

Man's Death Caused By Poisoned Liquor In County Yesterday

Last Rites for M. F. Stalls Are Being Held Near Hamilton This Afternoon

M. F. Stalls, Martin County farmer, died at his home near Hamilton yesterday morning about 11 o'clock, the apparent victim of alcoholic poisoning. It was the second death chargeable to alcoholic poisoning in the county this year, Charlie C. Carson having died in Hamilton of an heart attack last February following the consumption of liquor said to have been poisoned.

Stalls, a hard-working and reliable farmer, worked at a peanut picker Saturday and was in apparently good health. Sunday he was said to have visited one of possibly a "dozen" bootleggers in Hamilton and purchased a pint of liquor. During the day he ate freely of canned oysters. Several hours later or about 2 o'clock Monday morning he was taken violently ill. Hardly a spoonful of the liquor was left in the pint bottle found in his room.

Called to investigate the death, Coroner S. R. Biggs stated that the smell of the liquor was enough to make one sick. In his preliminary report, the coroner quoted the attending physician as saying that there was no doubt in his mind but that death was caused by alcoholic poisoning. "The case is baffling," Coroner Biggs stated. "There is no evidence of foul play. The family called the doctor just as soon as it was learned he was ill. There was hardly enough liquor left in the bottle for an analysis of its content, and when it comes to finding out who made and sold the liquor we recognize a big problem," the coroner added.

As far as it could be learned, the coroner will continue his investigation, but no inquest had been planned at noon today. It is apparent that manufacturers of illicit spirits serving the apparently flourishing trade in the Hamilton community are using gas drums and turning out poison liquor, according to the coroner.

Mr. Stalls, the son of the late James Stalls and wife, was born and reared in the Hassell section of this county about 58 years ago. He married Miss Chessie Thomas, of Hamilton, about 28 years ago, and she survives him. He leaves no children. Two brothers, Floyd Stalls, of Norfolk, and Ben Stalls, of Hamilton, and a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Craft, of Portsmouth, survive.

Mr. Stalls made his home in the Parmele-Bethel area for a number of years, but moved to a farm near Hamilton about a year ago. He and Charlie Clarence Carson, the other apparent victim of alcoholic poisoning, married sisters.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home this afternoon and interment will follow in the family cemetery, near Hamilton.

Await Outcome Of Molotoff - Hitler Conference Today

World History Is Believed To Have Been Made By Dictators in Berlin

The world, torn with war and unrest, anxiously awaits the outcome of Soviet Russia's Premier-Foreign Commissar Molotoff's conference with Adolf Hitler in Berlin today. By early noon the conference had been completed, but not even a hint on the discussion topics or the decisions reached by the two men could be had immediately. The conference is almost certain to have a far-reaching effect on world history for many years to come.

While it is generally believed that Russia will not act contrary to Hitler's wishes, it is also believed that the Soviet will not enter the war. It is possible that Molotoff traded the rights of Turkey to the Dardanelles for part of the Danube and other concessions. During the meantime Turkey is declaring that she will resist any invasion attempt against her territory. The Hitler-Molotoff mystery will soon be revealed, and the world will then better know who's fighting who.

Encouraging reports are coming out of Egypt where General Weygand, supposedly the representative of the Vichy government, is not acting in accordance with the likes and dislikes of Hitler. The general refuses to leave Algiers, and to aggravate the situation for Hitler, General DeGaulle, leader of independent Frenchmen, is scoring victories in Egypt.

The British air force is increasing its activity over an expanding territory, and today Hamburg is in economic ruin as a result of air raids.

The Greeks are claiming added victories, one report stating that the brave Greeks had wiped out 12 officers and 600 more men in ambush fighting. Successes have been scored on all sides against the Italians who are retreating from Greek territory and burning bridges behind them.

To date, the Italian drive on Greece has been marked by complete failure.

Open Government Warehouses For Peanuts Here Tomorrow

After an unexpected delay of several days, government warehouses will be opened here late tomorrow afternoon, according to an official announcement released by the Peanut Growers' Stabilization Cooperative at noon today. Final plans are being drafted by the directors in meeting today, and representatives of the organization will immediately enter the field to effect arrangements for receiving the goobers, it was officially announced.

