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MARRIAGE BASED ON JAIL ROMANCE RUNS INTO SNAG

Husband Wanted by Police in Blackstone, Arrested in County Last Night

The recent marriage here of Clifton B. Abernathy and Katy Katharine Phelps, based on a romance in a Hopewell, Va., jail, was unexpectedly headed for the rocks last evening, when he was arrested by Officer Early in Oak City for Blackstone, Va., authorities, who issued a telegram to Sheriff C. B. Roebuck that Abernathy was wanted there on a felony charge. Abernathy said this morning that he would not fight extradition, and admitted he was wanted in the Virginia city for forgery. Unofficial reports state he is wanted also in Scotland Neck for flashing bad checks there just two days before his marriage.

Katy Katherine Phelps, 18 years old, daughter of Mrs. J. A. Johnson, of Goose Nest Township, this county, and the late D. A. Phelps, was married to Abernathy, a Nottaway County, Va., young man, by Justice J. L. Hassell here the 12th of this month. Jailed last August for the murder of her sister's husband, Mrs. Abernathy stole moments during each lunch hour to carry on the romance with Abernathy, who was held in the same jail for forgery. They traded notes in the jail and the courtship progressed, the two agreeing to marry just as soon as they could get their feet on the ground. Abernathy was given a Christmas Day pardon conditioned on the promise to leave Hopewell and not return. The Phelps girl was released under bond the first of this month, the marriage following 12 days later. They honeymooned in Washington City, apparently holding their own plans secret in connection with the woman's scheduled return to Hopewell next month to face trial for the murder of her brother-in-law, Howard W. Watkins, on August 28 in Hopewell, Va.

Abernathy's arrest last night aggravates the plight of the couple. The 23-year-old husband said: "I couldn't return to Hopewell for my wife's trial, for to do so would mean I would have to serve a 5-year sentence. I got married and can't even live with my wife during the few days before her return to Hopewell. I have a pint of gin, bought from the Oak City ABC store and can't even take a drink of that, and now I'm booked for the Blackstone authorities."

Abernathy was returning to this county to be with his wife until time for her return to Hopewell.

Mrs. Abernathy some weeks ago gave a version of the "romance that blossomed amid grey walls and steel bars which cast shadows," explaining that she met Abernathy early in September and exchanged tales of woe. "He (Abernathy) told me about his life and himself, and I did the same thing, and we fell in love."

Mrs. Abernathy, known as the "date-on-a-bet girl," was convicted of the slaying of her sister's husband and is now awaiting a new trial. She is alleged to have shot Watkins following an automobile drive with him when he attempted to choke her in a quarrel over her going with another married man in Hopewell. She had made a bet with her sister, Watkins' wife, that she could make a date with him.

Everetts Firm Is Robbed Tuesday

The store of J. S. Ayers & Company in Everetts was broken into and robbed sometime during last Tuesday night, an inventory showing that few articles were stolen. Using a heavy iron bar, the robber broke the front-door glass to gain an entrance to the store. Mr. Ayers, the owner, stated that a pair of shoes, pair of pants, a sweater and a box of crackers were stolen. County officers investigated the case, but were unsuccessful in their efforts to apprehend the robber. A Martin County prison camp convict escaped last Tuesday while working in the Spring Green section, and officers believe he robbed the store.

Local Boy Earns Letter At School in Virginia

Howard Cone, local young man, was awarded a football letter by Captain Phil Brooks, director of athletics at Fishburne Military School, Waynesboro, Va., a few days ago. Cadet Cone, son of Mrs. P. B. Cone, was a halfback on the Fishburne team and was one of 16 boys to receive letters.

Local Man Narrowly Misses Enforced Stay in Flood Area

"Descriptions of the flood situation in Ohio are not exaggerated at all," G. W. Hardison, Williamston man, said upon his return here yesterday after being forced to withdraw from the territory by the flood waters. Detouring many miles to find an open road across the Ohio River, Mr. Hardison said he drove in water up to the running board of his car for great distances, that he missed being bottled up in the stricken area by only 30 minutes. One of the main roads was closed

at a certain point 30 minutes after he passed, he later learned. Mr. Hardison could offer no estimate as to the extent of the damage, but he said there was much human suffering over a wide area. Several former Williamston citizens, including Mrs. Ethel Watts and two daughters at Huntington, W. Va.; Mrs. R. L. Landmood, at Marietta, Ohio; and Mrs. Calno Loudon and family at Ripley, Ohio, are in the stricken area. As far as it can be learned, they are getting along all right.

