

## WHOLESALE MURDER CONSPIRACY IS UNCOVERED

### Washington Police Believe They Are On Track of Fiendish Plot

## 7 NEGROES ARRESTED

### Conspiracy Consisted of Taking Out Insurance and Getting Rid of Insured Person

While there is no connection between the two, people here learning of the two negro deaths in this county yesterday afternoon naturally mentioned the murder conspiracy uncovered in Washington this week. The Washington Progress, of yesterday, has this to say of the murder conspiracy in that section:

"Following the murder Saturday night of Frances Hartsfield, Negro, county and city officers today are working on what they believe to be one of the most fiendish wholesale murder conspiracies ever originated in this section of the state. At least eight or nine deaths already are believed to have taken place, with from seventy-five to a hundred more victims in prospect.

"Matilda Redmond and Nathan Crandall, alleged to be the arch-conspirators in the plot, are being held in the county jail, together with J. C. Cruder, Tiney Jefferson, Paul Jefferson, Herbert Mitchell and Garfield Clemmons, as important witnesses. All of the prisoners are negroes. Deputy Sheriff George H. Harris, who has made the arrests thus far, said this afternoon that a number of others will take place within the next day or two.

"The conspiracy is said to have consisted of taking out numerous insurance policies on the lives of different negroes of the community and then getting rid of the insured either by means of poison or through some other agency.

"Three years ago the Redmond woman's husband died suddenly, and the general belief was that he had been poisoned. Matilda carried a sizeable insurance policy on his life. A little over a year ago, her nephew also died suddenly, and it was reported that he, too, had been the victim of poisoning. His aunt also carried a policy on his life. Three or four girls, living at the Redmond home, are said to have met sudden deaths.

"Early Sunday morning, the body of Frances Hartsfield was found on the railroad tracks a mile from Washington. Matilda had four policies on her, ranging from \$75 to \$400. She was arrested Monday. Her brother, Nathan Crandall, also was arrested and evidence is piling up to indicate that he is the one who shot the Hartsfield woman. As a matter of fact, officers believe that the Redmond woman and Crandall operated together; that she attended to the insurance and that he was responsible for the murders.

"Following Matilda's arrest, Deputy George Harris went out to her home and, after making a thorough search discovered a pile of more than seventy-five insurance policies concealed in the mattress of her bed. News of the discovery spread through the city rapidly and many of the negro residents are panic-stricken for fear that they are included among the list of prospective victims. Seldom before has the colored section of the city been so aroused over anything."

## Contractor Rushing Work on Warehouse

Removing trash and smoldering timbers from the lot, workmen will start within a very short time the construction of the new Planters Warehouse here, according to Superintendent Fields, of the Jones Brothers & Co. contracting firm. Wilson, Murray & McCabe Co., local lumbermen, are placing the lumber on the lot rapidly, and with fair weather the contractors plan to complete the work within a comparatively short time.

**WATTS THEATRE**

Saturday May 25  
**BOB CUSTER**  
 in  
**"ARIZONA DAYS"**  
 SERIAL and COMEDY

Monday-Tuesday May 27-28  
**"WOMEN'S WARES"**  
 with  
 Evelyn Brent, Bert Lytell, Larry Kent and Others  
 NEWS AESOP'S FABLES  
 Shows at 7:15 and 9 P. M. Daily  
 MUSIC BY PHOTOTONE

## Only About Half Local Tax Payers Have Listed Property

A last-minute rush, and a big one at that, was predicted yesterday by Mr. John D. Lilley, county tax supervisor, who stated that hardly more than 50 per cent of the property has been listed at this time. Much property has been listed this week, the supervisor stated, but the takers have not been rushed only at times, it was pointed out. Mr. Lilley stated that he was not in a position to report on the listings, but gave as his belief that the valuation will be equally as large as it was last year, if not a little larger.

