

Electrical Storm Hit This Section Thursday Night

Several Strikes Reported
But No Serious Dam-
age Resulted

One of the most severe and longest electrical storms ever witnessed by many struck this section last Thursday night. Several direct strikes were reported but no serious damage resulted, according to incomplete accounts reaching here.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Gardner in Bear Grass was struck that evening about 6:30 o'clock, the lightning bolt tearing away the television aerial and leveling the chimney at the top of the house. A window was torn out by falling brick. No one was injured in the home but members of the family in the room where the television set was located said they were slightly stunned, that it felt as if the house moved. The television set had been disconnected and was not greatly damaged, Mr. Gardner said. The farm is owned by Mr. Edmond Harris who reported that another bolt struck in a tobacco field on the farm where his son, Alton, lives near Bear Grass. No great damage resulted to the crop. Other fields were said to have been hit in other parts of the county.

Out in Cross Roads the lightning struck one end of T. S. Wynne's barn and fired the other. Members of the family saw the fire and put it out before much damage was done.

Although there was no general interruption in the electric service, quite a few transformers were burned out by lightning and customers in a few areas were without current for an hour or more.

It was said that fifty-seven lights were burned out on Williamston streets, that quite a few lights were burned out in the homes during the storm. Power company forces were kept busy in some areas just about all Thursday evening and night.

Lightning struck the home of Mrs. Robt. Lee Perry in Bear Grass last Thursday night. The fire froze and burned out most of the lights in the house, including a few wires.

The storm struck this immediate territory shortly after six o'clock that evening and continued with a few short breaks until about midnight. At one time, it sounded as if three storms had converged over the area with the lightning flashes coming two and three at a time. The storm was general and heavy rains were reported throughout the county. One county farmer estimated the fall in the Farm Life area at six inches. The upper end of the county where little or no rain had fallen since late May, reported three and one-quarter inches.

On Roanoke River, Bridgekeeper Hugh Spruill recorded 2.65 inches of rain in the official gauge. The fall last Thursday night boosted the precipitation up to that time to that time to 4.36 inches since the last of June. Since then there have been two or three traces of rain at the bridge.

A second electrical storm struck in the area about 2:00 o'clock last Friday morning, but it was too severe and was of comparatively short duration.

Man Booked For Shotgun Attack

George Bonds, local colored man, was booked early Sunday morning for allegedly assaulting Eugene Bell with a .12-gauge shotgun. At liberty under a \$200 bond, Bonds is scheduled to appear in the Martin County Recorder's Court for trial on August 23.

Witnesses said Bonds was so drunk he did not know what he was doing, and the defendant maintains he remembers nothing about the attack which took place early Sunday morning near the Bell and Bonds homes on Blount Street.

Bonds closed in on Bell with the gun, and just as Bell grabbed the barrel of the weapon and deflected the aim, the gun was discharged, missing Bell by inches. Bell proceeded to take the gun away from Bonds.

Unique Business Partnership



Blind Couple Operate Business of Their Own And Enjoying Life

Overcoming the serious obstacle of blindness, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Manning are making a success of a business venture in the Piney Grove Baptist Church area of Griffins Township, and, at the same time, are enjoying life.

Following their marriage a few months ago, the couple made arrangements to open a filling station and store in his home community. The Farm Life Ruritan Club and other friends, recognizing the need for a helping hand, pitched in and turned a small building into a station-store, and went on to add comfortable living quarters for the couple.

Club members and other friends contributed cash and did a greater part of the construction work. Several hundred dollars were several hundred by the club and others outside the club in that part of the county during recent months.

Mr. and Mrs. Manning, with some help from his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Manning, handle their own housework, run the station-store and engage in community activities. And they are doing a splendid job in their new work.

Both of them attended special schools, and he operated a business in Winston-Salem at one time, but with a wife and a going business, Mr. Manning says there's no place like home. Able to tell day from night at one he underwent a major operation several years ago in the hope he could gain more sight. The operation was not successful, but about that or anything else, he is never heard to complain.