Board Will Consider Hospital for County

IN NEW BUSINESS



Oliver F. Gilbert, sr., for the past 18 months connected with the U. S. Treasury Department, resigned that position recently to enter private business. He plans to make his headquarters here.

ONLY SIX CASES TRIED IN COUNTY COURT MONDAY

Senator Coburn Prosecutes In Absence of Brother, W. H. Coburn

The Martin County Recorder's Court docket continues to carry comparatively few cases, the Monday session this week handling a mere half dozen actions. For the most part the session this week was an uneventful one with possibly one exception. Senator R. L. Coburn prosecuted the docket in the absence of Solicitor W. H. Coburn, who is undergoing treatment in a Richmond hospital.

Judge H. O. Peel, contemplating a trip to New Orleans, announced there would be no session of the court next Monday.

Proceedings in the court Monday: Roosevelt Rigby, Williamston bootlegger, trapped with 7 1/2 gallons of liquor in his home, was sentenced to the roads for six months. Charged with larceny and receiving, John Henry Edwards, colored, was sentenced to the roads for three months. He appealed, the court requiring bond in the sum of \$100.

Linwood Speight, deaf and dumb negro, drew one of the longest road sentences—two years—meted out by Judge Peel in some time. Speight, in court several times previously, was charged with assaulting a woman.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of costs in the cases charging David Close with cruelty to animals, and Haywood Fields with allowing stock to run at large.

Ira Thomas was sentenced to the roads for three months on an assault with a deadly weapon charge.

Mrs. Dona Harrell Dies at Oak City

Mrs. Dona High Harrell, native of Wilson County but a resident of Oak City for several years, died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. O. High in Oak City Wednesday morning at 7:30 o'clock. She had been in declining health for several months, the end coming gradually. She was 32 years old. Besides her parents, she leaves her husband, O. L. Harrell, and one son, Curtis Harrell, 18 months old. She is also survived by six sisters.

Mrs. M. A. Davis, Mrs. J. A. Boykin, Mrs. E. T. Thorne, Mrs. Pattie Edwards, of Wilson; Mrs. B. W. Dail, of Kingston, and Miss Dixie High and one brother, W. H. High. Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at the late home by Elder William E. Grimes and Elder E. L. Cobb, of Wilson. Interment was in the Contentment Cemetery, near Wilson.

To Be Taken Up at Meet Monday; Also Property Revaluing

Regular Calendar Carries Little Business of Any Unusual Importance

The possibility of establishing a hospital in this county is expected to be discussed by the Martin commissioners in session here next Monday, according to information gained here this morning. Property revaluation is also expected to come up for renewed discussion, Chairman J. E. Pope said, but neither of these important matters is on the regular calendar for consideration at the meeting next week, it was learned. The calendar carries the usual large number of routine duties, including the drawing of a jury for the March term of superior court.

Little information is to be had in connection with the proposed hospital for the county other than that there is a great need for such an institution and that a number of citizens, including several members of the medical profession in this county, are showing considerable interest in the proposed undertaking. While the proposed project is in its embryo stage, it is believed the commissioners will give some thought and study to it and possibly select a committee to make an investigation. It is certain that any action on the part of the authorities will be anxiously awaited by the general public.

Complete facts are not available just now, but it is thought that the hospitalization program now supported by the county in cooperation with hospitals outside the county is costing quite a bit. It is also believed that the program will expand steadily in the future, making more apparent for the county to have a hospital of its own.

The commissioners, while almost certain to hold discussions, are not expected to take any official action in connection with a property revaluation program this year. The matter was discussed at the regular meeting held early this month, the chairman of the board at that time asking the members to give the matter consideration with the view of renewing the discussions next Monday. Present indications are that the board will arrange a complete revaluation program in accordance with the law.

Discussions centered around the proposed revaluation program and the possibility of establishing a hospital in the county are expected to command the greatest attention given the business calendar during the next Monday meeting.