The list takers here, Messrs. R. T. Griffin for the township and W. T. Meadows for the town, stated that approximately 60 per cent of the prop-

erty owners had listed here, that the work had proceeded rapidly during the first three days of this week. The property valuation in the town will show an increase according to Mr. Meadows, but the increase will be held down considerably as it is apparent that personal property is making a weak showing as a whole. "Last year we had a one and one-half million dollar valuation, and it is my belief that we will reach a point somewhere between \$1,500,000 and \$1,600,000 this year," Mr. Meadows stated.

## SHERIFF'S SALE WILL BE LARGE

### Around 300 Tracts of Land Will Be Sold, According To Present Outlook

The sheriff's tax sale, just a little over a week off, will be one of the largest that has been held in this county in a number of years, according to reports coming from the collector's office today. "Very few people have settled their tax accounts since the properties were advertised earlier in the month, and unless payments increase rapidly between now and Monday, June 3, around 300 pieces of property will be offered for sale," Deputy Grimes stated this morning.

Approximately 10 per cent of the property advertised for sale the first Monday in June has been removed from the delinquent list. Taxes amounting to around \$17,000 remain unpaid, and in conformity with the law, the accounts will be cleared at the sale Monday week.

The local town tax list has fared little better, if any than that of the county and with the two collectors selling next month, there'll be a busy time.

## BOY HURT BY FALLING TREE

### Tommie Gaylord, of Jamesville, Suffers Broken Leg In Accident

Tommie Gaylord, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Gaylord, of Jamesville, suffered a broken leg and other injuries when he was struck by a falling tree near his home Wednesday. The boy was rushed to a Washington hospital, doctors there finding it necessary to remove several pieces of bone mashed by the tree. He was removed to his home and is getting along very well at this time.

The boy, with his brother, was sawing a tree in the woods, and when the saw jammed the two stopped and went for water. Upon returning the wind toppled the tree over just as young Gaylord reached the spot. He was knocked down, the tree falling on his leg. The boy suffered bruises about the face, but they were only minor ones.

## Program of Services at Presbyterian Church

Sunday school, 9:45 a. m. Departmental classes.  
Worship service, 11 a. m. Subject: "Barnabas, the Man Who Understood."  
In a day and time in which there seems to be little understanding between mother and daughter, father and son, employer and employee, it is indeed refreshing, inspiring, and helpful to study the life of one of the great characters of our New Testament, a man who understood, and endeavor to draw from it lessons which are applicable to our own day and time.

We delight in inviting all those who are interested in this subject to meet with us. We extend to all who are not affiliated with any church whatever a most cordial invitation to make our church your church. We want to know each of you, and we want you to know Christ.  
We meet each Sunday in the Woman's Club. Come and meet with us. Z. T. PIEPHOFF.

## Shrines Pass Through Here En Route to Convention

Judging from the number of Rabbits, Priests and Prophets, guides, ceremonial masters, orators, marshals, captains, potentates and goodness only knows how many others that passed through here Wednesday and Thursday, the spring ceremonial and stated session of Sudan Temple held at Elizabeth City this week was undoubtedly well attended. Up until noon yesterday the Shriners, wearing their red caps, found their way to the convention, while yesterday afternoon the crowd started their homeward trip coming through here in an almost unbroken line.

## Regular Services at Church of the Advent

Regular services will be held in the Church of the Advent here Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock, it was announced yesterday by the rector, Rev. Arthur H. Marshall. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## METHODISTS TO BEGIN REVIVAL NEXT SUNDAY

### Rev. B. Duke Critcher To Be in Charge During Meeting

## SERVICE EACH NIGHT

### Services Will Continue Through First Sunday in June, Perhaps Longer; All Invited to Attend

The First Methodist Church begins its annual evangelistic services next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. Preaching service Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. There will be only one service daily through the week, and that an evening service at 8 o'clock.

In the past the Methodist church has always brought the most outstanding ministers available for its revival services. This year it has been most fortunate in obtaining the services of Rev. B. D. Critcher, of Oxford. Rev. Mr. Critcher is a former resident of Williamston, and the churches of the city will take great pleasure in welcoming him into our midst for this revival.

The pastor and congregation of the Methodist Church invite all the ministers and their congregations to join them in these evangelistic services. A city-wide invitation is extended to all church choirs to accept a place in the chorus through the revival.

