

Negro Man And Wife Mysteriously Shot In Everetts Sunday

Alfred Williams Arrested in Connection with Attack On Couple

Jeremia Wallace and his young wife, Sarah Ruth, were painfully but not seriously shot while walking on the main street in Everetts last Sunday night about 9:30 o'clock. Alfred Williams, young colored man and a neighbor of the Wallaces, was arrested about an hour later by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and jailed in connection with the attack. Up until today no motive for the attack has been advanced, officers stating that mystery surrounds the affair. It is believed that Williams mistook the couple for someone else with whom he was apparently mad.

Returning home from church services, the Wallaces had just crossed the railroad on the town's main street when someone, presumably Williams, stepped from behind Taylor's store and fired a load of No. 7 shot into Wallace's back. Wallace made a dash for the highway, his wife trailing along behind at moderate speed until a second load of shot was fired. Struck fairly in the back by the bird shot, the wife was reported to have overtaken and passed her husband in a few seconds. The shot, piercing their clothing, were picked out of the backs of the Wallaces in numbers. After receiving treatment in a Robersonville doctor's office, they were returned home where they are recovering rapidly.

Investigating the case, Sheriff Roebuck learned that one one had borrowed a gun from Weldon Ford, respected colored citizen of Everetts. Ford told the officer that after he had retired some one came to his home and called him. "What do you want?" Ford asked. "I want to see you on some business," was the reply. Ford invited the man in, and the visitor entered the home but stopped before he reached Ford's bedroom. Ford, recognizing the voice as that of Williams, heard someone scratching over the living room door where the gun lay in its rack. The visitor then left without further words. Ford got up and saw the gun missing and told other members of the family that the gun had been stolen. A few minutes later two shots were heard. Monday morning the sheriff found the gun buried in a privy on the premises where Williams lived. It was identified by Ford as his own.

As far as it could be learned the Wallaces have had no trouble with Williams. Officers are now working to establish some motive for the attack.

Williams has been in the courts several times before, one for allegedly breaking into Taylor's store and the Paul Bailey home in Everetts.

News Bureau Head Addresses Meeting

Robert W. Madry, head of the University of North Carolina News Bureau, addressed the monthly meeting of the Northeastern North Carolina Press Association in its meeting here last Saturday evening in the Woman's Club building.

Recalling his experiences as a newspaper man in Paris shortly after the close of the World War, Mr. Madry reviewed the work being handled by him and his assistants at Chapel Hill.

"Recognizing the University as an institution owned and supported by the public, we try to keep the people informed about its work," Mr. Madry said, explaining that as a promoter of free speech, the institution makes no attempt to suppress any news, good or bad. He cited several news releases that brought forth comment, "but if we are to print the good and leave out the bad we are not properly handling our job," he said, adding that all newspaper men should take a firm stand and treat news as news regardless of class or social standing.

Thirty-two members of the press group and invited guests were present for the session. Max Campbell, Hertford editor, presided over the meeting.

High School Band Parades Tomorrow

Williamston's fast-developing high school band will make its first public street appearance tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock when the youngsters (32 of them) parade from the town hall to the Central Service Station. Six or seven promising majorettes will lead the group. A series of drills will be executed at the station and the parade will return to the town hall, the entire program to last approximately thirty minutes.

This evening, the band will appear before a meeting of the Junior Woman's Club. Tomorrow the young musicians will participate in a county-wide high school program at Robersonville, and on Friday they will form a part of a big parade in the tulip festival at Washington.

Several Changes in Teaching Personnel in County Schools

Although several resignations have been tendered, no appreciable change in the teaching personnel in the county schools is expected for the 1941-42 term, according to advance reports coming indirectly from several of the local committees. Beginning this week the local committees will hold their teacher elections, one report stating that only two resignations have been officially filed and that less than a dozen changes will follow in the entire faculty personnel for the coming term.

Elections this year are being held under the continuing contract, an apparently meaningless statute just recently entered in the North Carolina laws by the General Assembly. No new contract is necessary if a teacher wishes to continue in the system and, too, if the board wishes

to retain the teacher. The local committee is still all powerful when it comes to "hiring" and "firing." All teachers must be notified within one week of the 30th of this month of their re-election or rejection, and teachers, under the law, must give thirty days notice before tendering a resignation.