Gilbert Enters Field Of Insurance Here

Explaining that he had learned to like Williamston so well, Mr. Oliver F. Gilbert, sr., for the past 18 months connected with a branch of the United States Treasury, resigned that position a few days ago to enter private employment here. Mr. Gilbert has lived here during the past five or six months, and he and Mrs. Gilbert are at home with the Wheeler Martins.

Living a greater part of his life in Elizabeth City, Mr. Gilbert, prior to the time he accepted a position with the government, was a prominent business man in eastern Carolina. He is now associated with the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States and is a member of the Century Club of Life Underwriters.

7.20 INCHES RAIN REPORTED HERE DURING JANUARY

River Falling Slowly After Reaching 14-Foot Flood Stage Wednesday

January weather here is off to a good start to equal the record reported in some parts of the world, where it recently rained every day in the year except one, and it snowed on that day. Rainfall, totaling 7.20 inches up to this morning, was reported on 25 of the 29 days so far in the month. The precipitation, setting a new record for January, almost equals the record for June of last year, when 7.45 inches were reported by the weather station here.

The old Roanoke, reaching a crest of 14 feet Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock, is falling slowly, Hugh Spruill stating the stream was holding to the 13-foot level this morning. No heavy rains were reported in the upper Roanoke basin until yesterday, and the river was in its banks at Weldon, indicating there would be no further flood waters right away. The flood waters are just about bottled up at this point by a strong tide blown up the river by a northeast wind, reports from Plymouth stating that the water there yesterday was 3 inches higher than the record flood of last year. Heavy rains, 2.07 inches Tuesday night and 1.92 inches yesterday are feeding the stream at this point, making it almost impossible for the waters to recede in the river. Creeks and smaller streams in the county are in flood stage in a number of cases, holding traffic to a standstill on several routes.

RESETTLEMENT GROUP EXPECTS TO MAKE LOANS

Applications Are Being Received; Twice as Many As Year Ago

Applications for loans are being received in this county by the Resettlement Administration from farmers, present indications pointing to nearly twice as many requests for loans as were received a year ago. The office in the county courthouse, while receiving applications for new loans, states that old loans will be renewed first and that the new requests would receive attention early in February.

Last year 103 loans were advanced by the Resettlement Administration, representing a total of \$44,788.68. Approximately \$38,893.65 was due last fall, the office reporting collections amounting to \$23,515.14. Some of the borrowers lost their tobacco during the hail storm that struck the county last summer. Others have not been able to get their peanuts off the vines, accounting for the unpaid balance to a great extent.

Delegations Swamp State Road Group

Led to believe the State Highway and Public Works Commission had plenty of money, or enough to bury a couple of million in the Albemarle Sound, delegations digging out of the mud in the strictly rural centers of North Carolina turned on Raleigh in numbers yesterday, pleading that justice and fairness be considered in administering the road program.

The delegation from this county, headed by Rev. W. B. Harrington, urged the commission to give the people of Griffins Township an outlet from the Farm Life area to U. S. Highway 17.

The commission delayed awarding contracts for the Albemarle bridge, but cause for the delay was not explained. It was rumored that the legislature would take a hand against the project, but no open action has been taken by that body, as far as it can be learned here.

First Poultry Shipment of Year Made in This County

The first cooperative poultry shipment in the county this year is moving to northern markets today, Count agent T. B. Brandon stating that the loadings at Jamesville, Williamston, and Robersonville were unusually heavy, considering the unfavorable weather and bad condition of the roads. Poundage figures and receipts were not available, the agent waiting the completion of the loadings in Oak City today.

County Contributions for Relief Of Flood Sufferers Nears \$500; \$237 Contributed in Williamston

Perfect Organization of Ball Club by Selection of Officers

The organization of the Williamston Baseball Club for the 1937 season was perfected at a meeting held in Pete Fowden's office here last Wednesday evening, the group interested fans selecting R. H. Goodman, president; Pete Fowden, vice president; and N. C. Green, secretary-treasurer. Five directors will be chosen by the officers.

Six County Schools Will Remain Closed

Weather and Roads Prevent Reopening Monday as Planned

Possible Reopening Date Is Not Mentioned in Official Announcement Today

Six schools—Oak City, Hamilton, Hassell, Gold Point, Robersonville and Everetts—closed this week on account of unfavorable weather and bad road conditions, will not reopen next Monday as originally planned when operations in those plants were stopped, it was officially announced by the office of the superintendent of county schools here today. The successful operation of the six schools will be next to impossible until road conditions are improved, the office explained.

