

Fifty Cars Involved In Bridge Accidents

Only One Injury Reported During Christmas Period

Property Loss Unofficially Estimated At \$12,000 Christmas Day

While scattered wrecks were being reported in this county, motorists piled up fifty cars in one spot on or near the Conine Creek bridge about three miles from here on Highway 17 during a five-hour period Christmas day. No serious injuries were reported but the property loss in the series of bridge accidents was unofficially estimated at \$12,000. Mrs. Elsie Dunn, 63, of Goldsboro, suffered a fracture of the right arm when the car in which she was riding with her future son-in-law skidded and turned over. Mrs. Dunn was en route to Windsor to visit relatives, and she was removed to a hospital there for treatment.

Rain started falling about 9:30 o'clock Christmas morning and a sheet of ice soon formed on and near the north end of the creek bridge. Within a short time, four patrolmen from two counties were on the scene. Highway forces started sanding the bridge and road within an hour. Signs were posted, and traffic was stopped and warned of the road hazard. But most of the travelers drove into the curve too fast, and during several hours cars moved in merry-go-round fashion, battering and ripping away fenders, crashing in doors and scattering glass all around.

Patrolman B. W. Parker, going to the scene from this county, said ten cars were involved in one crash, and went on to explain that most of the cars crashed individually into the concrete railings. He added that both sides or several cars were battered.

Ten of the vehicles had to be pulled away by wreckers, the others continuing on their way after fenders were lifted off the wheels.

Warned as he approached the danger spot, a Connecticut Yankee explained he was accustomed to driving on icy roads and, after a slightly boastful fashion, maintained he could handle the situation. Seconds later his Cadillac went into a spin and came out with both sides battered, it was reported.

Reports declared that it was

Prices Falling On Stock Market

New York.—Last week began with a drop in stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange, and the Wall Street oracles began telling one another that 1953 was the big defense year.

Looking at appropriations, which run by fiscal years from July 1 to June 30, it is not correct. Looking at actual spending, which is what fills the pockets of workers and the tills of merchants, calendar 1954 will not see a sharp drop-off in defense or other federal outlays. Assuming that Secretary Wilson puts through his program of reducing armed forces personnel by 10 per cent, and that Congress is as hard-boiled about foreign aid as Secretary Dulles has been predicting, actual spending will fall by three or four billion dollars.

That isn't a great deal. Continued spending by industries to bring plants up to date will be one great offsetting factor. Another will be local government spending.

The small merchant and the wage-earner will notice one unhappy difference between spending by his home town, or county, or state, and the same amount of spending by the federal government. Uncle Sam borrows to spend, and then he borrows more to pay interest. Smaller government units, because of the tax-exemption on their bonds, borrow original sums more cheaply. But then they start right away taking it back from the taxpayers. Local taxes are going up in 1954.

INTERVIEW

Members of the Martin County Board of Health a few days ago interviewed a prospect's name that was not disclosed, but it was said that members of the board were impressed by his personality and qualifications.

It was also unofficially learned that the position had been tendered him, but that the doctor had not this week announced his acceptance.

He was the second applicant to have been interviewed by the board members in recent weeks.

President Trains Guns On Military

By Edward H. Sims
Washington Analyst

Washington.—President Dwight D. Eisenhower is a life-long military man, but this isn't making it easier for service chiefs to milk the Federal Treasury. In fact, Ike seems to know money can be saved in the military machine and shows little inclination to be patient with rivalry among service chiefs for more and more money.

The President has every reason to understand the military process. He saw the Army operate at close quarters for many years and watched the service chiefs' annual fight in Washington (Army versus Navy) for the biggest slice of the appropriations pie. Now it's a three way fight for the money, the Air Force actually getting more than either of the other two services.

One of the ways Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson thought he could save money was through cutting non-combat personnel. He ordered such a cut. Maybe he hadn't been around long enough to know that such a cut actually causes more of a ruckus than a cut of combat strength. The desk-sitters become very vocal when their jobs are threatened.

Such wailing resulted from the order, especially from the Army, that pressure built up on Wilson, and even Ike himself—to resend the personnel cuts. Instead, Ike backed his defense chief to the hilt and the orders stood. The personnel cuts are due to be carried on.

Recent studies have shown the U. S. Army requires more men behind the lines and in easy chairs back home per combat man on the front, than any other army in the world. While we may have a higher standard, and give our men better protection and equipment and services, the ratio is still too high.

