

Officers In County Get Number Calls During Week-end

Fifteen Are Jailed Here On Saturday and Sunday

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and his office force had one of those busy periods last week in the county, the chief upholder of the county peace stating that he received three calls before he could get dressed early Sunday morning. Robberies were reported in Jamesville and in the Farm Life community of Griffins Township, and several minor disorders were called to his attention Monday morning at three o'clock, the officer received a mysterious call from Parmele and he went there to find the postoffice and a store building burning. In addition to the current happenings, the officer was doing a little more work on the month-old Lilley murder case, but he admits that he is no further advanced in that work than he was when the man was killed.

Tearing through a back window, a robber stole a crate of beer from Anderson's filling station in Jamesville some time last Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

In the early evening Saturday while the family was away, some one entered Herbert Manning's smokehouse at Farm Life and carried away about 300 pounds of meat, including choice hams and shoulders. The robber or robbers broke into the home and prowled around apparently in search of cooked food. Nothing was missed from the home.

Yesterday morning, some one called the sheriff from Parmele. After making sure it was the sheriff on the phone, the party said come to Parmele as quickly as you can. "I can't tell you what's the matter and my name doesn't count, but just come on to Parmele as quickly as you can," the strange voice commanded. The officer was a bit suspicious at first, but after convincing himself that he had no enemies in that territory he hurried to the county's railroad center to find the postoffice and the store of Leon Whitehurst in ashes.

One report indicated that some one had robbed the store and then fired it. The stock of goods in a second store escaping the fire was said to have been found scattered on the floor. A third store owner stated that he lost some of his stock, but he was not certain whether it was stolen from the store or from the railroad where it was carried away from the fire. Investigating the case further yesterday afternoon, Sheriff Roebuck and a postal inspector had no findings to release. The store belonged to A. D. Griffin, Sr., of Griffins Township. The owner of the stock, Leon Whitehurst, was said to have had his property covered with \$700 insurance.

While the sheriff was running to and fro over the county, other officers were in action, too. A count of the jail record yesterday showed that fifteen were jailed over the week-end for murder, assault, larceny and drunkenness. Without adequate jail facilities, Beaufort County sent eight of the fifteen over including five, Dorothy Tyner, Margaret Perkins, Lula Parker, Irene Tyner, Robert T. Small, Bloomer Roberson, all colored, who stand charged with or are allegedly implicated in a murder case in the adjoining county.

Judge H. O. Peel cleared the jail of many of the Martin people, and Beaufort officers shifted two or three from here to Raleigh, including Frank Bright, a white man convicted of manslaughter and sentenced by Judge Carr in Washington yesterday to serve from seven to ten years in the State's prison.

Mr. Coltrain Continues Quite Ill At His Home

Mr. James L. Coltrain, Griffins Township farmer, continues critically ill with pneumonia at his home there. Reports received here early this afternoon stated that while his lungs were "clearing up" he was so weak that his condition was still regarded as critical.

Negro Man Is Found Dead In Woods Near Jamesville

John Northern, 55-year-old colored man, was found dead in a small woods not far from his home in Jamesville last Saturday afternoon. Investigating the case, Coroner S. R. Biggs stated that the man was the victim of a stroke of apoplexy.

Going into the woods with his axe about three o'clock, the man was found dead about a half hour later by Garland Moore, small colored boy.

Believe Farmers In County Will Get Around \$150,000

Latest estimates, unofficially learned this week, indicate that Martin County farmers will receive approximately \$150,000 in soil conservation payments under the 1938 program instead of around \$100,000, the figure which was mentioned in the first estimates a short time ago. The \$150,000 figure while only an estimate and a fairly conservative one at that, does not include more than \$40,000 received a few months ago in the form of cotton price adjustment payments.

Receiving the first applications for payments under the 1938 program last week, the county agent's office reports a favorable response, Chief Clerk T. B. Slade stating that more than 80 per cent of the farmers in four districts had already applied and that others were anxious to "get their names in the pot." Farmers in Cross Roads Township were a bit slow to sign the application forms, but in the other districts a large percentage reported.

The work of receiving the applications was delayed a few days when the supply of forms was exhausted. An additional supply was received last week-end, and the agent's office is working over time to get the forms ready for the farmers' signatures.

Applications are being received in Hamilton Township today, and every effort will be made to carry on the work in the remaining townships as early as possible. "We hope to get the task completed next week and get the applications to the Raleigh office soon thereafter," Mr. Slade said. It will be about six or eight weeks before any payments are made, according to the best guessers.

Bureau Members Hear Farm Plans for Future

Regular communication of Skewarkee Lodge No. 90 A. F. and A. M. will be held in Masonic Hall this evening at 7:30 o'clock. Visiting master Masons are cordially invited to attend.

