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Fire Destroys Home And Contents Here Monday Afternoon

Life of Few Weeks Old Colored Child Nearly Lost to Flames

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the humble home of Ben Wilson, colored man, and nearly claimed the life of his grandchild shortly after 5 o'clock p. m. yesterday near the town's municipal water plant on the Plymouth branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. Wilson suffered bad cuts on his hands when he knocked the glass from a window to gain an entrance to the room where the child lay helpless on its bed. The fire then was burning so rapidly he was forced to leave the house through the same window with the baby unhurt.

No estimate on the loss could be had today, and the owners, the Hadley heirs, could not be reached to learn if the four-room hut was insured. The fire had gained headway so rapidly before it was discovered that neighbors could save none of the contents. By the time the fire alarm was sounded, the house was burning from top to bottom, and although located in the shadow of the town's water tower the home was off the water mains and could not be reached with a hose line. Volunteer firemen, using water direct from the pumper, kept the fire from spreading to houses a few feet away.

Wilson stated that when he returned home from work, he walked through the house into the back yard without discovering the building was on fire. The screams of the few weeks old child attracted his attention and just about that time it appeared to him the roof would fall. The door had locked when it blew to behind him as he walked into the back yard, and fearing he could not reach the child by running around the house, he broke through a window and caused wounds that required medical attention. The rescue was effected without harm to the child, he pointed out gladly.

Wilson's wife had not returned from work, and the mother of the child was just outside the house when the fire burned through the ceiling in three of the four rooms in the house about the same time.

In his report Fire Chief Geo. Harris stated that apparently the fire started from a defective flue between the ceiling and the roof of the house.

Cottong Ginnings Gain In County

Completing the marketing of their tobacco and with peanut harvesting well in hand, Martin County farmers finally got around to their cotton crop, a recent report showing that cotton ginnings almost doubled from the first of this month up to the 14th. However, the ginnings are running about 800 bales behind the record up to November 14, a year ago.

The report released by the Department of Commerce through its agent, Luther Harrison, of Jamesville, places the ginnings from the 1937 crop up to November 14 at 2,488 bales as compared with 3,273 bales ginned up to the same time a year ago.

Receive Applications For 1937 Soil Benefits

Agricultural authorities will start receiving applications for 1937 soil conservation program payments in the county tomorrow. The first of the applications will be received by Local Committeeman Andrew Clark in Everetts during tomorrow and Thursday. Farmers will be advised when to report to their respective committeemen and enter their applications, it was learned at the office of the county agent here today.

Farm Bill Hangs In Balance In Congress

Farm bills, designed by House and Senate Agriculture committees, are now hanging in the balance before a strong opposition in the National Congress today. Doubt that any good measure for agriculture could come out of the nation's capital was increased yesterday when Senator Bailey offered twelve amendments to the bill drafted by the Senate committee. Chances of the successful passage of a farm bill in the House were increased yesterday when Representative Lindsay Warren was chosen to preside over the debate.

Late reports maintain that the week will pass without a vote on the proposed farm bills.

Christmas Cheer Again To Be Carried to Poor in Community

Preliminary plans are now underway for carrying Christmas cheer into the homes of the needy in this community, the present set-up calling for participation in the movement by the civic clubs, volunteer fire department and the Enterprise Publishing Company force. Complete details will be announced shortly for the undertaking that has brought so much happiness at so little cost during the past two years to the less fortunate in this community. During the meantime, the sponsors are directing an appeal to the general public for support in making the movement a success.

After sponsoring the Christmas Cheer drive during the past two years, The Enterprise force at one time considered foregoing the task this year. A hurried survey of relief loads and conditions in many homes called for a reconsideration of that

action, and the force again pledges extra hours of work, but will look to the civic clubs and other public-spirited citizens for leadership in the movement.

The Christmas Cheer drive was originated with the idea of converting discarded toys and other articles such as second-hand clothing to use by those who are in need, and not with the idea of directing another drive for cash to Williamston merchants and citizens who are burdened with calls for support of so many undertakings.

Several small children, their skin bare in spots, have humbly inquired about the prospects of the Christmas Cheer movement this year, and it is in an effort not to dampen those tots' spirits and the spirits of many more that plans go forward for carrying joy and cheer into needy homes in this community at this Christmas time.