The Navy has long maintained duplicate facilities, and airfields in numerous places—where savings could be effected if the services had joined in the use and upkeep of a joint installation. And personnel cuts are in order in the Navy just as in the Army—

little combat in the Korean conflict, and since the Communists possess little in the way of naval strength.

These cuts will be made—or at least have been ordered—and there is no chance that the present administration will back down on this count. The services will have to tighten their belts.

Escaped Convicts Seen In County

Reported to have escaped from the Halifax Prison Camp Monday, two escaped convicts were said to have been in Oak City later in the day. According to information reaching here, the convicts traveled to Scotland Neck in a taxi and later transferred to another taxi for the trip to Oak City where they reportedly got a car. Prison guards and others started a search that extended to several parts of this county.

One of the convicts, Allen Warren, young white man, was sentenced to prison a few months ago for forgery. The other escapee was said to have been sent to prison from Pitt County.

Series Of Wrecks On County Roads During Holidays

Record This Year Slightly Improved Over The One For 1952 Holiday

Motorists, using the roads and streets in this county, piled up their cars but injured no one and finally went through the Christmas holiday period with a record slightly better than the one for the corresponding period in 1952.

Eight accidents were reported in this county from about 10:00 o'clock Christmas morning until 2:30 o'clock the next morning, unofficial estimates placing the property loss at \$2,000. Several of the accidents were said to have been traceable to road and weather conditions, but most of them involved reckless driving, it was reported.

There was a small accident at the corner of Church and Watts Street here Christmas morning when a station wagon driven by Chas. A. James was in collision with a car driven by a Price boy. No official estimate could be had on the property damage, but it was believed to have been minor and no one was injured.

At noon Christmas day, James Bowen entered the highway at the R. Lee Perry farm on U. S. 17 in his 1949 Plymouth and was in collision with a 1941 Chevrolet driven by Sammy Bullock. Damage was estimated at \$50 to the Chevrolet and only \$10 to the other vehicle.

At about the same time, Eddie Watts Brown was driving toward Williamston at the Everett farm on Highway 125 and his 1951 Dodge skidded in a curve and crashed into a 1941 DeSoto being driven by Virgie Ray Casper. Damage was estimated at \$150 to the DeSoto and \$300 to the Dodge.

Three vehicles figured in an accident on the road leading from Oak City to the Hamilton-Palmira road at 6:30 o'clock Christmas night. Roy Lee Hyman parked his 1941 Ford on the highway to discharge a passenger, James Earl Bryant, driving a 1940 Ford, pulled to his left to run around the parked car and crashed into a 1954 pick-up truck being driven by William Raymond Comstock. Damage was reasonably small, one report placing the damage to the truck at \$50 and that to Bryant's car at \$35.

Driving a Jeepster, William Henry Bland overran the intersection of Highways 11 and 125 and traveled about 120 feet before striking a tree and crashing into Wilbur Barrett's home in Oak City about 8:30 o'clock Christmas night. Damage to Bland's car was estimated at \$300 and damage to the Barrett property was estimated at between \$50 and \$100.

Christmas midnight, Jonan Perkins, driving a 1939 Chevrolet with apparently a bad steering wheel, lost control of his car and the machine jumped a ditch, hit a tree and turned over. Damage was estimated at \$150.

James Willis Williams started to make a left turn into his driveway near Abbott's Mill on Highway 125 at 12:45 o'clock last Saturday morning when William Clyde Neal, of Enfield, crashed into Williams' 1949 Plymouth with a 1947 Pontiac taxi. It was estimated that the damage to the taxi would approximate \$200 and that to the Plymouth at \$150. Neal, an Enfield man, was traveling toward Hamilton and skidded quite a few yards on the wet pavement before striking the Williams car.

After getting in and out of the ditch at 12:30 o'clock last Saturday morning, Kay Ward, Jr., was traveling the road from Parmele to Flat Swamp church and lost control of his 1948 Chevrolet. The car went into a ditch and turned over, causing about \$300 damage. Driving toward Williamston Sunday night on Highway 125, Ruppert Chesson struck a hog with his new Ford, killing the animal and doing between \$150 and \$200 damage to his car.

Quite A Few Holiday Weddings In County

Dan Cupid established no new record, but he did fairly well in this county during the holiday period. Fourteen marriage licenses were issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger, four to white and eight to colored couples during last week.

Holiday Observed Without Incident In This County

The Christmas holiday period was observed without serious incident in Martin County, according to reports received from just about every one of the political subdivisions.