Use Airplanes In Search Of Liquor Stills In County

First Air Raid Was Successfully Handled Last Saturday

Employing airplanes and trained pilots, federal agents cooperating with enforcement officers in this county are now mapping plans for a war to the end against illicit liquor manufacturing in this county. The first raid directed from the air was successfully handled last Saturday morning when a government plan spotted a distillery in Bear Grass Township and then dropped directions to the raiding party several miles away. "It worked slick as a whistle," Special Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck said upon his return with Federal Agent Mose Harshaw from the raid. "We captured a 100-gallon capacity copper kettle, poured out 1,300 gallons of beer and ten gallons of liquor and wrecked the equipment," Mr. Roebuck added. Frightened by the low flying of the plane, the operators deserted the plant, and there was much commotion in the area covered by the plane at a low altitude. The plant was virtually new, and had been in operation for a short time only.

Flying here from Elizabeth City, the plane picked up a "scout" within a short time. Advanced instructions had the raiding party parked on the Washington Highway near the Martin-Beaufort boundary, the car having been marked so the pilot could identify it. After dropping instructions, the plane then returned to the liquor plant site and dipped its wing toward it. The officers followed within a few minutes.

It is understood that similar activities will be carried on in this county at least once each week by the Martin County Enforcement bureau in cooperation with the Federal forces. Officers would not verify the report that the plane pilot spotted several other plants during last Saturday morning, but had to hasten back to Elizabeth City before he could drop instructions for locating them.

Enforcement agents look upon the method as one of the most effective advanced in a number of years for tackling the illicit liquor manufacturing business.

However, prior to the "air raid," officers in this county were making progress toward wrecking the illicit business. Last Thursday, Officer J. H. Roebuck wrecked a steam plant in Bear Grass and poured out 1,000 gallons of beer. The following day, the officers wrecked a fifty gallon capacity copper kettle and plant and poured out 1,400 gallons of beer. A second plant, a steam outfit, was wrecked later in the day.

So far this month the officers have wrecked nine plants in the county, the record to date being better than it was during a corresponding period in 1938.

Native Of County Robbed and Killed Near Owingsville

Bob Rodgerson Dies Early Sunday in Hospital at Cincinnati

Attacked by robbers on a lonely road near Owingsville, Kentucky, last Thursday afternoon, Mr. Bob Rodgerson, a native of this county, died in a Cincinnati hospital early Sunday morning. Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon and interment will follow in Cincinnati.

The son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Rodgerson, he was born in this county 55 years ago. His father died when he was a small child and he spent his early boyhood with Mr. Simon Ward, an uncle, and Mrs. Ward, in Bear Grass Township. When a young man he located in Edenton and married a Miss Essex, of Ohio. After working with the American Tobacco company for a number of years, he moved to Ohio and established a produce business, making his home in Cincinnati for the past fifteen years.

He is survived by one brother, Mr. John L. Rodgerson, of Williamston, and three sisters, Mrs. M. D. Dodd, of Richmond; Mrs. Emma Sawyer and Mrs. Sadie Owens, both of Elizabeth City.

The following account of the robbery was carried in the Lexington (Ky.) Herald last Friday afternoon: Bath county officers and state highway patrolmen announced tonight that they had arrested two persons in connection with the slugging and armed robbery this afternoon of a truck driver on a lonely Bath county road and had obtained a confession from one of the suspects, giving in detail the story of the attack and robbery.

State Highway Patrolman C. W. Wilson said John Miles McFarland, 17, of near Salt Lick, Bath county, signed a written confession that he and Sullivan Runyan, about 30, of Clay County, had committed the attack and robbery and attempted a second robbery which led to their arrest.

The victim of the attack and robbery as listed was Bob Rodgerson, about 55, of Cincinnati, Rodgerson suffered a concussion of the brain and numerous severe bruises and cuts about the head and face.

McFarland and Runyan this afternoon placed several logs and stumps across the road near Salt Lick and then hid in the bushes at the side of the road, according to McFarland's confession. Rodgerson drove up in his truck, stopped and got out to remove the obstacle, and Runyan stepped out and pointed a shotgun at him with the command to "stick 'em up and turn around," McFarland said.

After Rodgerson turned his back toward the men, McFarland said in his confession, Runyan struck him over the head "several times" with the shotgun, a single-barrel weapon, and Rodgerson fell to the ground. McFarland added that Runyan struck Rodgerson "at least once" after the man had fallen to the ground, Wilson quoted the youth as saying.

The pair then dragged the unconscious Rodgerson into the bushes at the side of the road and left him there, then got into the truck and started down the road, with McFarland driving, the confession stated. McFarland, admitting to the state highway patrolman that he was "not a very good driver," lost control of the vehicle and it left the road and went over an embankment about a mile from the scene of the attack.

