



The Johnstonian-Sun



VOL. 25

SELMA, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1942.

Single Copy 5c

NUMBER 12.

SELMA MAN KILLED IN PERFORMANCE OF DUTY, SERVICE

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan Receive Telegram From Navy Dept. Stating That Their Son Was Killed In Performance Of His Duty.

The following telegram was received from the U. S. Navy Department in Washington during the past week end:

Joseph Herman Sullivan, Route 1, Selma, N. C.

"The Navy Department deeply regrets to inform you that your son, Charles William Sullivan, ship's cook third class, U. S. Navy, is missing following action in the performance of his duty and in the service of his country. The Department appreciates your great anxiety and will furnish you further information promptly when received. To prevent possible aid to our enemies please do not divulge the name of his ship or station."

Surviving besides his parents are the following brothers: Marvin, Dalton, Thomas and Bobbie, all of Selma Route 1. He was a nephew of Mr. J. C. Avery, real estate dealer, of Selma.

LETTER FROM SON HELD HIGH HOPES

The following are a few paragraphs from the last letter Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan received from their son, Charles W. Sullivan, who later lost his life while fighting for his country. The letter was written on November 29, 1941.

"I got your letter Friday, November 28th, and am trying to answer it. We came into Manila Friday for the first time in 4 weeks, and liberty was fine last night, and I hope to go over again at 10 o'clock this morning for we leave for the Navy yard Sunday, November 30, to take on stores for the next three months. The talk sure has been hot for the Navy the last few days and we are ready to start shooting any time, anybody who steps out of place. But I think they know better than to fool with the U. S. Navy for they could blow anybody off the world in a very short time.

"But don't worry about me for I am O. K. and happy. Mama, I sure was glad to get the picture of daddy. Everybody that has seen it said it looks just like me. When we were in China we wore our blue uniforms. Mama, I think I'll send you and the rest some money and let you get what you want for Christmas because I guess I'll be at sea Christmas and I won't be able to buy anything, and it costs so much to send it, so I hope you will take it as you would something I bought.

"I am going up for class about a month but I don't have any idea of making it for it takes a lot of studying and I have a lot of work to do. I am happy at what I got for I am making more than I have ever made in my life. I will send the picture to you by mail before long.

"Hope all the boys can go to school and make good marks, for I wish I had gone a while longer, I could use it now. Tell Tom to finish school and join the Navy, but to finish school first. Sure was glad to know that Dalma is able to go to school and is so much better. Hope he can finish school and get him a job as office boy somewhere.

"Well, I say I'm glad I'm in the Navy and I hope you all are glad for me to be in it for I am happy here, but I think I'll go out after 20 years or so and take life easy. So please don't worry about me for I am O.K."

R. A. Jones Resigns As Member of Board

At a meeting of the board of aldermen of the town of Selma Tuesday evening, R. A. Jones, a member of the board for the past several years, tendered his resignation, which was accepted quite reluctantly. Mr. Jones has been called into service in Uncle Sam's Navy and is leaving the first of next week.

R. E. Suber, a member of the board, was appointed water and light commissioner succeeding Mr. Jones.

The board went on record as favoring the restoration of trains Nos. 13 and 14, on the Southern railway. These trains were discontinued some time ago, and since that time the mail service to and from Selma from East-West directions has been rotten. Mail buses come in at all times of the day, and there is never any certainty as to when to expect an important letter or when one will start on its way.

Uncle Sam has yet to find any better method of transporting mail than the train system.

One American steel company alone has more steel capacity than all of Germany.

Argentina Keeps Her Powder Dry



A sturdy, tough army, biggest in South America, shows that Argentina is ready to back herself up when her policy of neutrality runs out. She knows that the fact that she has not severed relations with the Axis will not save her from being an Axis objective when the time comes. Here her army is pictured in review. Notice the helmets, not much unlike German helmets.

Easter Seals On Sale; Help Crippled Children

From now until Saturday before Easter everyone is asked to buy Easter Seals in order that there may be funds to help crippled children in Johnston county. For the past two years there has been no drive made in Johnston county for this purpose, although some children from Johnston county have been helped from this fund.