There were no major motor vehicle accidents, the preliminary reports showing a better record this year than a year ago during the corresponding period. No hunting accidents were reported, but it was said that a couple of brothers over in Williams Township engaged in an affray and that 112 stitches were required to close the knife wounds. No charges were preferred in the case, and the victim, following hospital

ROUND-UP

All was fairly quite on the crime front in the county during the Christmas holiday week-end, a report from the sheriff's office showing only five arrests during the period. One each was charged with drunkenness, assault and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license. A fifth one was detained for investigation. Two of the five were white, and the ages of the group ranged from 23 to 66 years.

Jailer Roy Peel had the quarters nice and warm and a turkey dinner on the menu, but the two persons arrested Christmas morning arranged bond and the jail was empty by noon.

Name Decoration Prize Winners

Blending inside and outside decorations, the Bill Sessoms on West Franklin Street won the first prize of \$50 in the Christmas decoration prize contest sponsored by the Williamston Boosters. The first prize was valued at \$50. The Henry Griffins on Grace Street took second prize, valued at \$30, for their door and roof decorations. A third prize, valued at \$20, was awarded to Mary Jane Peyton on Griffin Street, a short thoroughfare that was said to have been about as elaborately decorated as any in the town. The Peyton home had a large star in the yard with a special lighting effect.

The Allen Brothers won the \$15 cash prize for their decorations on the townhall.

Local ministers judged the decorations, but the judging, scheduled for Christmas night, was delayed on account of the bad weather. The judges rode the town for nearly two hours before announcing the awards.

Get Fire Calls During Week-End

Thanks possibly to the all-day rain, Williamston firemen this year for the first time in several years had an uninterrupted Christmas Day holiday.

Aid there were not but two calls during the holiday week-end. Firemen were called out last Saturday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock when a chimney caught fire in a one-story frame home at the corner of Railroad and Pearl Streets. There was no damage.

Yesterday morning at 5:00 o'clock a lamp went out of control, exploded and fired the Joe Wilson home on Warren Street not far from the laundry. Robert Sims was sleeping in the small room. The fire burned into the attic, but it was discovered early and damage was limited, firemen said.

Slight Damage Caused By Fire In Rural Home

Starting around a flue, fire did damage estimated at \$125 to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Bryant near Williamston a few days ago. The fire was centered in the attic and around the flue in the bathroom, it was learned.

Soon brought under control, the fire apparently did not disturb the family schedule since Mrs. Bryant immediately left for a club meeting.

Republicans Map Legislative Plan For Next Session

President Expected to Take Lead Away From The Law Makers

Washington.—No final appraisal of what President Eisenhower and congressional leaders accomplished in their recent three-day White House conferences will be possible until the 1954 session of Congress is nearly over—sometime next summer.

There's many a slip between the outlining of administration policy and the garnering of sufficient votes to enact it. But there is wide agreement that the unique three-day sessions had this impact:

1. There is a "new look" to the Eisenhower leadership now. Skeptical newsmen who were writing off the President as supine or uninformed have changed their views. The President's new assertion of leadership in his relations with Congress has Washington expecting a most interesting session of Congress, come January.

2. An innovation in White House-Congress relationships has appeared. No such large group of congressional leaders and committee chairmen ever has joined in White House discussions before. Nor has the President of the United States, by issuing his own statements during the sessions ever constituted himself quite such a discussion leader. Will other Presidents adopt this press-session approach?

3. The conferences produced something of a general understanding regarding the area and limits of legislative action to be attempted by the Republicans in 1954. Action will not be limited to just two or three noncontroversial items, as one Republican leader proposed. But neither will the President's messages to Congress be so all-embracing as to overwhelm Congress during a limited session.

Democratic Reaction
The President expects to yield on some details, and thus form as broad a Republican front as possible for legislation. Occasionally he will have to have Democratic support, however. He invited no Democrats to the White House sessions; but he believes enough Democrats will find it either to their own interests or to the interests of the nation to support him on certain crucial issues, particularly foreign policy.

5. The program of "progressive dynamic" legislation which the President is seeking will be largely "middle of the road" in political orientation. There will be nothing so radical as a federal fair employment practices act—and nothing so conservative as an attempt to emasculate social security legislation.

The White House handling of the three-day meetings is a model of that careful staff planning in which a military leader might excel. Democratic spokesmen, meanwhile, are complaining of the secrecy involved. Because there have been few disclosures of exactly what happened, the Democratic opposition has found few points to attack, as yet, except the secrecy involved.