Seek Increased Prices For Quality Peanuts

SEAL SALE

The sale of Christmas seals gets underway here this week under the direction of the Junior Woman's Club. More than 10,000 of the stickers have been delivered for sale in this immediate community, Mrs. H. O. Peck, chairman of the sale, said today.

Proceeds will be used to further the fight on tuberculosis locally and in the State, and our people are called upon to buy liberally of the seals.

More Than 100 Join Red Cross

The number of Red Cross members in the Martin County chapter began to show a decided increase as reports started coming in from some of the out-lying communities this week. However, the membership drive remains far below its quota of \$350, Chairman Harry A. Biggs stated today.

Oak City through Mr. B. M. Worsley reported quite a few members yesterday, the total subscription now standing at \$109.75 for the entire chapter. None of the schools has been heard from, and it is possible the campaign will reach \$200 by the middle or latter part of this week.

Roll call memberships not previously acknowledged:

Leslie Hardison, VanDyke Furniture Co., L. B. Harrison, W. E. Dunn, Margolis Bros., Williamston Radio Shop, Williamston Shoe Shop, Peele Jewelry Store, John L. Hassell, McClees Grocery Co., Walter Bailey, Bill Spivey, R. J. Parker, Atlantic Beauty Shop, Mrs. I. P. Hodges, H. B. Hargett, Fred Taylor, Worth Petty, M. T. Simpson, Miss Christine Ross, Miss Blanch Wood Pierce, Miss Lucille Purser, Mrs. J. W. Harris, Mrs. E. P. Cunningham, D. L. Hayman, Frank Weaver, Mrs. Irving Margolis, Mrs. John Peel, Mrs. F. H. Stevenson, Miss Virginia Shaw, Mrs. Edwin Trahey, Mrs. Joe Eason, Mrs. Daisy Pope, Mrs. Paul Jones, W. W. Johnson, Harry A. Biggs, J. H. Ayers, J. A. Warren, G. W. Barrett, W. L. Hyman, William T. Hyman, E. N. Harrell, W. C. Andrews, J. C. Ross, Harry Daniel, Mrs. W. K. Parker, B. S. Courtney, Miss Lora Sleeper, Mrs. C. L. James, C. B. Roebuck, Miss Mary V. Walters, Miss Mary W. Taylor.

Disappearance Of Hassell Men Is Without Mystery

The disappearance of two grown colored men in the Hassell community over the week-end was without mystery, according to reports received here today from a reliable source. Roy Andrews and Joe Collier are said to have decided to leave suddenly, and early reports maintained that mystery surrounded their disappearance.

Escapes Injury In Truck-Auto Wreck

Mr. Irving Margolis escaped unhurt when a truck made a turn on West Main Street here last evening about 9 o'clock and caused him to crash into its side. The radiator and hood were smashed on Mr. Margolis' Plymouth, but very little damage was done to the truck which was said to have been driven by a man named Allen.

Committee Goes To Washington To Ask Government Action

Favorable Action Would Boost Price to \$69 Per Ton

Well realizing that the farmer producing a premium quality peanut is not receiving much consideration under the government's plan to stabilize the market, farm leaders met in Jackson recently and passed resolutions urging a price differential. Nothing has been heard from Washington, some believing that it is possible to get a price increase while others are doubtful if the government will peg the price at a figure above 3 1-4 cents regardless of quality. It has been suggested that a price differential may be effected with 3 1-4 cents as the highest.

Officers of both the North Carolina and Virginia peanut cooperatives together with county agents of AAA in Washington unanimously resolved to ask the government to set a price of \$69 per ton on No. 2 and \$72 per ton on No. 1 peanuts.

A delegation of farmers left with the AAA representatives to confer and see if these prices could not be secured as it was pointed out many of the commission buyers in this section have been buying from the farmers peanuts that would grade No. 2 and No. 1 any paying them on the basis of the \$65 per ton pegged by the government for No. 3 nuts.

A resolution was also passed at the meeting and sent to Congressmen Kerr, Warren and Cooley of North Carolina and Hamilton of Virginia asking that they continue their efforts to have peanuts included in the farm program up before the special session of Congress and that peanuts be given the same status as tobacco in the program. Congressman John H. Kerr of the second congressional district communicated with the group by phone during the meeting and gave a report on what had been done to date in the way of farm bill legislation.