The representatives will reach here early tomorrow morning, but it will possibly take several hours to set up the books and perfect the local organizations, it is understood. The first peanuts can possibly be handled by the organization by late afternoon tomorrow. The second point for receiving peanuts will be in Robersonville, the representatives going from here to the neighboring town to complete the local organization.

"We are definitely going to open the houses tomorrow in Williamston and Robersonville, but possibly it will be late afternoon before any peanuts can be handled," an official of the cooperative announced at noon today.

Pending official announcement from the cooperative, the open market has been bearish, the farmers advancing a selling movement while the buyers remained hesitant to enter the market. Price schedules were weak on all markets today, with the very best offerings commanding hardly three and a quarter cents. Sales as low as three cents were unofficially reported, and buyers hesitated to act under that price schedule.

Deliveries are fairly heavy today, farmers almost blocking the factory and storage houses with their trucks.

First Draft To Take 147 Men From County

GOES TO DURHAM Board Places First Questionnaires In The Mails Monday



Rev. S. J. Starnes, after a successful year's work in the local Methodist Church and in the community, leaves Thursday for his new charge in the Durham district.

Rev. B. T. Hurley Succeeds The Rev. S. J. Starnes Here

Mr. Starnes Moving To Durham District On Friday Of This Week

Rev. B. T. Hurley will succeed Rev. S. J. Starnes to the pastorate of the local Methodist Church this week, the change having been effected by the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church at Wilmington last Sunday evening. The transfer of the two ministers was one of many effected by the Bishop during the recent conference which attracted throngs of prominent churchmen to the coastal city last week-end.

Mr. Hurley comes here from the Red Springs Church. A native of Montgomery County, he is a forceful preacher and able religious leader. During his pastorate he has served the church at Elizabeth City in this district. Mr. Hurley and his family plan to move into the recently completed parsonage here Friday.

It is with regret that the people of the town learn that Rev. Starnes and his family are moving to their new home in Durham where he will serve the church near Watts Hospital. The minister and his family have made many strong friendships during their one-year stay here.

Reviewing briefly the minister's work, one will find a progressive program has been advanced during the year drawing to a close. A new parsonage has been recently completed. Forty-two members have been added to the church rolls here and at Holly Springs. The size of the congregations has been materially increased, and a newly organized prayer meeting is now one of the largest here. As a whole, the church is completing one of its most successful years.

Rev. Starnes will hold his final service tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock during the regular prayer meeting hour. The membership is urged to be present and the public is invited.

The minister and his family will move Thursday to their new home in Durham.

During his stay here, Mr. Starnes has been active in community and civic life, serving the Lions Club as its able president during the past eight months.

Four Injured In County Accidents During Week-end

Five Automobile Wrecks Reported Over Scattered Area in Three Days

While a little crime-wave swept over the county during the week-end, the automobile squeezed its way into the picture to claim a part of the spotlight. Pulling memorandums from nearly every one of his pockets, Patrolman Whit Saunders today started entering his official reports covering five accidents, two of which resulted in serious injury for three persons. Seven cars, a truck and a passenger bus figured in the series of accidents from Friday to Sunday afternoon. Little Leather Murriel Bunch lies in a hospital with a broken leg and Thurman Wilson and J. H. Quinn are nursing bad shoulder and back wounds as a result of two of the wrecks.

The first in the series of accidents took place in Oak City last Friday evening when James Cole drove into a highway intersection without stopping. Farmer Henry Early, driving from Hamilton crashed into the Cole car. Jesse Rogers, local colored man, traveling from Hobgood, crashed into the other side of the Cole car. No one was hurt, but damage to the three machines was estimated at \$175. Cole was arrested and is now facing a reckless driving charge in the courts.

Saturday morning just before noon, the little Bunch girl darted into the highway and into the path of a car driven by Mrs. Louis Earl Schmitt, of Scotland Neck. The girl suffered a broken leg just above the knee, reports from the hospital where she was carried by Mrs. Schmitt stating that she was also painfully bruised and that the leg injury might prove serious.

Mrs. Schmitt accompanied by Mrs. H. M. Dunbar, was coming into Williamston to visit a sister, Mrs. Samuel Patrick, when the child darted into the highway just outside the town limits on the Hamilton road. The girl was playing with two companions in the road, it was said. Mrs. Schmitt sounded her horn and the children moved off the road, but the Bunch child ran back, one report stating that she was frightened by a dog and unconsciously jumped back into the highway. Witnesses stated that Mrs. Schmitt could hardly have prevented the accident.