According to W. T. Woodard, Jr., Superintendent of Public Welfare in Johnston County, there are about 10,000 crippled children in North Carolina in need of medical attention. Most of these children could not hope to have the needed attention if it were not for the work done by the Vocational Rehabilitation Division, and Crippled Children's Division of the State Board of Health, and the fund raised by the campaign put on each year for this purpose.

You might be interested in hearing a recording which Kay Kysar has had made to help advertise the campaign. He has become vitally interested in crippled children's work and has contributed liberally of his money and time to help put it across. He has made five recordings for the campaign, which may be heard over the following stations:

Fayetteville - WFNC - every day at convenience of station
Goldsboro - WGBR - 8:05 a. m. every day of the week
Greenville - WGTC - 7:00 p. m. every day of the week
Kinston - WFTC - 7:00 p. m. every day of the week
Rocky Mount - WEED - every day at convenience of station
Raleigh - WPTF - Sunday at 6:50 p. m.; Wednesday at 8:15 a. m.; Friday at 1:30 p. m.

Last year the 4-H Club in one of our eastern counties held a contest to determine the girl with the best physical development. Eighteen-year-old Jane won the award of the judges.

A physician in the audience came forward, had Jane to roll down her hose and exhibit to the group of on-lookers two great scars on her shins. Then he said to those present: "Five years ago this girl was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. I took seven inches of bone from her shins, grafted new bone to her vertebrae, and today she wins the prize as the best physical specimen in this county."

Mrs. Richard (Dick) Lewis is the chairman for Selma and she is expected to have something of local interest along this line soon.

Chairmen for other sections are as follows: Mrs. Ed Johnson, Benson, N. C.; Miss Margaret Strickland, Four Oaks; Mr. J. F. Smith, Smithfield; Mr. Noble Hinnant, Micro; Mrs. Nina D. Fulghum, Kenly; Mrs. Atwood Uzzle, Wilson's Mills; Miss Grace Aycock, Princeton; Mrs. D. J. Thurston, Clayton; and Mr. Earl Funderburk, Pine Level.

CITY FATHERS ARE COMMENDED

The town board has recently had the dead grass burned off the vacant lots in town. These places were fire hazards, besides being so unsightly.

One new airplane plant uses over 2,000 types of machine tools.

National Red Cross Representative Here

Enthusiastic Meeting Held Here Thursday Evening To Discuss Advisability of Organizing Red Cross Auxiliary In Selma.

Thursday evening a representative group of Selma citizens met representatives from the National Red Cross Society of Washington, D. C., to consider the advisability of organizing a branch auxiliary of the Johnston County Red Cross here in Selma.

Supt. O. A. Tuttle was made chairman and presided over the meeting. He introduced Braxton Wilson of Smithfield, head of the Disaster Committee of the Johnston County Red Cross, who, after pointing out the great need for such organizations, in these critical times, introduced Miss Moses, national representative of the Red Cross. She prefaced her remarks by saying that she was glad to see the interest manifested by the Selma group and that "Public Enemy No. 1 was Indifferent." "It seems that our people cannot realize that we are in War and that the need for Red Cross and First Aid workers may arise at any moment. To 'Be Prepared' is the least that we can do in this national emergency."

Miss Moses outlined steps that (Continued on page three)

Former Slave Dies In Johnston County At 106

"Uncle" Doc Richardson, Negro preacher who lived in the Coonsboro section of Johnston county about five miles north of Selma, died at his humble cabin home Sunday night at the age of 106.

"Uncle" Doc, as he was known by the white people of this part of the county, was born on the Pharaoh Richardson farm in Johnston county where he was the slave of Pharaoh Richardson prior to the Civil War.

In an interview with "Uncle" Doc some time ago, the editor of The Johnstonian-Sun was told that the Negroes were not permitted to have newspapers and books to read during slave time, but after the close of the Civil War, his old master taught him to read and helped him to secure reading matter. Prior to the war between the States, he said that if a Negro slave was caught with reading matter of any kind he was severely whipped for it. He told us that he was an ordained minister of the African Methodist Church and that he preached the Gospel for more than 75 years. He made a diligent study of the Bible, and after making several trips as a journeyman preacher over North Carolina from the mountains to the sea, he said he learned to speak three different languages. He told us that he was 30 years old at the close of the Civil War in 1866, which would make him 106 when he died. He said he could well remember when

MINISTER DIES DURING FUNERAL

Elder T. A. Stanfield, Uncle of Walter L. Stanfield of Selma, Collapses As He Conducts Reidsville Funeral.

