years is wrong and has got to be changed."

"A tremendous vote for controls on December 15 would say to Secretary Benson and his associates: 'By golly, the farmers want this.' And they would not have the nerve to continue trying to wipe out our gains."

"We have the opportunity on December 15 to back all the Democrats have done to help agriculture. Unless we do it in a big way, we'll be saying to Enson: 'Well, we're not sure about our programs. Go ahead and change them.'"

Mann asserted that the entire country has enjoyed great prosperity during the past several years, and this was made possible largely by a strong agriculture. Yet the entire farm program since 1934, he added, has cost American taxpayers only slightly more than one billion dollars.

If cotton quotas are approved, Mann explained, the level of price support for 1954 will be about 34 cents a pound. If they are disapproved, he added, supports will drop to around 17 cents a pound and prices on the open market will fall to about the same level.

H. D. Godfrey, State administrative officer for Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (formerly PMA), also emphasized the (Continued on Page Seven)

Two Stranded On River For Hours

Perry Odom and Fred Sumnerlin, young local men, spent most of Sunday night floating down Roanoke River in a gas boat with a dry gas tank. Odom had been working on the boat that afternoon and was testing it out when the gas supply became exhausted. After drifting to a point within about two miles of Jamesville they tied the boat up some time after midnight and settled down for the remainder of the night.

Learning late that evening that the two men were missing, friends started a search. After making a trip up the river, the searching party, including Timon Coltrain and Junie Peel, went down the river. When the stranded pair heard the motor of the rescue boat they lost no time in giving a signal, it was said. The stranded couple and the search party continued to Jamesville where they called for transportation overland back home.

Odom says he plans to make just one more trip on the ole Roanoke; he has agreed to run the boat back to its dock.

Propose Million Dollar School Expansion Program In County

Plans Submitted To Commissioners Of County Monday

Plans Approved For A New Negro School To Replace Parmele Building

A million dollar expansion program is being considered for the Martin County schools, it was explained to the board of county commissioners in regular session Monday morning.

Although based on months of study and planning, the proposed program is just now entering the discussion stage. However, one part of the proposed program, calling for a new Negro high school in Robersonville, has been approved, the education board spokesman explaining that plans are well advanced for handling that project with State funds. The building, estimated to cost \$172,000, will replace the plant destroyed by fire at Parmele early in the fall.

The proposed program, subject to review by the local committees, includes sweeping consolidation plans for the Negro schools and either new units or addition and improvements to all present schools in the county.

Considerable study has been given school planning in this county since the State bond issue was passed and following the destruction of the Parmele school by fire. It is estimated that the county will receive half million dollars from State funds, and that with approximately another half million, the school plants can be modernized and expanded to meet all minimum requirements. Going before the board of commissioners Monday, the education board members explained they were seeking advice, and asked the commissioners to study the problem and make suggestions. No official action was taken.

The education board pointed out that the county could float a half-million dollar bond issue without raising the tax rate, explaining that the 31.6 cents now being levied for piece-meal capital investment would be released to care for the increase in bonded debt. Under that plan the half-million dollar bond issue could be retired in about twelve or thirteen years. It was also explained that the expansion program could be handled almost immediately under the bond plan.

A second plan was suggested and gained favorable comment from the county officials. Recognized as a long-range of five-year plan, it would raise approximately \$125,000 by direct taxation each year during the five-year program. Under this plan, approximately (Continued on Page Eight)

Father Of Local Resident Passes

Thomas D. Snead, father of J. W. Snead who manages the FCX stores in Williamston, died at his home near Edin yesterday morning at 8:15 o'clock. He was 86 years old.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at A. B. Church Methodist Church near Bentonville where he was an active member for many years. Interment will be in the church cemetery.

Surviving besides his son in Williamston are his widow, Mrs. Lennie King Snead, six sons and four daughters.

A prominent farmer, Mr. Snead was born in Johnston County but had made his home in Harnett during the past thirty years.

Enters Nursing Home At Mocksville Friday

A victim of a stroke suffered more than a year ago, Mr. Jesse T. Price, former local postmaster, was moved by ambulance from a local hospital to the Lynhaven Nursing Home at Mocksville last Saturday. He stood the long trip well, and last reports indicated he was getting along all right.

Mrs. Price is now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Elbert Lee Sherman, and Mr. Sherman, in Salisbury, just a few miles from Mocksville.

Santa Greeted By A Large Crowd Here Last Friday

Making his first appearance of the season, Mr. Santa Claus found the going a bit rough here last Friday afternoon. Running into a traffic jam, he was fifteen minutes late despite the fact that a big fire truck and a National Guard jeep were running interference for him. The streets were just about blocked by a couple of thousand little folks and adults, too.

The old gentleman, traveling on a special trailer float, finally made his way to the radio station where he was briefly interviewed along with a large number of youngsters. He then retraced his route to the Viccar Theater where he received letters until the rain started falling.

His first visit was planned for the receipt of letters from the little folks, and he received hundreds. On Friday, December 18, Santa Claus is to return and maintain a daily schedule until Christmas. He will maintain headquarters right next to the Viccar theater where he'll receive more letters and hand out little favors to the little folks. During the meantime, Old Santa will be doing a lot of shopping in Williamston stores, filling the orders listed in the hundreds of letters received on his first visit here last Friday.

The Christmas lights, turned on at 5:00 o'clock that evening, are burning nightly, adding to the spirit of the season.