A song service will precede each preaching hour. A most cordial welcome is extended to all. The revival will extend through the first Sunday in June, and perhaps longer.

## BEGIN FORMING COUNTY TEAM

### Meeting Held Here Last Night; First Practice Next Tuesday

Meeting here last night a number of young men from several parts of the county practically made complete the arrangement for a county baseball team to take part in the four-county league recently organized. The undertaking was heartily endorsed by those attending the meeting, and its success is assured.

The first practice will be held next Tuesday afternoon on the Everetts diamond, every young man in the county being extended an invitation to attend and take part in the play. Mr. Bill Spivey, one of the leaders in the league's organization stated this morning that present indications point to a successful season, that the young men attending the last night meeting and other people throughout the county are very much interested in the play's success.

Bertie was represented at a meeting here last night, assuring the third member of the four-county league. Washington county dropped out and it is understood that Ahoskie is considering entering. With Beaufort, Bertie and Martin already entered and Ahoskie planning to enter, it is believed that play will be underway within the next few days.

Those attending the meeting last night from out of town include: R. E. Taylor, J. E. Johnson, J. B. Whitehurst, Pete Bunting, "Spot" Robertson, Robertsonville; Clarence Faulkner, Archie Roebuck and Dick Cherry, of Everetts; Jimmie Brown and Carrol Brown, Jamesville.

## T. Jones Taylor Is Very Ill in Hospital

T. Jones Taylor, prominent Edgecombe County citizen and a popular figure here, is critically ill in a Richmond hospital, suffering cerebral hemorrhages. Mr. Taylor was taken suddenly Sunday morning when he fell unconscious at his home, near Bethel. He was removed Wednesday to a Richmond hospital where his condition is said to be grave.

Mr. Taylor, a surveyor, visited here real often and is well known by local people.

## Negro Found Dead in Bed After Funeral of Another

Returning home late yesterday, after attending the funeral of a friend, relatives of John Cherry, aged negro of Williams township, found him dead in bed, the man apparently dying of heart failure. Coroner S. R. Biggs was called and the case was investigated, Mr. Biggs stating that the death was due to natural causes, that foul play was not evident.

Neither Cherry nor Godard, the boy drowned yesterday afternoon, was the victim of the wholesale murder conspiracy uncovered in Washington this week.

## Warehouse Meeting Last Night Postponed

The meeting of the Martin County Warehouse Company directors scheduled for last evening was postponed until next Thursday evening at 8:30 when all business relating to the construction and operation of the house will be handled.

## RECORDER HAD BUT SIX CASES

### Four Defendants Appeal From Decision of Judge Bailey

The judgment handed down by Recorder Bailey in the county's court here last Tuesday brought about four appeals to a higher court out of the six cases called. A 90-day road sentence stuck in one case, and in another final judgment was withheld for a week.

Clyde Knight plead not guilty to an abandonment charge and appealed to a higher court when he was required to pay \$2 a week for 12 weeks to Winnie Jones for the plaintiff and taxed with the costs of the case. Appeal bond was fixed in the sum of \$200.

Found guilty of disturbing religious worship, Joseph Mayo was sentenced to jail for a period of 90 days to be assigned to the road force in Edgecombe County. He entered a plea of not guilty and appealed to the superior court when the sentence was meted out. Bond was fixed at \$150.

Clarence Sherrod, guilty of carrying a concealed weapon, accepted his sentence, 90 days on the roads.

The case charging George Lendon Hardison with assault with a deadly weapon, was continued a week for final judgment.

Henry Raynor was found guilty of an assault and appealed to the superior court after judgment had been suspended with the costs remaining. He was required to give bond in the sum of \$50.

Found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon, Dave Bryant was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs. Appealing to a higher court, he was required to give bond in the sum of \$100.