Reidsville, March 14.—Seventy-four year-old Elder T. A. Stanfield completed the final words of his eulogy beside the bier of one of his church-members this afternoon and collapsed himself, dead.

Moderator of the County Line Association and pastor of New Hope and Pleasant Grove Churches near here, Elder Stanfield was thought to have been the victim of a heart attack.

He was conducting the funeral of Mrs. Bell Robinson of Reidsville.

Funeral rites will be held for the Elder at Pleasant Grove Church Monday afternoon at two o'clock, and burial services will follow.

Born in Person County, Elder Stanfield came here in early manhood and has had a long and prominent career as a minister.

Surviving are his wife, the former Miss Florence Mozies; four sons, William of Sanatorium, Paul, Eldrid and Eugene of Route one, Reidsville; five daughters, Mrs. Carl Crutchfield of Winston-Salem, Mrs. Allen Hopper of Tarboro, Mrs. Scott Bennett of Churchroads, Virginia, and Mrs. Louise and Frances Stanfield of the home; and one sister, Mrs. W. S. McKinney.

HEAVY HAILSTORM IN MEADOW SECTION

Mr. Wilbur E. Wiggs of Selma, told the editor of The Johnstonian-Sun Wednesday that on Tuesday afternoon he passed through the Peacock Cross Roads section of Meadow township and that one of the worst hailstorms he had ever seen had just visited that section, and that the earth was still covered with ice late in the afternoon when he passed that way. Mr. Wiggs said he noticed that there was a thick fog floating near the earth and that it appeared to be covered with ice. To make sure that his eyes were not fooling him, he said he stopped his car and got out and gathered up a handful of the pellets which were about the size of moth balls, he said. Mr. Wiggs said the ground was littered with debris which had fallen from the trees, either by being beaten off by the hail or by both hail and wind. He said the path of the storm appeared to have been about three miles in width.

Only 25 Per Cent Waste Paper Is Being Salvaged

It is regrettable and serious that so many of our people are burning and wasting discarded paper, cardboard boxes, cartons and corrugated boxes. Prof. O. A. Tuttle states that the school has been handicapped on account of shortage of storage space for collected papers. Ample space is now available and a plea is now being sent out to Every One to save all papers, tie them in bundles. Press boxes and cartons down flat and tie, then store until called for. We must collect and save paper and cardboard of all kinds, else soon there will be nothing in which to ship cans of food or shirts or bullets to our soldier boys.

Investigation Is Begun Into Johnston Tragedy

On Way Out



This picture is typical of what is happening throughout California, where alien Japanese are being evacuated by the government to prevent sabotage and aid to the enemy. Photo shows a San Francisco resident hanging out "evacuation sign."—Soundphoto.

Coroner's Jury Hears Several Eye-Witnesses To Explosion Give Testimony On Different Angles of County's Greatest Tragedy.

Smithfield, March 17.—Formal investigation regarding the disastrous explosion near Selma on the morning of March 7, causing the death of seven people and the destruction of thousands of dollars worth of property, was begun by Johnston County Coroner E. N. Booker of Selma Tuesday afternoon when a number of witnesses were examined before a jury, composed of H. B. Marrow of Smithfield, Jack Wooten of Princeton, J. N. Wiggs and M. L. Stencil of Selma, G. I. Ford of Smithfield, and John O. Ellington of Smithfield.

The investigation will continue Friday morning when Coroner Booker and the jury will meet at 10 o'clock at the Johnston County Hospital to hear the testimony of Raymond Avery, driver of the truck loaded with munitions that exploded, and Mr. Lewis, who was in the car that allegedly caused the wreck and resulting explosion.

Among those examined today was Harry Whitley of Selma, yard clerk of the Southern Railway, who told of being in his room at the Talton Hotel, of hearing a woman scream and seeing Mrs. Lewis sitting down, as people tore away her burning garments.

He said he ran back and got a blanket to be thrown around her to extinguish the flames and then called the fire department. He said he heard her say that she was driving the car.

Both vehicles were then on fire and the children had not been taken from the car. He told of hearing an explosion inside the truck that sounded like a "22 rifle going off," before the big explosion.