Saturday evening about 8 o'clock a car driven by Andrew Hardison, Jr., and a truck driven by Gene Bedwell crashed on the highway about one and one-half miles this side of Jamesville. No one was injured. The car damage was estimated at \$75. The truck is the same one that was believed to have figured in an accident in which Mrs. Jane Perry was hurt near Sweet Water Creek on the Jamesville Road several months ago.

Sunday afternoon about 2 o'clock a large Carolina Coach Company passenger bus curtailed its speed for a bad place in the highway near Robersonville and Henry Rawls ran his Model A into the back of it. Rawls lost a tooth and was slightly bruised. No one in the bus was injured, and damage to both vehicles was hardly more than \$10, according to Patrolman Saunders. Rawls is to face a Robersonville justice of the peace on a charge of operating an automobile with improper brakes.

Sunday afternoon about 4 o'clock on "dead man's curve" between Robersonville and Everett, J. H. Quinn and Thurman Wilson, Greenville men, were badly hurt when the car in which they were riding crashed with one driven by Mrs. Monk Wells, also of Greenville. Wilson suffered a fractured shoulder and Quinn's back was injured. The two men were riding with Fred Warren, of Greenville. Damage to the cars was estimated at \$250.

J. Paul Simpson To Head Kivans Here Next Year

J. Paul Simpson, local insurance man, will head the Williamston Kivans club next year as president. Dr. J. L. Spencer is the club's new vice president, and Lawrence P. Lindsley, Jr., will serve as secretary-treasurer. These men were elected to their respective positions in the club by the membership at its last meeting.

H. G. Horton, president; J. H. Smith, vice president, and Dillon Cobb, secretary-treasurer, are the retiring officers.

CALL FOR NEEDY

No money is being solicited and no one is being asked to deny himself, but an urgent appeal is being directed to the people of this community to donate old clothing for the needy and half-bare tots in the local schools. It has been pointed out that a cold wave, reported just at hand, will heat off quite a few tots, that a few warm clothes will enable them to attend school and at the same time keep their little bodies protected.

Any one who has old clothing to spare is urged to call Mrs. Joel Muse who will call for it and effect distribution in the schools.

Red Cross Drive Is Off To Good Start

The annual Red Cross membership campaign opened in the local chapter yesterday, first reports from the canvassers stating that one of the largest roll calls in the history of the local chapter was in the making today.

"If ever the Red Cross was needed, it is needed now to help alleviate the suffering and misery of a people stricken over a world-wide area," officials say.

Campaign chairmen have been named in the various districts, and in Williamston the Junior Woman's Club is handling the roll call under the direction of Mrs. Joseph A. Eason.

Crime Wave Reported Here and In the County Last Week-End; Attempt Made To Burn School

Nine Are Jailed In This County During The Past Week-end

Several Seriously Hurt During Drunken Brawls Here Saturday Night

Crime, reaching little blitzkrieg proportions, swept over sections of the county last week-end, leaving in its wake several seriously wounded and one dead. Drunken brawls while centering on Williamston's famous Washington Street beer garden block, were also reported in other sections. Up until noon today few of the brawls and attacks had been airted in the courts. Warrants are pending in several cases, the courts yesterday spending much time in emptying the county jail.

Nine persons were jailed and several others were arrested but escaped jail by furnishing bond. Five of the nine, Willie Thomas, John A. Rice, John Smith, Sylvester Scott and James Mason, were booked for public drunkenness. James Cole was arrested for reckless driving following a wreck at Oak City Friday night. Joe James was jailed for an alleged assault with a deadly weapon. John Sam Moore and Johnnie Parker were taken into custody for alleged assaults.

One of the two serious attacks was reported at Everetts where Fannie Crowell hit Bessie Moore over the head with a shot gun, inflicting a serious injury. The Moore woman retaliated with a meaningful knife swing, opening a gash in the Crowell woman's neck that required twelve stitches to close. When officers reached Everetts, the Moore woman's husband, Sam, had taken up the fight and was holding a fortified rank on Crowell's front porch. Crowell was in a Robersonville doctor's office with his wife, and Sam, with gun in hand, was patiently awaiting his return.

The free use of liquor, said to have been poisoned, caused one death near Hamilton.