Little Interest In Wheat Program

While a concerted effort is being made in this and other states to focus support on the 1955 wheat control program, there is little interest being advanced in this county in the referendum to be held on Friday of this week. There are only two wheat growers in this county eligible to participate in the referendum.

R. Flake Snow, executive vice president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, said, "if the wheat growers fail to approve marketing quotas for next year when they vote on Friday, the entire farm program will face a grave crisis."

He pointed out that by August 1 there would be about one billion bushels of wheat in government storage. "This condition has undoubtedly been brought about by the loss of our export markets to Canada and Australia and grower's reluctance to keep supply in line with effective demand," he declared.

Shaw emphasized, "if producers fail to vote for wheat marketing quotas, the price support will drop to 50 per cent of parity, instead of the current 90 per cent support rate."

Crops Improved By Recent Rain Falling In Area

Tobacco Harvest is Slowed
Down By Change In The
Weather Conditions

The crop picture in this county was materially changed for the better last week when heavy rains were reported throughout the territory. Even in those areas where little or no rain had fallen since May 29 and the harvest was all but written off as a lost cause, the crops have shown marked improvement and the farmers are more optimistic.

"Of course we'll not make hardly more than half a crop at the best, but it looked only last week that we would not make anything," one farmer in the upper part of the county said. In other areas where more rain has been falling from time to time even in limited quantity, the crop outlook is reported to be above average, a few farmers stating they have just about the best crops they have ever had.

Despite the recent rains, it is expected that the county will produce (Continued on Page Six)

Urging Farmers To Use Care In Grading Tobacco

Foreign Manufacturers
Said To Have Complained
About Grading

J. B. Hutson, President of Tobacco Associates, Inc., issued a statement this week urging farmers "to be more cautious in grading their current crop of tobacco to help overcome increasing complaints by foreign manufacturers who object strenuously to the 'mixed' condition in which our tobacco is brought to market."

"Since over one-third of the tobacco grown is exported, it is essential that every effort be made to prepare the leaf for market in such a manner as to please in so far as possible the foreign manufacturers who use our tobacco," he declared. Hutson, whose job is to promote world markets for flue-cured tobacco, said his statement was prompted by increased complaints in recent months by foreign users of U. S. tobacco about the way our leaf is graded on the farm. "During my recent trip to Europe," he said, "I was shown several samples verifying this criticism."

Represents Town At Jaycees Event

Williamston was well represented by Miss Lee Handy at the North Carolina Jaycees beauty pageant in Burlington last week-end, reports reaching back home declaring that the young lady did the Williamston Jaycees and the town itself much credit.

Miss Handy, along with the other contestants, was royally entertained during the stay in Burlington. They were showered with gifts and received special attention in every quarter. Special radio interviews were held and the schedule was packed with events. Miss Handy was quoted as saying, she declared she had a wonderful time.

Miss Betty Jo Ring, 24-year-old school teacher of Lexington, was chosen to represent North Carolina at the national beauty pageant to be held in Atlantic City. Among those from here who attended one or more of the special Burlington events last week-end were, Mrs. Marvin Britton, Mrs. Henry Handy, Misses Nancy Britton, Jane Whitaker, and Bettie Sue Clark and Messrs. Edgar Gurganus, David Whitaker and Frank Wynne.

TOBACCO MOVING

The first of the 1954 Martin County tobacco crop is moving to market this week, according to unofficial but reliable information heard here. Two Robersonville farmers were said to be packing up a load and making ready to go all the way to Georgia to market it.

Leaf Spot On Peanuts Costly

According to reports gathered from thirty-seven demonstrations conducted by county agents in the eighteen peanut producing counties in North Carolina, leaf spot disease is costing peanut growers about \$1,000,000 each year.

Martin County farmers stand to lose between \$450,000 and \$475,000 on this year's peanut crop, if leaf spot is not controlled.

Three to four applications of sulfur containing 4 per cent copper applied at 14-day intervals or two weeks apart have proven very successful.

Amount of material to use: first application, 15 to 18 pounds per acre. Other applications 20 pounds per acre. If the dust is washed off within 24 hours, make another application.