(Continued on page six)

To Present Play At Bear Grass Thursday

The play, "The Gate to Happiness" a stirring drama of the fairly modern stage, will be given in the Bear Grass school auditorium Thursday evening of this week at eight o'clock. The proceeds will go to the Sweet Home Christian Church. The public is cordially invited to attend and urged to support this, a worthy cause.

Fire Damages Home In Jamesville Last Saturday

Fire believed to have started in a woodbox in the living room damaged the John Long home in Jamesville last Saturday afternoon. Discovered by Mrs. Paul Holliday who occupies an apartment with Mr. Holliday in the home, the fire was brought under control by a number of workmen quickly summoned from the Askew home just across the street. It is estimated that the fire caused a loss of \$100.

Fire Claims Lives of Mother and Little Child and Destroys Farm Home Near Here Last Saturday

Hold Last Rites For Victims Of Fire In Griffins Township

Throngs Pay Last Tribute To Mrs. Leslie Smith And Little Child

Funeral services were conducted for Mrs. Leslie Smith and her thirteen-month-old daughter, Martha Louise, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Griffin, in Griffins Township last Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, one of the largest crowds to attend a funeral in the county in many months assembling there to pay a last tribute to those whose lives had been snuffed out by fire when their home burned down near Williamston the morning before.

Mrs. Smith was born in Griffins Township twenty-eight years ago. She attended the public and high schools in this county, and in 1932 was married to Leslie Smith, a native of Pitt County. After a stay of several years in the Jamesville community, she moved with her family to the old Crawford place or the Cedar Hill farm near here on the Tyler Town road.

Thrifty and energetic, she was getting along fine until tragedy struck the peaceful home. She was a devoted wife and mother, thoughtful of her family and always anxious to render anyone every service possible. A genuine happiness was always found in the home and she looked to the future with a beautiful hope not for herself but for her children. She was a member of the church at Fairview where her forebears worshipped before her.

Besides her husband she leaves a daughter, Evelyn Gray Smith, who was visiting in the home of her grandparents when the lives of her mother and sister were snuffed out. Just about three years old, the little girl before retiring last Friday night cried to go to see her mother. "Often she had visited there, but it was the first time she had ever cried for her mother," Mrs. Griffin, the grandmother said. Mrs. Smith, besides her parents and husband and daughter, is survived by two brothers, Elbert and Roland, and one sister, Miss Verna Griffin, all of Griffins Township.

Following the service in the home by Rev. Fernando Lilley and Rev. W. B. Harrington, interment was made in the old Bryant Cemetery on the Griffin farm, near the home. Learning of the tragedy, Mrs. Smith's mother-in-law, Mrs. Annie Smith, a resident of this county for a number of years but who is now living at Pinetops, was so overcome by grief that she suffered a heart attack and had to be placed in a physician's care. She was unable to attend the last rites.

Among those from out of the county attending the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gray Griffin, of Richmond, and Mr. Wilson Griffin, of Goldsboro.

Number Enroll In Church Institute

Last night a hundred people enrolled in the "Learning for Life Institute," being conducted at the Methodist church. The theme of the institute "Building the Church in the Community," is one with a popular appeal to those interested in community betterment of any type. Many business men joined in the session last night as the leaders presented the topic, "A Business Man Looks the Church Over." Outstanding business leaders from various sections of the nation were quoted in their estimate as to the value of the church in community life.

Tonight an open forum on "The Women Talk the Church Over," will be led by Dr. S. A. Maxwell, who is in charge of the institute. The public is invited to join in all sessions of the school. The institute will come to a close Wednesday night with the celebration of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Funeral For Infant Is Held Here Yesterday

Funeral services for the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Spivey were held here yesterday morning by Rev. John L. Goff. Interment was in the Harrison plot in the local cemetery.

ELIMINATION

Maintaining there is a duplication of duties being handled by the State Department of Agriculture and the State College Extension Division, the Martin County Farm Bureau in a meeting here last evening passed a resolution urging Representative H. G. Horton and the two senators from this district to withhold any appropriations until the duties of the two agencies can be defined. While some of the farmers at the meeting were in favor of abolishing the Department of Agriculture, the resolution merely recommends that the educational activities of the extension service and let the Department of Agriculture handle the other duties.

Local Faculty Will Present Play Here Thursday Evening

Proceeds Will Be Used For The Purchase of Library Books

In an effort to raise funds to purchase books for the school libraries Williamston teachers will present a three act comedy in the high school auditorium next Thursday evening at eight o'clock. Rehearsals of the play, which is entitled "Her Step-Husband," have been in progress for two weeks, and the production promises to be highly entertaining. Tickets were placed on sale yesterday, and sponsors of the play are appealing for liberal support to this worthy cause.

The case includes Nancy Glover, Dorcas Knowles, Mary Whitley, Rebecca Harrison, Mildred Talley, Lewis Enloe, Frank Neely, Charles Toxey and David Hix. Teachers not in the cast are handling the programs, properties and ticket sales. Mrs. Barnhill is acting as coach.