Patrolman H. C. Bobbitt, who was next examined, said he got there around 1:15 and found the truck, trailer and automobile in flames. He explained the locations of both vehicles, as to the highways and the hotel and what part of each had been in collision with the other. He said that flares were put on all three approaches to the burning truck and men were stationed to warn traffic of the danger and said people were told that if they passed they did so at their own risk.

Bobbitt said the driver of the truck told him that he knew it was ammunition, but did not know what kind, and apparently he did not realize the danger, said Bobbitt.

In questioning Bobbitt, Attorney L. H. Wallace called attention to the fact that there are a number of road (Continued on page three)

Additional Supplies Of Burlap Bagging Are Made Available

Additional supplies of burlap bags for bagging seed potatoes, peanut seed, and wool have been made available for North Carolina farmers by the War Production Board, according to G. Tom Scott, Chairman of the North Carolina USDA War Board.

Chairman Scott said the original order for burlap bags for peanut seed and seed potatoes was short of needs and that additional amounts have been made available. Farmers and shippers requiring bags, he said, should contact their normal suppliers of these items.

The amendment to the Burlap Conservation Order, M-47, provides that those wishing to obtain burlap bags for the purposes covered in the amendment provide the bag manufacturer with the following form:

"The undersigned hereby certifies to his vendor and to the War Production Board, that the agricultural bags covered by the annexed purchase order, together with all such bags, new and second-hand, now being held by the undersigned or now scheduled to be received by the undersigned on or before the delivery date specified in the annexed purchase order, will not be in excess of the amount required by him for use in the said thirty-day period.

"The undersigned further certifies that all reasonable efforts have been made by the undersigned to obtain and use some other form of packaging but have not been successful."

America's Champion Chopper Entertains

Peter McLaren, America's champion chopper, entertained a number of our citizens today (Thursday) at 2 o'clock, when he chopped through a black gum log in exactly one minute and twenty seconds. The log measured three feet and two inches in circumference and 11 and a half inches in diameter. The demonstration was under the sponsorship of Messrs. Floyd C. Price & Son and took place in the rear of their store.

The champion demonstrated that the blade of the Plumb axe, which he used, cuts fast and clean, and does not bind in the wood. It holds its razor edge and the balance of the Plumb axe makes it "fall" true and hard.

He challenged the Mayor of Selma, Mr. Bernie A. Henry, offering \$50 in cash if he failed to cut through the log in one-third the time it took the Mayor, but His Honor declined to enter the contest.

Seen and Heard Along THE MAINDRAG

By H. H. L.

JAY BATTEN, for a number of years linotype operator for The Johnstonian-Sun, sent us this week a copy of "The Daily Argosy," a newspaper published in Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana — the front page is composed entirely of advertisements, the second and third pages of legal advertising — flour is quoted in the paper at 28c per pound; grade A milk 4c per pint; chickens, young and juicy, 23c per pound, and fresh eggs, 28c per pound — kite flying is not allowed on any "public way" in Georgetown—any one convicted will be fined \$25—thanks, JAY, for the paper — SOPHIA HINTON, well known "colored lady" of Selma, says on the morning of the explosion, when her doors flew open, her windows blew out, and her chimney fell down, she jumped from bed and looking toward her store located nearby, she saw the door open — "I said to myself," reported SOPHIA, "that was a mean man to drop a bomb on my house, when I've never done anything to him." "I was satisfied that I heard a plane fly over my house," she told us — DR. BOOKER took us over to his farm in Cleveland township yesterday — the doctor, who is one of Johnston county's biggest farmers, has 100 or more acres of the prettiest wheat this writer has ever seen — and, talking about hogs, there were plenty of those, too — another fine farm is that of Johnston County's sheriff, KIRBY ROSE, adjoining the Booker farm — no section of Johnston has prettier farms or farmhouses than Cleveland — while passing through the State of Mississippi the day of the explosion, JAMES P. TEMPLE, JR., bought an afternoon paper to see what GEN. McARTHUR was doing, and lo, and behold, on the front page in big lines he read "Big Explosion Near Selma, N. C." — he immediately wrote his parents asking for more information — JAMES who is in the army has been sent to Fort Crowder, Missouri.



"UNCLE" DOC RICHARDSON

a pond of water stood where the main business section of Selma is now located, and that Daniel Sellers built the first house ever built in Selma, (Continued on page two)