## SHOW WORK OF CHURCH ARMY

### Free Moving Picture Will Be Shown at Watts Next Wednesday

A moving picture of very unusual interest will be shown in the Watts Theatre next Wednesday afternoon which will show how the English people train and teach their young men in that great organization which is now coming to be known in this country and known as the Church Army. This picture is taken in England and will show many scenes of unusual interest around London and rural England with its delightful and picturesque scenery. One of the scenes in this picture which will be of interest to many will be a wedding in a rural church, in which the quaint costumes will be blended in wondrous harmony with the ultra-modern ones.

This picture is shown through the courtesy of the Church Army in England and the United States, and will be shown at the Watts Theatre, of this city, by courtesy of Mr. Watts, free of charge to the people of Williamston and surrounding communities at 3 o'clock next Wednesday afternoon. Captain Hurworth of the English Church Army, will be present to explain the different scenes and to answer any questions which may be asked of him.

## Authorities Here Stressing Proper Lighting of Autos

In an effort to correct improper lighting on automobiles, local officers have been sending out special warnings to all owners whose cars are not properly equipped with lights. More than 25 car owners have been questioned as to the condition of their lights and several arrests have been made where the drivers made no attempt to correct lighting errors.

While there are very few cars here not properly lighted, the officers continue the work, and state that they hope to remedy the conditions in its entirety.

## Everetts Camp Modern Woodmen Meet Monday

The Everetts Camp, Modern Woodmen, will hold a regular meeting in the hall there Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock, when it was announced, an attempt to organize a baseball team. Plans of the undertaking have been discussed, and it is believed that the prospects for a successful team are unusually good. The members are urged to attend the meeting.

## Services At Bear Grass School Sunday Night

This is to advise the residents of Bear Grass Township that preaching services are to be held in the Bear Grass Schoolhouse auditorium each Sunday night at 8 o'clock, beginning Sunday, May 26. Since the death of Mr. Vandell, these services have been discontinued. But in the future services will be held regularly each Sunday night. Please keep this in mind and tell all your friends and neighbors about these services.  
Z. T. PIEPHOFF.

## 300 Applications for Admission to Clinic

## SMALL FIRE AT PENDER STORE

### Careless Burning of Trash Responsible for Small Blaze Yesterday

Carelessly burning trash that had been allowed to accumulate for weeks behind the D. Pender grocery store here, an employee of the store yesterday morning started a fire that threatened the store and other buildings in the town's center. When the fire company reached the scene, the fire had started eating its way into the store's roof and windows, making it necessary for the firemen to lay several hundred feet of hose to place the flames under control.

While there was no property damage, the fire, it is hoped, pointed out to store owners and others here the danger in allow trash to accumulate. A month ago a clean-up and paint-up campaign was sponsored by the Woman's Club here in an effort to lessen the number of fires and add to the town's appearance in general. The Pender store-front was freshly painted during the campaign and at the same time trash and rubbish was allowed to pile up.

The store operators were instructed immediately after the fire to have the rubbish removed at once.

## FARM LIFE PLAY PLEASURES CROWD

### Medium-Sized Audience Sees "A Prairie Rose" Here Wednesday

The play, "A Prairie Rose," staged by the students of the Farm Life School in the City Hall auditorium here last Wednesday evening was well received by a medium-sized audience. While the play as a whole was creditably staged, two players stood out in their respective parts. Miss Verona Lilley, playing as Rosa, the girl of the New West, was unusually good in her role, several spectators declaring her acting equal that of many players in the trained troupes. Miss Velma Griffin featured when she gave a reading that greatly pleased the members of the audience.

Singing between acts, the boys' quartette, Raymond Gurkin, Thomas Manning, Hugh Daniel, and Archie Robertson received hearty applause.

The students are planning to stage the play in other parts of the county, and it is certain that they will please where they go.

## Cooper School District Votes for Consolidation

County consolidation of schools was advanced another notch last Wednesday when the voters of the Cooper School district voted 47 to 7 in a special election held there to send their children to Jamesville for instruction.

Of the 55 registered voters, 47 voted for the measure, 7 against it, and 1 not casting a vote.

The Cooper district was served by a two-teacher school, including no high school courses. The people there will now pay a 25-cent special tax and will send their children by truck to the Jamesville schools, only 4 miles away.