An added feature of the evening's entertainment will be the appearance of the rhythm orchestra made up of first grade children. The little tots, resplendent in their new uniforms, will offer a novel musical program under the direction of Rebecca Harrison.

Patrons of the school may be interested to know that no direct appropriations are made for the support of school libraries. However the county board of education does match funds raised locally to purchase new books. The local high school library contains eighteen hundred volumes, all properly catalogued and accessioned. The product of years of hard work and attention the library is strictly up-to-date and is regarded by Mrs. Mary Douglas, state library supervisor, as one of the best high school libraries in the eastern part of the state. With the elementary library it is a different story. While it meets State standards, it is not a library of which our community should be proud. It contains only thirteen hundred volumes, many of which are old and in poor condition. In this library we find only two books per child enrolled. Even the most conservative person could call this an inadequate reading matter for six hundred children enrolled in seven grades.

Funds raised from the play will be devoted largely to the improvement of the elementary library. Will you do your part by purchasing a ticket and attending the play Thursday night.

Two Cars Stolen Here Are Recovered Saturday

Two cars stolen from local streets last Saturday night were recovered a few hours later, reports stating that neither of the machines was damaged. The car belonging to Mr. W. H. Carstarphen was stolen from in front of his Houghton Street residence about 8 o'clock that evening. The car, a Ford sedan, was recovered about three hours later by the Pinetops chief of police, but the thief, a colored man, escaped. A Plymouth car, belonging to Mr. Raymond Heath, was stolen from West Main Street about 11 o'clock that night, the owner finding it abandoned on the old Everetts Road not far from Micky's Inn.

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Bodies of Child and Mother Are Found Clasped Together

Mrs. Leslie Smith Loses Life in Effort To Save Child

Mrs. Leslie Smith and her thirteen-month-old daughter, Martha Louise, were burned to death in an early morning fire that destroyed their home and all its contents last Saturday on the Tyler Town road, near here, the tragedy ranking as one of the most horrible recorded in this county in many years.

The origin of the fire that claimed the two precious lives and swept destruction of property before it will never be known, and the mute evidence found at the tragic scene and the fragmentar accounts offered by Mrs. Smith's husband and her sister, Miss Verna Griffin, leave much to the imagination of anyone who would attempt to tell about the activities on that fateful morning. Grief stricken and forced to his bed, Mr. Smith is not yet able to recall many facts relating to the tragedy. Miss Griffin, a visitor in the home, barely escaped with her life, and is unable to shed any light on how the fire started and what happened until she was called by her brother-in-law.

Arising about four o'clock that morning, Mr. Smith made a fire in the living room and then went in the kitchen. He then went to run some hogs out of a field about one-half mile away preparatory to sowing a tobacco plant bed. Possibly three-quarters of an hour after leaving the home he discovered it was on fire. Hurrying there he is said to have gone to the room where his wife and youngest child slept and found them gone. He then went to his sister-in-law's room in the front of the house, but when she failed to answer his first call he rushed to the front porch and knocked out a window to the room and told her to get out, that the house was on fire. Thinking that his wife and child had left the house and gone for help, Mr. Smith hopped in his car and came to Williamston, a little less than two miles away, to turn in a fire alarm. He met Handy Ore, a taxi driver, near the Columbian Peanut plant and asked him to turn in the alarm. Aubson Rogers, a colored man, was standing at a filling station nearby and he called and asked him to go to his home, explaining that his home and everything in it was burning up.

On the way to the fire, Rogers stated that Smith told him when he woke up that morning, the house was about to fall in, that the fire had trapped his wife and baby. Terribly excited, Smith is believed to have meant that when he returned home from his field the house was about to fall in. Rogers also stated that when he reached the fire he heard a woman screaming in or near the rear part of the house, that Smith asked him to drive up the roads a few hundred yards and call neighbors to come and help. It is believed that Rogers heard Miss Griffin screaming, reports stating that Mrs. Smith had a cold and was so hoarse that she could not talk above a whisper.

About the time Rogers and a few neighbors reached there, Smith apparently learned that his wife and child had not gone to the home of a neighbor and were still in the burning house. Reduced to temporary madness almost, he tried to run into the flames to get his wife and child, but realizing that the fire had already claimed the lives of the woman and child, those reaching the scene a short time before caught and held him. Even after the house was reduced to ashes, he tried to run into the embers, and at times as many as six men were required to hold him. "I want to go with them," he shouted time and again, and finally

(Continued on page six)

Youth In Bear Grass Is Recovering From Injury

Asst Harrison, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Gomer Harrison is recovering rapidly from an injury received when a plow fell on it at Bear Grass a few days ago. The little fellow suffered a broken leg and a severe injury to his back.