It will cost approximately 3.50 to treat an acre for the entire season. In thirty-seven demonstrations treated peanuts yielded 402 pounds per acre more than those not treated or about \$43.75.

Be sure to use sulfur plus 4 per cent copper dust of 325 mesh or finer.

If you haven't begun treatment, don't put it off, put it on.

For further information about your peanut problem, contact our office.

Diseases Strike County Tobacco

A relatively new type of disease recently attacked fields of tobacco in various parts of the county, according to information coming from the office of the farm agent.

Brown spots of fairly large circular design has hit quite a few fields. Another disease, traceable to the general weakness of the breed, is also causing right much damage on some farms, it is learned. The latter disease appears in the form of both white and dark spots, and strikes mainly during hot, dry weather. It appears on the leaf just as the tobacco ripens, it was pointed out by several farmers.

According to a report coming from Raleigh no method is known for the control of the diseases.

Some black shank has been reported in the county, but the disease has made its appearance only on a limited scale. Farmer Daney Taylor reported it in a few spots in his fields. County Agent T. B. Brandon said.

First Delimiting Dates For Vets

Korean Veterans that were separated from the service on or before August 20, 1952 and who have not applied for or are not now receiving GI Benefits under Public Law 550 should arrange to enter some type of training prior to August 20, 1954 or they will lose all benefits to which they are entitled. Korean Veterans who are now actively engaged in farming, who will be affected by this delimiting date or any date between August 20, 1954 and October 1, 1954 and are interested in Veteran Farmer Training, should contact the teacher of a agriculture or assistant teacher at either Jamesville, Oak City, Robersonville, or Bethel before August 1, 1954 about entry into training.

Represent County At Club Meeting

Instead of thirty-five or forty, only nine young men and women are representing this county at the 4-H club week sessions in Raleigh this week.

Assistant Agent D. W. Brady had his judging team from Farm Life in Raleigh yesterday, judging sheep, swine and beef cattle. No report on results could be had immediately. On the team were, Jaco and Buck Manning, Jerry Hopkins, Gaylord Perry and Dale Rogerson.

Accompanied by Assistant Agent Larry Hodges, Buzzy Worsley of the Oak City club is taking part in the program for the week. Miss Peggy Jordan, assistant home agent, is at the meeting with three club members. Miss Joan Coltrain, former State winner, is taking part in the State recognition program and serving at a reception in the Governor's Mansion this afternoon. Miss Katherine Rogerson, Bear Grass club member, is participating in a dress review, and Miss Betsy Roebuck of Jamesville is attending her first meeting in Raleigh.

Recreation Hours Listed For Week

Plans for a ping pong tournament are being made by Recreation Director Roger Thrift and he is asking that all who are interested in entering the tournament indicate their wishes by signing up at the high school gym. The following schedule is to be observed in the recreation program this week and generally will hold from week to week with but slight variations:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday—10:12, Activity at the gym; 3-4, All Star Practice; 4-5, Games for small children; 5-6:30, Tennis for older group. Tuesday, Thursday—16-12, Tennis for young group; 3-6, Baseball or Softball at ball park and general activity at the gym.

Martin Farmers Test New Type Fertilizer

Favorable Report
Heard From Tests
Over The County

Proof Of The Pudding Will
Be In The Harvest
In Late Fall

The use of anhydrous ammonia as a fertilizer is being put to a big test in the county this year, and early reports indicate that corn growers have really found something. However, it was pointed out that the proof of the pudding rests in the actual harvest schedule for late fall.

Several comparative tests are being demonstrated in the county this year and the reports favor the liquid gas, it was said. One of the tests is being run by Farmer Robert Pierce on the old Sherborn farm near Hamilton. Using a three-acre plot, the farmer applied the liquid nitrogen at the rate of 100 pounds per acre on a pre- and a post-plant system. Just now there is little difference in the corn where the fertilizer was applied before planting and where it was applied after the corn had started growing. On the acre plot where solid fertilizer was used, the corn is a bit yellow, and the roots do not penetrate as deeply as those where the liquid was used, according to reports from the tests. It was pointed out that the corn, fertilized with anhydrous ammonia, seemed to have come through the dry weather in better shape than that fertilized at the rate of 100 pounds of nitrogen in the solid form.