## Army Engineers To Make Aerial Survey of Roanoke

In an effort to aid flood relief work on the Dan and Roanoke Rivers, the United States Government is planning an aerial survey of the two streams. The survey will be made this summer by army engineers and the air service. A map will be made from the source of the Dan in the Patrick County highlands of Virginia to the Albermarle Sound, where the stream enters under the name of the Roanoke.

Water gauges have been placed along the streams as a part of the flood relief program, and other work is being done toward the same end.

## Teachers' Training Course Will Be Held at Everetts

Beginning next Monday evening at 8:00 o'clock, Mr. L. M. Morgan, of Raleigh, will start a teachers' training school in the Everetts Baptist Church, it was announced this morning. Mr. Morgan, a pioneer worker in the Sunday schools of the State, is an able leader and the school will be of much profit to those attending.

## WILL BE ABLE TO CARE FOR ONLY ABOUT 100

### Only 11 Colored People Apply Out of Total of 286 Applications Received

### TO TURN AWAY MANY

Clinic Will Begin Tuesday and Last For Four Days; Can Handle 25 Cases Daily

With nearly three hundred applications already in and a few more expected, the special tonsil and adenoid clinic scheduled to be held here next week will have about three times as much work as it will be able to handle, according to Mrs. H. P. Guffy, State health nurse, who is in active charge of the clinic arrangements. Preparations for holding the clinic are practically complete at this time, and with the arrival of the specialist and nurses, operations will be in progress Tuesday morning in the old school building here.

The clinic, lasting four days, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, will accommodate around 25 subjects daily. Mrs. Guffy regretting very much that only about one-third of the applicants can be treated during the week. To make the service as valuable as possible, Mrs. Guffy is urging every applicant to visit the clinic that thorough examinations might be made and that the most dangerous cases might be treated.

Two hundred and seventy-five of the 286 applications received up until noon yesterday were from white children; the number from the colored being too small for a day's work, the clinic will handle only white cases during the week. The 11 applications received from the colored people indicate that the negroes are not troubled to any great extent with bad tonsils or that they take no interest in the opportunity extended them.

The 286 applications represent practically every district in the county, many of them coming from the rural sections.

## Baptists Will Hold But One Service Sunday

The Sunday School should be well attended Sunday morning. Let every one be present, with prepared lessons and make it a great Sunday school.

At the morning preaching hour, the Rev. J. W. Kinchloe, Jr., of Rocky Mount, will occupy the pulpit. He is a young man, just home from the seminary at Louisville, and comes well recommended.

Due to the fact that the pastor will be preaching at Chowan College Sunday evening, together with the beginning of the evangelistic services at the Methodist church, there will be no evening preaching service in this church.

It is now well known that Rev. B. D. Critcher is beginning a series of meetings at the Methodist church Sunday, and as is our beautiful custom in Williamston, when one church is thus engaged, the other churches engage with them. Therefore, our congregation is asked to attend these services Sunday evening, and all through the week, when possible to do so. There will be no mid-week meeting at the Baptist church Wednesday evening.

## Oak City School Board To Meet Wednesday, 5th

A regular meeting of the Oak City School board will be held Wednesday evening, June 5, when the board members will consider elementary and high school applications filed by prospective teachers, according to an announcement made following a meeting of the board members there last Wednesday.

A tentative election of the teachers for the Oak City schools during the 1929-30 term will be made at the June meeting by the school board, the elections being made subject to the approval of county school officials, it was stated.

## Negro Youth Is Drowned in Harris Mill Pond Thursday

Javan Godard, 18-year-old Negro, was accidentally drowned yesterday afternoon in the Harris millpond, near here. The boy went fishing earlier in the day, and having poor luck at that sport, he decided to go swimming. He was warned of the sharp drop in the creek's bottom by several boys who watched from the bank, but he gave little attention to the advice and was soon in water over his head, drowning before help could reach him.

Coroner S. R. Biggs was called, and after questioning the eye witnesses, he declared the drowning accidental.