Repeated ground raid alarms were sounded in the beer garden area on Washington Street. While the operators are credited with trying to maintain order and peace, the crowds went out of control and fighting was reported off and on during a greater part of Saturday night and at intervals on Sunday. Local police hauled the disturbers of the peace down in carload lots, while several were carried to doctors' office for attention.

James Phippen, Bear Grass colored man, was dangerously stabbed by Booker T. Bradley in a brawl at the beer garden. The weapon barely missed the man's heart, and one report stated that when he breathed air was inhaled and exhaled through the wound. Phippen was said to be out yesterday but unable to work. Ed and Leon Goss were said to have figured in the fight leading up to the knife attack on Phippen.

The general disorders were in addition to a series of daring robberies on Williamston's main street and at the grammar school building some time during Friday night.

Robersonville had its outbreak of disorders, but nothing serious resulted, one report stating that the jail was almost filled during the period.

Little activity was reported on the crime front in other sections of the county during the period according to incomplete reports heard through the sheriff's office here.

Native Of County Dies In Hospital

Joseph Jordan Lilley, native of Martin County and prominent Washington business man, died in a hospital here last Friday. His condition had been critical for some time.

Mr. Lilley was born December 1, 1878, a son of the late Harry F. and Mary Bryant Lilley, of Martin County. His boyhood was spent here and he moved to Washington in early manhood, making his home there since. For a number of years he owned and operated the Joe Lilley Grocery on West Main Street where he acquired a wide circle of friends who were attracted to him by his many sterling qualities.

For many years he was a pillar of the First Christian Church where he served faithfully and loyally as a member of the board of deacons.

He is survived by his widow, who before marriage was Miss Linda Pearl Swanner, of Beaufort County; one son, Joseph Jordan, Jr., and a daughter, Mrs. Randolph Harris, of Rocky Mount.

Crime Wave Reported Here and In the County Last Week-End; Attempt Made To Burn School

Cotton Ginnings Climbing To New Level In County

Cotton production after reaching a record low point in recent years is climbing rapidly to new high levels in Martin County. Possibly without exception, Martin cotton farmers are making this year the largest percentage gain in production than any others in North Carolina.

Up until the 18th of last month, Martin farmers had ginned almost 25 times as much cotton as they had ginned in the corresponding period of last season. A government report released this week shows that 2,161 bales of the staple had been ginned from the current crop up until October 18 as compared with 88 bales in the corresponding period of 1939. No late figures are available, but it is estimated that ginnings up to this time will exceed three thousand bales, and that the season's total will approximate a figure between 3,500 and 4,000 bales.

Other than the picking, the cost of producing the crop this year will not be materially greater than that incurred in producing the 1939 crop.

Farm Bureau Will Close Membership Drive Next Week

Over 300 Farmers and Business Men Have Recently Joined Organization

Meeting in the county agricultural building last Friday evening, membership teams of the Martin Farm Bureau reviewed the campaign to date and advanced plans for bringing the membership drive to an end by Friday, November 22. More than 300 farmers and business men have taken membership in the organization, and during the next ten days the canvassers hope to boost the number to 800 or 1,000.

Speaking to the group last Friday evening, Mr. Charles L. Daniel, president of the county unit, pointed out that it was more important than ever before to perfect and maintain a strong farmer's organization. The work of the Farm Bureau, it was declared, will mean extra thousands of dollars to the farmers and business establishments in this county this year. Two-cent peanuts were in prospect just a short time ago, but work was done by the organization and stabilization methods will be continued during the current season, it was learned.

President Daniel made an earnest plea for the people of this county, farmers and business men, too, to get behind the organization with a strong support.

Membership canvassers are working without pay, and on Friday evening of next week, the losers in the campaign will pay for their suppers as well as those of the winners.

Additional members, not previously acknowledged, are as follows: Williamston: W. A. Mobley, S. H. Grimes, Central Cafe, B. S. Courtney, Clark's Drug Store, Economy Auto Store, Davis Pharmacy, W. J. Miller, Guaranty Bank, J. S. Whitely, G & H Builders, Woolard Furniture, Central Service Station, Soda Shoppe, John Gurkin, Henry D. Harrison, Margolis Bros., Nat Israel, J. F. Weaver, D. G. Modlin, Rose's, Harrison & Carstarphen, J. B. Cherrin.