Present plans call for the continued operation of other schools in the county, the superintendent said. However, if the rains continue to fall and the road conditions become worse, it is very likely that other schools and possibly the entire county system will be closed down.

The county school authorities would not mention a possible date for re-opening the six schools closed since last Tuesday.

Operations in the schools now open are going forward under handicaps, it is understood. Patrons are hauling their children in horse-drawn vehicles in some sections where buses cannot run.

Accurate attendance records for the past few days are not available at this time, but it is reasonable to believe that many children are not attending school on account of existing conditions.

Missionary At Episcopal Church Sunday Evening

Dr. Lula Disoway, whose American home is New Bern, but who has served as a missionary in China for the past ten years, will speak at the Church of the Advent here Sunday night. Dr. Disoway is one of the three American doctors on the staff of St. Elizabeth's hospital in Shanghai. At the recent convention of the Woman's Auxiliary in Greenville, Dr. Disoway made a very interesting address and several of the Williamston delegates were very eager to have Dr. Disoway speak here.

County Officers Raid Two Liquor Plants Wednesday

Two liquor plants were wrecked by raiders J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel in Bear Grass Township Wednesday, the officers confiscating much manufacturing equipment.

The first plant was of the steam type, the officers destroying it. Approximately 800 gallons of beer were poured out. Officers found the second plant, but the operators apparently were warned and escaped. Twenty barrels, or about 1,000 gallons, of beer were destroyed and the 100-gallon copper still was confiscated. The officers also found and destroyed 30 gallons of liquor.

took no official action in connection with employing a manager and handling other business matters. Judge W. G. Bramham, czar in minor-league baseball circles, will attend the meeting of league officials here next Tuesday and assist in the perfection of a working organization. All clubs will be represented and entertained at a barbecue supper in the Womaj's Club hall at 7 o'clock, the business meeting following at 8:15, it was learned.

GET ROAD DATA

The North Carolina Highway Patrol is cooperating with the Federal Roads Bureau in gathering data for use in future road building, and at the present time the bureau is locating temporary weighing stations over the state to get the weights of trucks, cars and buses. Patrolman Hunt explained the weights would be taken merely to gain certain data for the road bureau. No weights have been taken in this division, but the temporary stations will probably be set up with in the next few weeks, it was said.

ALLEGED KILLER TO BE RETURNED HERE FOR COURT

Oliver Grimes, Arrested In Philadelphia Last Week, To Fight Extradition

Arrangements for the return of Oliver Grimes, colored, charged with the murder of Richard Smith, colored, in this county 14 years ago, have not been completed, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said today, explaining that he was waiting the outcome of a charge lodged against Grimes by Philadelphia police, where the accused murderer is being held.

Grimes, arrested in Philadelphia a few days ago for an alleged assault on his common-law wife, admitted the killing to the Philadelphia police. According to Grimes' story, he was shooting crap back in 1923 with six or seven men, among them being Beck Council, Baldy Council and Richard Smith. The game was in the Council yard on the Purvis farm, Grimes maintaining that on several occasions Smith took some money from him and, just before the shooting, Smith went after him again with a knife, taking more money from him. Grimes says he pulled a pistol from his pocket and shot Smith twice.

Grimes not waiting to see how much damage he did, fled the scene, stopping in Wake Forest and later going to Youngstown, Ohio. Philadelphia was his next stop. A hearing was held for Grimes on the assault charge yesterday, Philadelphia authorities stating they would advise Martin officers when to call for the man. A native of Norfolk, Grimes is about 44 years old. He will fight extradition, according to information received today.

Million Now Homeless In The Ohio River Valley

Late tabulations on the flood situation in the Ohio Valley show around 1,000,000 people homeless, nearly 300 lives lost, and property damage running into the billions of dollars. Improvement in the situation was reported at Cincinnati and other points along the upper area of the stricken section, but additional rises were predicted at Paducah and other points below during the week-end. Points along the lower Mississippi are facing disaster, and movements are already underway to move out 500,000 people in the territory equalling in size the country of Germany.