Two changes in the Jamesville school faculty are being entered in the records. M. M. Peacock, after a short time as agriculture teacher in the schools there, resigned and quit his post yesterday to join the Oxford faculty. The school will make no effort to replace him for the remaining few days of the current term. Professor Suggs also tendered his resignation there, but he will complete the term. If rumors are founded, several other resignations in the school are likely to follow.

Political Front Is Quiet On Eve of Convention

WEATHER

Held back and down by a late spring, the mercury asserted itself in these parts yesterday when it formed a partnership with summer to boost a top of reading of 86 degrees in the shade. It was the warmest April 14th recorded here in several years. Following general rains last week, the warm spell is adding a deep green to plant life and causing tobacco plants to literally spring up. Straw hats began to make their appearance, and if there was any doubt about spring being here, it has been dispelled by a mercury reading of 92 degrees today.

There'll be more cold spells, however, and the removal of gloves is advised against until on or about the middle of May.

Results Of Cotton Demonstrations in County Announced

Two Cotton Variety Tests Are Not in Accord, Recent Report Shows

The results obtained in two cotton variety tests conducted by Farmers C. Abram Roberson, of Robersonville, and Bob Everett, of Goose Nest, were recently announced, the demonstrations, while not being in accord, proving that it pays to use good seed. No definite conclusion can hardly be reached for the county, as a whole, but it is apparent that the two farmers now have a very good idea as to what variety seed is best suited for their individual farms.

Planting six varieties of seed, Farmer Roberson harvested 2,340 pounds of seed cotton per acre to the list. The following table shows the poundage by varieties:

Per Acre Yield	
Coker 4 in 1, Strain 3	2340
Coker 4 in 1, Strain 4	2220
Coker 200, Strain 2	2180
Coker 100, Strain 4	2180
Coker 100, Strain 3	2140
Coker 200, Strain 1	2080
Per Acre Yield	
Coker 200, Strain 1	2120
Coker 100, Strain 4	2000
Coker 100, Strain 3	1960
Coker 200, Strain 2	1920

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Respected Citizen Dies Near Oak City

Mrs. Annie Taylor Bellflower, highly respected county citizen, died at her home, near Oak City, yesterday morning at 8:30 o'clock following an illness of short duration. Despite her advanced age of 84 years, she was active until just a few days before her death, pneumonia being given as the immediate cause of her death.

Mrs. Bellflower was a native of Goose Nest Township and lived there all her life. A faithful member of the Concho Primitive Baptist Church for a long number of years, she was a regular attendant upon its services, showing a great interest in religious work. Humble in her walk through life, she was held in high esteem by all who knew her.

When a young woman she married Frank Bellflower who died about ten years ago. She is survived by four children, one son, J. W. Bellflower with whom she made her home, and three daughters, Mrs. Martha Piland, Mrs. Lester Harrell and Mrs. Herbert Brown, all of this county.

Funeral services are being conducted from the Concho church this afternoon at 3 o'clock by Elders W. E. Grimes and A. B. Ayers. Interment will follow in the church yard.

To Nominate Mayor and Commissioners At Public Meeting

J. L. Hassell Only Candidate To Make Formal Announcement

Williamston citizens Thursday evening of this week at 8 o'clock in the county courthouse will virtually settle their politics for another two years when they nominate a mayor and five aldermen or members of the board of town commissioners. To date and on the eve of the nominating convention, the political front is all quiet. Mayor John L. Hassell has announced his candidacy for re-nomination, but no official announcement has been made by the five commissioners. However, it is rumored that while they will make no active campaign, all of the present commissioners—N. C. Green, Luther Peel, Lawrence P. Lindsley, V. D. Godwin and George H. Harrison—will accept the re-nomination.

While the present inactivity on the political front may be the quiet before the storm, there has been no inkling that the citizenry will seek a change in the town government. Very few people have discussed the convention and no issues have been advanced. As far as it can be learned there has been no direct or indirect comment offered in connection with the approaching convention, and if there is any politicking at all it will likely be reserved until the convention gets underway.