Those present at the meeting, including A. M. Dickson of the AAA, who has charge of the peanut program, Mr. Etheridge of the state department of agriculture and E. F. Arnold of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, expressed the opinion that the government would accede to the prices demanded for No. 1 and No. 2 nuts.

Small Child Dies At Home Of Parents Near Here

Lula Della Harrell, nine months old, died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Harrell near here, Sunday at midnight following an attack of pneumonia. The child was ill just a few days. Its twin died several months ago.

Funeral services are being held at the home this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will follow in the family cemetery in Edgecombe county, near Pinetops.

Legion Auxiliary Meet Saturday Of This Week

The regular monthly meeting of the American Legion Post Auxiliary in this county will be held with Mrs. C. L. Wilson in Robersonville on Saturday afternoon of this week at 3 o'clock.

Peanuts Reported In Bad Condition On Local Market

Inspectors Worried, When Forced to Refuse Deliveries

After handling approximately 20,000 bags of peanuts, the two receiving warehouses of the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative here experienced their first serious trouble last week-end when farmers offered several thousand bags for sale in an unmarketable condition. The inspectors with definite instructions to follow were greatly worried when they found it necessary to reject possibly more than 1,000 bags during last Friday, Saturday and yesterday because the offerings were in bad condition. Handling the warehouses here with little hope of even a small profit, the inspectors yesterday were greatly disheartened and were ready to turn their tasks over to someone else.

The peanuts offered in most cases are not damaged, but they hold too much moisture to permit storage in large quantities. It is possible, the inspectors pointed out, for the farmers to hold those peanuts for a few weeks at home where they will dry in small piles and then be ready for market. "But if we store them in piles along with thousands of other bags, they will rot," the inspectors said. "We want to do everything we possibly can to get for the farmer the top price of 3 1-4 cents a pound, and humbly ask the farmers to cooperate with us by not offering their peanuts in an unmarketable condition," the inspectors said.

Operators of the receiving warehouses here have worked night and day to handle the rush, and late yesterday they had almost caught up with their grading inspections. Heavy deliveries were underway again today, and a third marketing quota was applied for and granted.

This morning the inspectors pointed out the following instructions in connection with receiving peanuts:

1. Do not accept offerings that have excessive dirt;
2. Do not accept offerings that have more than 2-1/2 per cent damaged content;
3. Do not accept offerings that are not dry or show excessive moisture;
4. Do not accept offerings that have more than 5 per cent foreign matter content.

These instructions are offered by the department of agriculture and the inspectors are forced to follow them.

The open market is reporting little or no activity, and it now looks as if a greater portion of the crop will be delivered to government warehouses. Arrangements are being considered here to provide additional storage space, and just now there is no apparent reason why the government cannot receive and handle the entire crop, if necessary.

A few hundred bags were moved yesterday by independents at a price ranging around 3 to 3.15-20.

New Ford On Display In Local Showrooms

The new 1938 Ford in the deluxe model, was placed on display here this morning in the showroom of the Williamston Motor Company, Mr. N. C. Green, head of the local company, stating that it was undoubtedly the best car ever manufactured by Henry Ford. Quite a few changes have been effected in the new car which is available in two distinct models and in the several body types.

Deliveries will be effected immediately, Mr. Green said today.

Methodist Minister To Arrive Here Thursday

Rev. S. A. Maxwell, recently transferred from Kentucky to the North Carolina conference, is expected to arrive here Thursday to begin his duties as pastor of the Williamston Methodist church, Mr. J. E. Pope, chairman of the Board of Deacons for the church, said yesterday.

21 SHOPPING DAYS

Time again steps in to lope off a few more days, leaving only 21 for all that Christmas shopping.

Many Apply for Positions as Health Nurse in This County

A large number of applications for positions as nurses with the full-time health department recently created in this county have been received already, Dr. E. W. Furguson, head of the service, reported last week-end. Applications have been received from various sections of the State, and most of them were accompanied by splendid references, the health officer explained. Very few applications for the position of sanitary inspector have been received, but Dr. Furguson believes it will be possible to get an able man for the job.

Dr. Furguson, now in the United States Public Health school, Chapel Hill, was appointed to head the county's full-time health department by the County board on November

10. He was here last week-end making plans for inaugurating the new full-time service about the first of next February. Appointment of two fulltime nurses, a secretary and a sanitary inspector will not be made until about the middle of January when the applications will be placed before the county health board for consideration.