(Continued on page six)

Clear Up Series Of Auto Thefts

With the arrest of Roosevelt Fagan, Martin County colored man, last week, officers are of the opinion that they have cleared up a series of automobile thefts in this community. Fagan, arrested by Officer J. H. Allsbrooks and Patrolman Whit Saunders last week, denies stealing any one of four cars missing from local streets. Officers are working on the case and have already gained much evidence which will be used against Fagan when he is called to trial.

Cars belonging to Jack Leggett, Alton Barnhill, Sylvester Taylor and Farmer Griffin, of Williams Township, were stolen from local streets during the past four weeks. Fagan would drive the cars a while and then leave them.

Charged with forgery, Fagan was tried in the Beaufort County Superior Court last week and sentenced to prison for four years. At the expiration of that sentence he will be brought here for trial in connection with the alleged automobile thefts.

Crime Wave Reported Here and In the County Last Week-End; Attempt Made To Burn School

Daring Robberies Here Friday Night Baffling To Police

Williamston police are still baffled today as they continue the task of trying to clear up a series of robberies and an attempt to burn the local grammar school some time during last Friday night or early Saturday morning. Chief of Police W. B. Daniel had little comment to offer this morning, but it is believed that the officer and other members of the force, working in cooperation with the sheriff's office and other law-enforcement agencies, are following several leads that will throw some light on the daring robberies and the attempt to burn the large graded school building.

Preliminary investigations have carried the officers outside the county, but they reserved comment upon their return yesterday afternoon. No direct report has been received from fingerprints taken at the school and at the scene of the three robberies.

Believed to have gone to the school building first, the robber or robbers forced an entrance by tearing off the screen wire over a basement window. Nothing was missed there, but a burned space of small dimensions was found on the floor by the school people Saturday morning. School authorities state that they could not understand what prevented the fire from spreading and damaging the entire building.

The robbers next struck the Woodard Hardware Company's front door on Main Street. Using a tire tool or pinch bar, they quickly and without very much noise gained an entrance there. Two Winchester rifles, one a repeater and the other an automatic, a pistol and several dollars in cash were stolen there. Possibly other articles were stolen, but they could not be missed immediately.

Going from there, the robbers failed to find the school building.

Joe Henry Lilley Is Killed In Train-Auto Wreck Today

Crashes into Coast Line Engine with Car at Washington Street Crossing

Joe Henry Lilley, 32-year-old farmer of near here, was instantly killed at 12:30 this afternoon when his car crashed into the engine of an Atlantic Coast Line train at the Washington Street crossing near the plant of the Williamston Peanut Company plant. His skull fractured, Lilley died instantly or before members of the train crew or witnesses could reach him.

Lilley, coming to town for a supply of peanut bags, was thrown partly from his car, his head striking the concrete. Seeing the approaching train too late to stop, Lilley applied the brakes and the car swerved first to one side of the road and then to the other, finally careening to the left before it plowed into the engine near the fireman's cab. A heavy rain was falling at the time, and visibility was poor.

A preliminary report released soon after the accident by Patrolman Whit Saunders stated that the engineer of the train saw the approaching car and applied the emergency brakes on the engine. The train was according to reports, traveling hardly 15 miles an hour, that it continued hardly 20 feet after the crash. Very little damage was done to the car which was turned over when it struck the train.

Apparently the left door of the machine flew open and Lilley fell out. When aid reached him his head was on the ground and his feet still in the car. The car was on the edge of the highway when wreckers went to move it.

The son of Mrs. Genny Lilley and the late Joseph S. Lilley, he was born near here about 32 years ago. In early manhood he was married to Miss Gray Wynne, who survives with three children, Holly Marie, Joseph Clifton, and Bobby Shelton. He also leaves his mother and four sisters, Mrs. Annie Cassell, of Hertford County; Mrs. Roy Sherrod, of Sharpsburg; Mrs. Roland Goff and Mrs. Joseph Whitaker, both of Williamston.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed early this afternoon, but it is understood that the funeral will be conducted at the late home just off the Washington Highway tomorrow afternoon and that burial will follow in the family plot on the home farm.

Crime Wave Reported Here and In the County Last Week-End; Attempt Made To Burn School

Three Stores Entered; Police Are At Work on Several "Leads" At Present

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