No rules have been advanced in connection with voting qualifications at the convention, and it is generally understood that any citizen living within the town limits will be eligible to participate. Registration is not required of one who would take part in the convention, but he must have his name on the registration books to qualify for participation in the election to be held on May 6. Nomination is tantamount to election in this Democratic stronghold, the old-time residents hardly recalling a time when an opposition party placed a ticket in the field. Recognized as a formal event without very much meaning, few people go to the trouble to register, a report from Registrar John Pope stating that no one placed his name on the book last Saturday, the first day the books were open. The books will remain open each Saturday during the remainder of this month for the registration of the citizenry. Those who have participated in previous elections will find it unnecessary to register again to vote in the May election. On Saturday, May 3, the books will be open for challenge which also ranks as a mere formality.

The terms of office for the incumbent are for two years.

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Teeming With Millions of Fish, Roanoke River Is Bearing Heavy Fishing Traffic

Draining a large section of northern North Carolina and a sizable portion of Virginia and running through great timber lands, the mighty and treacherous old Roanoke is now attracting wide attention for its fishing. Teeming with millions of herring and other types of fish coming from places unknown to spawn, the stream is bearing possibly the heaviest fishing traffic in recent years. Sports fishermen are now appearing on the stream after leaving it all to those who went there for what they caught all these years. The throngs, numbering as many as several hundred in a single day, are still made up mostly of small-scale farmers who enjoy the fishing and who catch a supply to supplement their meat ration.

Those who live along the banks of the muddy stream little realize the value of the old Roanoke, but

Production Quotas Offering Only Hope For Peanut Farmers

Plans Go Forward For Holding Referendum Saturday, April 26th

Peanut production in recent years has expanded much more than has the market demand for peanuts for cleaning and shelling, with the result that farmers are now growing more peanuts than they can sell on the open market at fair prices. The 1940 acreage, the largest on record, was nearly 30 per cent larger than that of five years ago.

The government has financed a diversion program since 1934 to dispose of the surplus and stabilize prices. This program has diverted to oil that part of the crop in excess of the amount needed for the edible trade.

Under this arrangement, peanut farmers were able to obtain a better price for their entire crop, either by selling on the market or by delivering to peanut cooperative association. These cooperatives paid farmers an established price for the peanuts, and then sold the surplus for crushing into oil at the current price. The difference between the price paid to producers and the price received from the oil mills, together with handling costs for the peanuts diverted, was borne by the government. This program had the effect of increasing income for all peanut growers.

For the 1940 crop, it appears that about 275,000 tons, or nearly one-third of the peanut crop, will be diverted to oil. For this heavy diversion, it is estimated that the cost to the government may exceed 10 million dollars or from 20 to 25 per cent of the value of the crop. This is about three times the cost of diversion in any previous year. In order to have a sound basis for a diversion program in the future, it will be necessary for growers to adjust supply more nearly in line with market demand for the edible trade. This can be done with marketing quotas.

Marketing quotas provide the means by which each farmer may receive his fair share of the available market—that is, the amount of peanuts which can be sold for cleaning and shelling at reasonable prices. Quotas will be in effect only if approved by two-thirds or more of the farmers voting in the referendum on April 26, 1941.

If quotas are approved, either peanut loans or a diversion program, or both, will be available to farmers in 1941, 1942 and 1943. If quotas are rejected by farmers, the law provides that no loan or diversion program can be offered during 1941.

Without some means of support, farmers have no assurance that peanut prices will remain high enough to give them a fair return for their crop.

Weather Ideal For Easter Schedules

Weather conditions, described as the most favorable in a decade, were ideal for the Easter day schedules in this section and throughout most of the country. Brightened by a gentle sun, this spot of the world, free of turmoil and want, offered an ideal setting for the Easter events, and while the drive for the maximum pleasure was advanced in the material phases of life, the call to worship attracted capacity crowds in the various houses of religious worship.

Record attendance figures were reported by nearly every church. Special sermons were heard, and the religious program including the music seemed to hold a truer, greater meaning for increased numbers. No one was turned away, but the seating capacity was taxed in many Sunday schools and churches here.

Ranging in the seventies during most of the day, the mercury was inviting to the Easter parade, reports describing the finery as the most gorgeous seen in many a year.

The ideal weather with near-freezing temperatures and a regular snow blizzard a year ago.