No definite arrangements have been made for locating the department, but it is planned to open headquarters possibly in Williamston's town hall. It is understood that several offices in the building will be available some time the early part of next year. During the meantime, equipment will be ordered and plans advanced for inaugurating the service on or about February 1.

Local Market Handles 20,000 Hogs in Season

Nearly Half Million Dollars Paid To Hog Growers In Section

More Than 125 Carloads Shipped From This Point to Date

The importance of Williamston as a receiving center and this part of eastern North Carolina as a hog-raising section was established with the release of a report today by Mr. D. M. Roberson, of Roberson's Slaughter House, here. Income to farmers approximated \$400,000, it was seen in the report.

Mr. Roberson, releasing the report for the period from last January 1 to the first of this month, stated that more hogs had been raised for market in this section than at any previous time, that the business had proved highly profitable to the farmer. He would not comment on future market conditions, but pointed out that a sizeable crop of pigs was certain for this section next spring.

During the period covered in the report, the Roberson firm bought and delivered to Kingan and Company, Richmond, 10,000 hogs. Mr. Roberson explained that the 10,000 hogs would have filled 125 cars, or several trainloads had they been shipped all at one time. In addition to the purchases for shipment to the markets, Mr. Roberson explained that his firm had bought and processed an additional 10,000 at the plant here, making the Williamston market one of the largest if not the largest in eastern North Carolina.

Deliveries have been made direct to the local plant by farmers from 12 or more counties and from as far away as Elizabeth City and Columbia.

The market is reporting very little activity at this time, Mr. Roberson explaining that the farmers are running their swine into the peanut and bean fields at the present time. Marketing activities will increase during early next year, and present indications point to another big year in the hog-raising business for this section.

Prices during the period have ranged up to around 13 cents, and after reaching a low point at 7.35 last week are now standing at 8 1/4 cents for guaranteed stock.

Martin county farmers are not expected to kill and pack any great meat surplus this season, but with few exceptions, every farmer will pack sufficient quantities to meet his home needs. A few small hog killings have been reported in the county already this season, but the work will hardly get underway on any appreciable scale before the early part of January.

Dig For Liquor In Colored Cemetery Here

Investigating a report that a large quantity of liquor had been buried in the colored cemetery here, officers over the week-end found the report unfounded but not until they opened a newly-made grave. Immediately upon learning their mistake, the officers notified Coroner S. R. Biggs who dismissed action after learning the facts in the case.

The grave, that of a small child, was in a strawbrush covered area, and the rains had lowered the mound even to the ground. The officers explained the box was just under the ground, leading them to give credence to the reports they had received.

Trial Of \$15,000.00 Damage Suit Before The Superior Court

Judge Burgwyn Will Call \$60,000 Case Against Skinner Tomorrow

Reconvening yesterday following the Thanksgiving holidays, the Martin County Superior court in special session is hearing the \$15,000 damage suit of Miss Jean VanDeusen, Brooklyn girl, against J. H. Saunders, Jr. Reports from the courtroom at noon indicated the trial of the case would continue during the remainder of the day and probably last well into tomorrow morning.

Alleging Miss VanDeusen was permanently injured in an automobile accident in Chapel Hill on the morning of December 15, 1935, the plaintiff counsel had offered up until shortly before noon the testimony of a half dozen witnesses in an effort to prove that the wreck was caused by the negligence of the defendant.

Difficulty experienced in selecting a jury delayed the start of the trial until yesterday afternoon, the plaintiff immediately taking the stand with expert witnesses. The extent of Miss VanDeusen's injuries was described by Dr. Foy Roberson, prominent Durham surgeon. His evidence was corroborated by that of Dr. Rainey this morning. Miss Mae Jerinigan, nurse in Watts hospital, Durham, where Miss VanDeusen was confined several weeks, also took the stand and offered evidence tending to show the condition of the plaintiff after the accident. Miss Elle Hardean, house mother of the sorority house where Miss VanDeusen made her home while a student in the University, told the court that the plaintiff had aged ten years as a result of injuries received in the accident. W. S. Swain, Chapel Hill town clerk, reviewed the speed ordinances of the Town of Chapel Hill, and Officer Maddrey, Chapel Hill policeman, described the scene of the wreck.

Occupying the witness chair for the greater part of half an hour, Miss VanDeusen described the accident in detail and told the condition of her health prior to and after the accident. She was in a highly nervous state during the questioning by her own attorneys and upon cross examination by defense counsel, Thorpe and Peel.