While a few comparative tests are being run, Martin farmers are using the anhydrous ammonia on a large scale. Unofficial but reliable reports state that nearly half million pounds or 450,825 pounds, to be more exact, were used in fertilizing the current corn crop in this county. It is estimated that 5,000 acres were fertilized with anhydrous ammonia, or nearly 40,000 tons of the material.

When bundles are too large," Hutson explained, "they do not dry properly when the tobacco is being processed through the re-drying plants and quite often cause the tobacco to mold later while in storage. This, of course, causes substantial losses to the owners as well as being the basis for complaints made about our tobacco."

Hutson said in conclusion that "in the face of increased competition from foreign producing areas, tobacco growers could lose millions of dollars yearly unless they do a better job of grading their product for market. A good job of preparation for market assures the realization of the highest possible income from tobacco, as well as helps to hold our foreign markets which are of utmost importance to us if we are to insure a steady market at a fair price for the surplus above normal domestic requirements."

When the harvest is in this fall, Martin farmers will have a pretty good idea about the use of anhydrous ammonia as a fertilizer for corn.

Using the liquid, Farmer Coy Roberson is said to have one of the best corn crops in the making ever grown in the county on his farm out in Griffins Township.

Local Youth In Florida Training

W. T. Martin, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin of 2804 Halifax Street, Williamston, N. C., is an Air Force ROTC Cadet at East Carolina College.

Cadet Martin, who completed his junior year in Advanced Air Force ROTC is attending four weeks of summer training at Tyndall Air Force Base as part of his reserve officer training at college. While at summer training, Cadet Martin observes and actually participates in Air Force operations.

Following graduation at East Carolina College, he will be eligible for appointment as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force Reserve.

ROUND-UP

There was comparatively little activity on the crime front in the county during the past week-end. Only five persons were rounded up and detained in the county jail during the period. Two were charged with drunken driving, two were booked for assaults and one was held for public drunkenness.

The ages of the group ranged from 25 to 42 years, and all five men were colored.

Several Highway Accidents In The County Recently

Two Hospitalized Following
Wreck In Jamesville Last Saturday

At least two people were injured on a property damage estimated at \$2,500 resulted in a series of motor vehicle accidents on the streets and highways in this county during the past few days.

The first in the latest series of accidents was reported early last week when John Lee Sheppard lost control of his 1940 Chevrolet on a curve on a rural road near Gold Point. The machine skidded about fifty-five yards and turned over in the middle of the road. Sheppard was not injured and damage to his car was estimated at \$100.

Andrew Marriner, said to have been on a reckless joy ride for an hour or more, wrecked and ruined his 1953 Chevrolet about one and one-half miles this side of Jamesville on Highway 64 about 10:30 o'clock last Wednesday night. The machine went out of control and turned over, the investigating patrolman estimating the loss at about \$1,200. Marriner was not hurt.

Mrs. J. C. Kirkman and her daughter were hurt when the car in which they were riding was in collision with another at a street intersection in Jamesville last Saturday at 5:45 o'clock p. m. J. C. Kirkman was driving north on Smithwick Street there when his car a 1954 Dodge, was struck in the side by a 1954 Chevrolet driven by James Bedwell. Damage to each machine was estimated at \$300.

Mrs. Kirkman suffered a bad cut on the head and a concussion. It was reported that between 15 and 20 stitches were necessary to close the head wound. She also suffered a severe back injury and other small cuts and bruises. Her daughter, suffering a concussion, multiple bruises and cuts, lost several of her front teeth, but was able to leave Brown's Community Hospital Monday for her home in Jamesville.