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County Farmers Say Tobacco Plants Are Growing Rapidly

The tobacco plant situation, considered serious during the past few weeks, is much improved in the county this week, farmers stating that the young plants have grown very rapidly in recent days. Jumping to a new high of 87 degrees for the season, the temperature yesterday was perfect for hasty growth. Willie Lassiter, local farmer, stated that his plants grew from the size of a dime to that of a dollar in four days. The plants have shown a marked improvement over the county, as a whole, and an apparent shortage predicted just ten days ago seems to have disappeared.

Blue mold is yet to be reckoned with, and the talk about cold weather and plant scarcities last week is now centering on possible mold attacks. Quite a few farmers in this county have advanced the belief that blue mold was already present in their plant beds, but the appearance of the mold has not been definitely determined. It has been officially reported in other counties in the eastern belt. Preparations are being made to combat the mold, and at least four farmers—W. R. and J. A. Everett, J. E. King and Heber Jenkins—are planning demonstrations for its control. The seriousness of the blue mold attack in other counties has not been learned, but plant shortages are feared in some sections. Down in Georgia a general shortage of plants was reported a short time ago, but transplanting is progressing there fairly rapidly this week.

Barring severe damage by blue mold and with favorable weather conditions it is likely that a few Martin farmers will be able to start transplanting the latter part of this month or in early May. The transplanting season will hardly reach a climax until after May 10.

Fisherman Loses Life In the Roanoke River

Body Of Falkland Carpenter Has Not Been Recovered

Willie Adams, 38-year-old Pitt County man, was drowned in the Roanoke River just below the Standard Fertilizer Company plant here last Saturday night at 9:30 o'clock. At noon today the muddy waters of the stream had not yielded up the body, river men agreeing with authorities that there is little chance of recovery. Drugging operations were almost useless in the strong current, but county officers worked themselves and employed others to search for the body.

Anxious relatives, including the victim's wife and their two children, and an aged father, maintained a watch from the river bank during long hours Sunday night, the group finally going to their home near Falkland broken-hearted and entertaining little hope for the recovery of the body. The father returned yesterday and left instructions for handling the body if it was found.

Coming here with Alfred Smith, a brother-in-law of Rocky Mount, Adams after fishing in the river that afternoon visited the county liquor store, made a purchase and returned to the river that night declaring he was ready to catch every herring in the river. A boat was rented at the bridge, but the brother-in-law stated that he walked down the bank to a spot where they had planned to fish. Adams started paddling down the stream, the swift current sweeping him along rapidly. Aaron and Robert D. Harris and a colored man, Ed Mercer, all of Pinetop, were fishing just below the fertilizer plant. Coming down the middle of the stream Adams stood up and lunged forward into the water. He called for help and struggled in the water but before the fishermen could paddle to the middle of the stream he had disappeared. The boat, measuring about three feet in width and about 16 feet in length, was recovered. A staff net was lost, some believing that the man got tangled up in it and could not free himself.

Smith, questioned by Coroner S. R. Biggs and other county officers, admitted that Adams had been drinking, but maintained that he was not drunk. Fishermen along the bank could not explain how the man fell. One stated that he thought the net staff broke and caused the man to lose his equilibrium and fall into the river.

Several fishermen, coming here

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Number Of Workers Returning To Jobs In Basket Factory

Plentiful Supply of Labor Is Available As Plant Resumes Work Monday

Workers in a reported ratio of two for every job reported at the Williamston Package Manufacturing Company's plant early yesterday morning when operations were resumed under new management and after a long period of idleness. Approximately 100 workers—men and women—were placed in employment, leaving possibly that many more to return to their homes. That the number of workers will be increased at the plant is expected, but for the present no material change in the employee rolls will take place.

Skilled workers at the plant were few in number yesterday, and immediately the management decided to train its help almost entirely from local ranks. It was planned to recruit a few skilled workers from other sections, and arrangements had been effected in several cases to have them report here yesterday morning. The draft is taking more and more men from the industry, and a general speed-up in business of all types is rapidly exhausting the available supply of skilled workers, making

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Jumps Into River To Recover Fish

That the herring is valued by some people was well demonstrated here last Saturday by Aaron Harris, young Pitt County farmer.