Just before noon today, the plaintiff planned to call at least one additional witness, W. M. VanDeusen, father of Miss VanDeusen. If the defense chooses to offer no testimony, and it is likely that it will forego that opportunity, the attorneys may possibly offer their argument in time for Judge Burgwyn to direct his charge and turn the case over to the jury late this afternoon.

Miss VanDeusen, riding with her escort in the back seat of the defendant's car, was badly injured when the machine skidded on a wet street and struck a tree.

\$60,000 Suit
Following the close of the present case, the court plans to start the trial of the \$60,000 suit of Stone and Lemmond against W. I. Skinner and Company, Incorporated. Some of the leading counsel in this State and Virginia are here for the trial, which is expected to continue during the remainder of the week. P. W. McMullan, of Elizabeth City, and Attorney Luden, of Norfolk, are appearing for the plaintiffs and Attorneys Worth and Horner, Critcher and Martin are appearing for the defense. The suit was started after a truck belonging to the defendant company and operated by Walter Fisher, tore into Lemmond's car between here and Windsor in March of last year.

So far the court has sandwiched the trial of several divorce cases and there are a few more awaiting action at this term. Willie J. Harris was granted a divorce on the grounds of two years' separation against Charlie Harris, and the bond of matrimony was severed for Dessie Harris against John Harris on the same grounds.

Two Colored Youths Arrested For Robbery

Dave Purvis, Jr., 15, and "Mut" Roberson, 11, were arrested last week-end by Officer J. H. Allsbrooks for the alleged robbery of Harrison Brothers and Company's store here on Thanksgiving afternoon.

Said to have entered the store through the coal chute, the boys are alleged to have stolen several dollars in cash from the cash register, but they did not steal any merchandise, police said.

The youths are being held in the county jail pending the completion of arrangements for entering them in a correctional school.

CHANGE SCHEDULE

A change in the Norfolk-Wilson mail star route schedule will be effected tomorrow. Postmaster L. T. Fowden announced today. At the present time, mail is closed here each evening at 7 o'clock for delivery to north and South trains in Wilson. Under the schedule going into effect tomorrow, the evening mail will be closed at 5:30 for delivery to the carrier at 6:50 o'clock, the postmaster explained.

No change in the return schedule will be made, the carrier returning here about five o'clock each morning.

New License Tags Will Go On Sale Here Tomorrow

Local Bureau Has Sold Over 6,000 Plates During Current Year

The new 1938 State automobile license tags will go on sale at the local bureau of the Carolina Motor Club in the Williamston Motor company building tomorrow morning, warnings from headquarters stating that the new plates must be displayed on all cars and trucks not later than January 1.

A slight reduction in prices will go into effect with the sale of new tags. Mr. N. C. Green, manager of the bureau, explaining that there will be a reduction of five cents on the 100 pounds, that the general rate under the new schedule will be 53 cents the hundredweight. Prices of tags for pick-up trucks will be reduced from \$16 to \$12, but the tag price for large trucks will not be reduced.

Under the new price schedule, tags for the 1936 Ford will be \$9.45 and \$9.80, for the 1937 Ford, the tag price will be \$9.10 and \$9.45 according to type. The rate for the 1938 Ford has not been released at this time. Tags for Chevrolet will cost, as follows: 1936 models, \$9.80 to \$10.85; 1937 models, \$9.80 to \$10.85; and the price for licenses on the 1938 Chevrolet will be the same as for the previous year model. Prices of license tags for Plymouth range from \$9.45 to \$9.80 for the 1936 and 1938 models, but the price for the 1937 model is slightly higher.

Last year the local license bureau sold 6,213 tags, including all types. The tags cost approximately \$100,000 or about \$15 for each set.

Local People Escape Unhurt In Car Crash

A. J. Manning, Chas. James, Robert Manning, Milton James, Jas. Herbert Ward and Dean Speight escaped with slight bruises when their car and truck crashed on Highway 64 a short distance west of Tarboro at 9:30 last Saturday morning. Mr. Speight was slightly bruised in his side, but he and other members of the party were able to continue in another car to the football game in Durham.

The party with Mr. Chas. James driving, was wrecked when a colored man made a left-hand turn with his truck without warning. The car driver turned the machine sharply and the vehicles went into a side collision, doing damage estimated at \$200 to the car.