Asking Addition To Agriculture Building

INTERVIEW

The Martin County Board of Health last Thursday pleaded with a potential candidate to accept the position of health officer in this county. The position has been vacant following the death of Dr. John W. Williams, but local doctors have been giving the department part-time service.

The candidate interviewed has not announced his decision, according to unofficial information received here today. Accompanied by Dr. Applewhite of the State Board of Health, the candidate is retiring from the Navy following 23 years of active service.

Christmas Seal Sale Progressing

Returns from the tuberculosis Christmas Seal letters which were mailed to the residents of Martin County on November 18th now totals \$1,270.75. This is slightly above the amount raised at this period of the sale last year. Although early returns are light, Mr. Simpson said that he is confident that the public response to the seal and bond sale this year will be as generous as in the past. He pointed out that 80 percent of the funds raised remain in the county to buy special services for the health of our whole community. One of which is case-finding. This is a most important function for if we are unable to locate "unknown cases of tuberculosis," we are powerless to control the spread of the disease. Mr. Simpson further stated that there are, at this time, twenty-two persons from Martin county receiving treatment in tuberculosis sanatoriums. X-ray film furnished by you greatly aided in finding these cases. The Martin County Tuberculosis Committee, because of your dollars, is able to finance the mass chest X-ray surveys and to furnish much needed film to the local Health Department—so you can understand why we need to purchase more bonds and seals each holiday season to rebuild a fund which is gradually depleted by a mass case-finding program.

The board recommended that a road running by the home of Mrs. Emma Corey in Griffins Township be worked as a community road. A delegation from Goose Nest Township petitioned for the black (Continued on Page Eight)

More Christmas Toys Are Needed

While they have a fair collection already on hand, Williamston Jaycees pointed out yesterday that more toys are needed to insure a successful Christmas party for the needy tots in this community.

The last general canvass was made Sunday, but toys will be readily accepted at the Williamston Hardware Company on Washington Street or Bulluck's on Main Street. Anyone with an old but serviceable toy to spare will call 2736 and a messenger will be sent to pick them up. Time is getting short, and those who can and will spare serviceable toys or other usable items are asked to act without delay.

Tenant House In Griffins Burned

Its origin unknown, fire destroyed a 5-room tenant house on the Howard Coltrain farm in Griffins Township early last Wednesday afternoon. The tenant Orange Peele and his family, left home that morning and no one was there when the first started.

Nothing was saved except a wash pan which was snatched from the porch. The Peeles, in addition to losing all their furniture and all their clothing except what they had on their backs, had \$450 in cash burned.

Little Forgery Ring Broken Up Here Last Week

Zella McIntyre Held In The County Jail For Trial In Superior Court

A little forgery ring, after scattering quite a few checks in this area during November, was believed to have been broken up last week-end when Zella McIntyre, 18-year-old local colored girl, was arrested and jailed and Maxine Knight, 13, was turned over to Juvenile authorities.

Unable to arrange \$1,500 bond—\$500 in each of three alleged forgery cases—the McIntyre girl was ordered confined to jail by Justice W. M. Tetterton following a preliminary hearing last Friday night. She is to go on trial in the superior court next week when Judge Walter J. Bone comes here from Nashville to preside over the one-week term.

The forgery deals were traced back to November 6 when a check, payable to Barbara Brown, was drawn on the Weaver account in the amount of \$16.50. About ten days later the forgers came back strong, making two checks, one against Dennis Barber in the sum of \$10, and a second against Weaver's account in the amount of \$10. Still another check was taken at the Weaver account on the 23rd when a check was written in the amount of \$8.50.

Before the month was spent, checks, made payable to Maxine Knight, were written against the accounts of Herman Bowen and Grady Godard in the amounts of \$12 and \$8.

The forged checks were expertly done, and most of them were cashed by local grocery stores. Officers are of the opinion that other checks forged by the little ring, are still out, and that possibly others are involved, either directly or indirectly.

Security Group In Meeting Here

The International Association of Personnel in Employment Security held its district meeting in the local Employment Service office in Williamston Thursday, December 3rd, at 7:30 P. M. There were approximately 45 members of the association present to hear an address by Ernest C. McCracken, State Director of the Employment Service Division of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina. The title of his address was "Can We Afford to Maintain a Balanced Employment Security Within The Present Budget?" Mr. McCracken's talk was very well received and a number of questions were presented for discussion.

There was considerable interest shown also in a discussion of the State Retirement System led by N. H. Cox, Chief Auditor of the State Retirement System.

J. Kelly Gay, manager of the local office, welcomed the association members and turned the meeting over to Ralph E. Miller, President of the North Carolina Chapter of the IAPES, who gave some idea of the program for the State Convention in Raleigh during April of 1954, and the International Convention to be held in Asheville, North Carolina, during June of next year.

P. B. Pollock, Area supervisor of the Employment Security Commission, introduced the speakers of the evening.

HOLIDAY EIGHTS

Despite a limited budget, the Williamston Boosters this year have provided the town with the best holidays lighting system ever seen here. While the scheme does not approach perfection, it has been widely proclaimed.

Using tens of hundreds of vari-colored bulbs, several hundred yards of tinsel and fourteen special stars, the decorators have the lights swinging across the town's main streets in the business sections and the stars located in arches.

Special prizes are being offered for individual and public decorations, and the town is expected to take on a gay appearance this Christmas season.