Democratic Help
Two Democratic Senators Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota and George H. Smathers of Florida said it would take more than three days of secret talks to bridge the policy gulf between President Eisenhower and some members of his party.

They said Mr. Eisenhower would have to rely on Democratic help to get some of his 1954 program enacted over the "die-hard" GOP opposition. Doubtless the President would not disagree.

What the White House is believed to be counting on, to persuade Congress, is a further and continuing campaign to popularize and dramatize the administration's legislative program.

To date, the President has issued general statements about areas of discussion. He has allowed his press conference comments to be published verbatim. He has commented at the conclusion of the three-day sessions, declaring, "I know that the people of this country will see the Republican Party continuing to enact progressive programs serving the welfare of all 160,000,000 Americans."

Otherwise, it may be rough sailing for the majority party in the congressional elections next fall. The President is expected to face the first clues concerning his new program when he addresses Congress in January. Meanwhile the program is now rapidly taking final shape after months of intensive study and staff work.

The Eisenhower Administration is still convinced money can be saved in the defense department

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Big Four Meeting Holds Little Hope For World Peace

Decisive Days Are Ahead For Administration; Pre- dict Rough Sailing

Washington.—Unquestionably the Russian note suggesting a Big Four foreign ministers meeting in Berlin sent a ripple of hope through many of the western capitals. There is probably little justification for the hope, but the free world likes to hope, and so there's much current speculation about the possible easing of international tension.

Washington was inclined to view the Soviet invitation with restraint all along, but London and Paris responded to the Moscow note with enthusiasm. The fear in some Washington quarters is that the French, or perhaps the British, will be inclined to concede too much in exchange for Communist promises, which are worthless.

As long as Sir Winston Churchill is in power, the British probably will not fall into that trap, but the French are anxious about the war in Indo-China, burdened by continuing casualties, and torn asunder by over a million Communists within the country itself.

French governments are unstable, don't last long. There is much appeasement sentiment in France, and many Communists, even in the armed services and in government employment.

The Russians hope to split the western powers and wreck the plan for West German rearmament. That and the effort to get Communist China accepted as a fifth major power in future political conferences is expected to be the line of the Reds in the Berlin parley.

Washington is viewing the prospective talks with guarded sentiment. There is no optimism, maybe a slight degree of wishful thinking.

The Republican Administration is rapidly approaching decisive days, days which will seal the fate of the party in the 1954 congressional elections. Congress meets again next month, and the majority party will have to put through farm and labor legislation along with many other bills constituting the President's program.

Because President Eisenhower did not take office until after Congress was in session this year, the executive department did not have time to formulate a complete legislative program. Since Congress adjourned, Republican leaders have been working on that long-term program.

Kely parts of it are, of course, amendments to be asked in the Taft-Hartley Act and the new agricultural program. Both labor and farm elements have shown some dissatisfaction with the administration in 1953, and if the President can nullify those grumblings with a program that at least wins the support of some farmers and workers, he will have done a great deal.

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Schedule Of Values Fixed By Tax Listers

HEADIN' SOUTH

The Christmas holiday over, the Yanks are headin' south in great numbers. An estimated one thousand tourists from the New England area traveled through here Sunday, and the traffic was constant yesterday and early today.

Quite a few of the tourists, apparently moving south for the winter, were pulling sizable trailers while a number of others had their household goods, including the garbage pail and dog, all securely packed in two-wheel jobs.

Last Rites Held For Mrs. Gardner

Funeral services were conducted in the Fairview Christian Church last Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. Mary Florence Gardner who died in a Plymouth hospital at 1:15 a. m., on Tuesday, December 22. The Rev. P. E. Cayton, assisted by the Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister, conducted the rites. Interment was in the Gardner family cemetery in Williams Township.

Taken ill suddenly, Mrs. Gardner was removed from her home in Williams Township to the hospital on Saturday, December 19.

The daughter of the late Gilbert and Mary Gardner Moore, she was born in Williams Township 58 years ago on June 20, 1895. In early womanhood she was married to Willie Wilson Gardner who died in 1937. She was a member of the Fairview church for a number of years.

Surviving are three daughters, Miss Annie Mae Gardner and Mrs. Russell Corey, both of Plymouth, and Mrs. Milton Holliday of Williams Township; one son, Robert Gardner of Williamston and six grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Allie Beacham of Jamesville, and Mrs. James Asa Roberson of Farm Life; and a brother, Chas. Moore, of Jamesville.