Quota of Local Red Cross Chapter \$400; Need Is Still Great

Pleas for Disaster Victims Receive Hearty Support Of County People

Learning of the extensive human misery and untold property losses in the Ohio and Mississippi River Valleys as a result of devastating flood water, Martin County citizens have rushed to offer their aid to the unfortunate people there. The Martin County chapter of the American Red Cross is almost certain that the original quota of \$80 will be subscribed four times or more. All donations combined will more than pass that figure, but Martin County will receive credit only for those donations handled through the chapter officers. Harry A. Biggs, president, explained. Regardless of to whom the donations are given, every penny is going to the relief of the flood sufferers, but acknowledgment of contributions will necessarily be limited to those reported by the county chapter.

Late yesterday Williamston reported \$237.86; Everetts \$53.54; Bear Grass \$41.10; and Hamilton \$42.40 collected, Harry Biggs stating that the money was being forwarded daily to the Red Cross headquarters. Charlie Davenport stated that Jamesville would go over the top. No direct reports have been received by the county chapter president from other centers in the county.

The Robersonville chapter, operating as an individual unit, reported \$116 collected up to Wednesday noon. The Oak City schools and citizens there reported \$42.35 collected Wednesday, and a number of Williamston citizens sent funds through other agencies. The combined total will probably exceed \$500 for the county.

In most cases the funds turned over to the county chapter were grouped, and the contributions, ranging from a few pennies to \$26, are acknowledged in block.

Everetts reported its collections as follows: J. S. Ayers, sr., \$2; Mrs. J. S. Ayers \$1; Mrs. J. S. Peel \$1; Mrs. A. D. Wynn \$50; Mrs. Jesse Keel \$2; J. C. Peel, 50c; G. W. Taylor \$1; H. S. Hardy \$1; A. P. Barnhill \$50; Walter Beach \$39; G. H. Forbes \$1; H. J. Lotz \$25; L. G. James \$50; George Mobley \$50; Mrs. Lottie Barnhill \$1; J. H. Wynn \$1; J. B. Bullock \$1; G. G. Bailey \$25; L. G. Taylor \$1; J. T. Gurganus \$50; Helen Baker \$1; Frank Bailey \$5; a friend \$20; Herman Williams \$1; Lee Smith \$1; V. G. Taylor \$10; Miss Sallie Lee \$2; Jesse Keel \$1; L. A. Clark \$1; J. L. Bailey \$1; W. C. Bullock \$1; Everetts schools \$4.39; Mrs. A. L. Wynn \$2; Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Savage \$2.

Hamilton donations, reported by Miss Effie Waldo, were made as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Asa Johnson \$3; Clayton House \$1; Dr. Long \$1; Jesse B. Everett \$50; Mrs. Mollie Edmondson and son \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Oglesby \$1; Mrs. Clara Everett \$1; Geo. Gilliam (col) \$5; Jeff Etheridge \$25; Mrs. Helen Andrews \$1; F. L. Haislip \$5; Mr. Blackman \$50; Miss Pauline Johnson \$1; M. D. Beach \$1; Mrs. Ballard \$1; Miss Effie Waldo \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Beach \$1; Miss Caroline Davis \$25; Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Johnson, jr., \$1.25; teachers \$15; Mrs. E. F. Phippen \$25; H. S. Johnson \$2; Mrs. Myers \$50; Mrs. Lynch \$6; Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Edmondson \$1; D. G. Matthews \$1; L. R. Everett \$35; Hilton Everett \$20; Roscoe Downs \$25; W. S. Rhodes \$50; Miss Martha Council \$25; Harry Waldo \$1; Daniel Manning \$25; T. F. Davenport \$50; Herbert Everett \$1; William Haislip \$1; R. W. Salsbury \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Wade Everett \$50; Mr. Stel \$30; Mrs. Stokes \$75c.

Wholesale-Retail Plumbing Partnership Formed Here

Forming a partnership with J. D. Aman, Greenville, Mr. W. E. Dunn this week leased the store occupied by the Norfolk Undersellers on Main Street here and will open with in the next few weeks a wholesale and retail plumbing shop. Announcement of the opening date for the new firm is pending the removal of the Norfolk Undersellers bankrupt stock from the building. Mr. Dunn stating that repairs would be made immediately after the building is available.