Kate Highsmith of RFD 2, Robersonville, was driving east on Highway 64 early Sunday evening when she struck and damaged a 1953 Plymouth owned by Bryant and Parme when he stopped to pick up a hitchhiker about one mile west of Parme. Sidney Bryant, following Highsmith, slowed down and stopped, but Otis Ray Williams could not stop in time and crashed into Bryant's 1953 Plymouth, knocking it into the rear of Highsmith's 1940 Buick. No one was injured. Damage to the Buick was estimated at only \$25. Damage to Bryant's car will approximate \$250, and repairs on Williams' 1953 Ford will cost around \$150, the investigating officer said.

Clarence Page was said to have "borrowed" Oliver Burns' 1939 Ford and crashed into a Chevrolet near the bus station in Robersonville Sunday evening about 8:30 o'clock. Damage to the car was estimated at \$40. Complete details of the minor accident could not be had immediately.

Confiscate Truck Here Last Week

A 1933 model Ford truck, driven by Lenwood Heelen James and carrying 1,925 pounds of corn meal and a small quantity of illicit liquor, was confiscated by federal officers last week-end. The truck is being held by the government in Elizabeth City and James is at liberty under a \$300 bond following a preliminary hearing. The man is booked for trial in the federal court at Washington in October.

The arrest was made by ABC Officer Cecil Bullock and Police Officers Tom Chesson and Verbe Jones near the intersection of Washington Street and Jamesville Road at 2:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

The Saturday night event followed a chase on local streets the night before. A five-gallon container, believed to have been filled with liquor, was thrown from a car as the officers closed in, but no arrest was made. Federal officers are investigating. The container was struck and broken by Officer Bullock's car, it was said.

ARMY CALLS

Two calls have been received by the Martin County Draft Board, calling for more men to report for physical examinations and final induction.

Twenty men are to report on August 9 for the pre-induction examinations, and five men are to report on August 11 for final induction. Two calls were answered this week, the final induction call being made up entirely of volunteers. It isn't likely that there'll be enough or even a few volunteers for the next call, meaning the demand must be met by men in the draft list.

Report Higher Tobacco Prices

Tobacco prices were mostly higher in the Georgia-Florida flue-cured belt opening week of the '54 season compared with early sales last year. General quality of the offerings did not show much change. Volume was lighter than for the first two days last season.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports gross sales for July 15 & 16 totaled 14,285,653 pounds and averaged \$52.84 per hundred. This average was \$1.69 above that paid for 17,414,351 gross pounds sold the first two days last year. Deliveries were lighter on Friday than the previous day. Several markets sold out before noon. Growers in most areas are trying to complete harvesting their crops.

Demand was exceptionally good for lower quality lugs, primings and nondescript. These offerings brought from \$3.00 to \$11.50 per hundred more than on early sales a year ago. Other grades held about even. The practical top was \$11.50 per hundred. Most of the best lugs and primings were a little higher.

A smaller proportion of the tobacco consisted of cutters and lugs. However, the shift was principally to fair and good primings. Fair and good lugs and low to good primings were the predominant offerings.

Averages on grades sold in heaviest volume were from \$1.00 to \$22.00 a hundred over their loan rate. Most were \$6.00 to \$20.00 above. The Flue-Cured Stabilization Corporation received 581,338 pounds or 6.2 percent of open-market sale under Government loan. Last year receipts for the first two days represented 8.9 percent of gross sales.

Checking Tax Irregularities

The apparent irregularities in more than 700 county tax accounts are being gradually reconciled, according to a report coming from the office of Tax Supervisor M. L. Peel.

All but about 150 of the apparent irregularities in the tax listing records have been handled, it was learned. The supervisor pointed out that owners had listed vehicles in one name and that the registration of the vehicle was in another person's name. In other cases, the owners overlooked listing their vehicles, and still others were a bit careless in identifying the year model vehicles. Approximately \$40,000 has been added to the book valuations since the check was started a few weeks ago.

Demonstrations At Center Here

You are invited to attend "Kitchen Kapers", an Electric Kitchen Demonstration, conducted in the Electric Living Center of the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

The first demonstration will be held on Wednesday, July 21, from 3:30 P. M., until 4:30 P. M. Dates and times of future demonstrations will be announced later.