Foreign Aid In For Tough Time

Senator Allen J. Ellender, Louisiana Democratic Senator, recently completed a tour of areas where the United States is providing military and economic aid. As a result of this trip he sent a series of recommendations to the Senate Appropriations committee, outlining his views on the foreign aid program.

The most interesting proposal he made was that all economic aid to these countries be ended. He urged a continuance of the technical aid program now being carried on by this government, which would be, in effect, an effort on the part of this country to show other nations the efficient methods of production employed by U. S. industry.

Ellender also said he had been shocked by the unrealistic aid efforts he had seen in some areas. The Louisiana Senator's criticisms are merely another volley in a recent series which indicates President Dwight D. Eisenhower's requests for economic aid money at the next session of Congress may be in for rough sailing.

There are even indications administration requests for foreign aid money this time may be heavily trimmed, and might be limited to a small number of countries. Congressional sentiment, which continues to be reflected in statements like that by Ellender, might make this imperative, and ease the burden on the treasury at last.

He Missed "Something" After Stopping at Station

Romeo, Mich.—Stopped by State police and asked if he was "missing something" Russell L. Gokel, of East Detroit, couldn't imagine what he was missing. However, 17 miles before, he had stopped at a filling station and his 11-year-old daughter Karen, who had been asleep in the back seat, had gotten out of the car unnoticed. Gokel paid for the gas and sped away, leaving Karen behind.

No Great Change Expected In 1954 Assessed Values

Some Gain Fairly Certain From New Construction And Automobiles

Holding their annual meeting in the courthouse last week, tax listers and Supervisor M. L. Peel adopted a schedule of values for taxation purposes in 1954. The group made no marked changes in the assessment schedule, and little variation is anticipated in the over-all 1954 valuations. However, new construction and an increase in the number of new automobile and machines is fairly certain to influence the total to some extent. It was pointed out that new construction in 1953 was hardly as large as it was in 1952.

No revaluation of real properties has been ordered in this county in about thirteen years, and the basic property valuation will, necessarily, remain about the same. Of course there'll be a few changes traceable to improvements and some additions along with the new construction, but land values and old property listings will remain constant.

Working apparently for a uniform rather than a schedule of actual values, the tax authorities plan to list stock inventories at about two-thirds of inventory values. Peanuts are to be listed at \$6 per bag based on an inventory count of two-thirds. Lumber is to go on the books at \$25 per thousand and logs at \$15 per thousand feet.

Tractors and other farm equipment is to be listed at two-thirds the original value less ten percent annual depreciation. Tobacco trucks are to carry a value of \$5 each and tobacco sticks are to be listed at \$7 per thousand.

Horses are to be given a value of \$5 per mile, and meat and lard will be listed at twelve and one-half cents per pound. Horses are to be listed at twelve and one-half cents per pound. Horses are to be listed at \$50 for tops, and first class mules will be valued at \$150 each. Milk cows are to be rated at \$100 for the best, and other cattle will be listed at six to eight cents per pound. Hogs are to be valued at 10 cents per pound on the rack; sheep, \$2 each, goats, \$1 each and chicken, 75 cents each.

Automobiles are to be listed according to values carried in Red Book. The books were not immediately available, and the trend in values could not be determined.

Outdoor motors, TV sets, refrigerators and deep freeze units are to be valued at two-thirds their original value, less an annual depreciation of ten percent. Tobacco curing equipment will be listed at \$100 for the 20 x 20 units, and \$75 for the 16 x 16 units. Pool tables are to be placed on the books at \$50 each.

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Barometers Show Stable Business

New York.—Two of the more sensitive barometers of economic change, the stock market and the wholesale price index, have not downturn, but have been reluctant to reflect even the decline which has already taken place in U. S. industrial production.

The Federal Reserve Board index of production is down nearly 7 per cent from its post-Korean peak of 243 reached last March. The wholesale price index, which in March stood at 110 per cent of the 1947-49 average, has just been calculated at 109.9 for November.

The most commonly used index of stock prices, the Dow-Jones Industrial Average, did fall 20 points from May to June, before industrial weakness actually developed. Since then it has climbed back to the May level. Individual prices have not stood still. Farm prices are down, and so are foods. Major metals are more costly. Weakness may spread, but the absence of a general price decline rather argue that business will improve instead.