Harris was standing on an oil dock observing fishing operations all around him. A fisherman landed a nice, big herring on the dock and the fish jumped off. A pile of pine bark and sawdust had wedged against the dock, and there was a bit of yellow foam on top to give it the appearance of a small sand bar. The fish landed on the pile of bark. Harris, thinking it safe, jumped to recover the herring and he went into water up to his neck. That evening his friends still had a big fire burning to dry his clothes out.

A colored man, whose name could not be learned, almost lost his life in the river near here last Saturday. He fell out of the boat and was going down for a second time when he caught hold of the boat and saved himself.

Farmer and others coming from long distances to fish here are unusually careless, and it is a wonder that more people aren't drowned than there are. Quite a few of the visitors get a plentiful supply of liquor and play fish and camp along the river day and night.

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British Experience Reverses In Africa And In the Balkans

Confused Reports Heard Here As Hitler's Hordes March Ever Onward

A dark and gloomy picture is being painted in the African and Balkan War arenas today for the Allies as they fight stubbornly to check the onward march of Hitler's hordes. Reports heard here are so confusing that it is impossible to get a true picture of the real status of the situation in the Balkans. About the only bright spot and that may be wiped out in time is along the line where the Greeks are preferring death to surrender. The British in Greece have admitted the withdrawal of their troops to a secondary line of defense, and the sweep by "magic" German forces in Africa has been extended into Egypt raising the fear that the invaders have the Suez Canal as their objective.

London, April 14—British troops have withdrawn to new positions on the eastern sector of the Greek front but the war office acknowledged tonight that they have repulsed with heavy losses an Axis infantry and tank attack on the outer defenses of besieged Tobruk, Libya.

"Severe casualties," the communiqué said, were inflicted by British covering troops during the Balkan withdrawal (apparently west of Salonika), but in the center of that front, the British asserted "persistent German attacks" failed in the face of heavy British fire.

Heavy bombing by the British Middle East Air Force were reported to have caused severe damage to the Axis air machines in both Africa and the Balkans.

Threat To Nazis
London, Tuesday, April 15—Yugoslav Serbian troops, in two attacks south of Belgrade, are threatening to cut the Belgrade-to-Salonika railroad, chief line of supply for German assaults on the eastern wing of the British-Greek front, an Ankara radio report said early today.

The Serbs were said by the CBS correspondent in Ankara to have launched "successful" pincer attacks in the Topolo area about 38 miles south of Belgrade and at Barberin in the Morava valley.

Further west, the Ankara report said, the Germans appear to be massing strong forces for a mass drive

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Superior Court In Special Term Here

Opening a special session here this morning for the trial of civil cases, the Martin County Superior Court attracted very little attention from the general public. Other than the litigants, lawyers, judge and witnesses there were less than half a dozen persons in the court room.

After studying the calendar of 36 cases for about an hour, the court continued several cases, and non-suits were recorded in a few others before work was started on the Barrow against Barrow case. Following the trial of the Barrow case, the court is expected to recess until tomorrow. Few cases of interest were on the calendar for trial today, but several others scheduled for trial later this week and next are almost certain to attract a number of spectators. Seventy-one witnesses have been summoned to appear in court this week.

Non-suits were taken in the case of J. H. Manning and others against Leila Williams and Coburn, and Mrs. Marcella Coltrane against Haigwood Brothers. Manning was suing for partitioning of certain property, and Mrs. Coltrane was suing Haigwood for \$15,000 damages alleged to have resulted when she was critically hurt and her husband killed in an automobile-truck wreck near Washington on September 25, 1936.

Judge A. Hall Johnston, of Asheville, is presiding over the two-week term.

The plaintiff in the Barrow suit is seeking payment for certain timber cut from his lands. Knowledge Barrow, the plaintiff, disappeared from his home in Williams Township about 30 years ago. During that time his son, Nicodemus, sold timber to the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company and received payment. The father has returned and is now suing for the price of the timber, the lumber company being a second defendant in the suit.

Schools Will Hold Field Day Program

Hundreds of Martin County high school students are meeting in Robersonville tomorrow to participate in an extensive program of field-day and literary events. Williamston will be represented by about 200 youths, Principal D. N. Hix said this morning.

A formal program was not available for publication at noon today, but a series of interesting contests have been planned. No classes will be held in the high schools tomorrow, but regular schedules in the elementary departments will be maintained.