

### CHILD LOST LIFE IN GREENVILLE FIRE

GREENVILLE — Miss Ruby Lee Thomas was burned to death last Wednesday afternoon when fire of unknown origin destroyed the kitchen and other parts of the house in which she lives with relatives on the farm of Damon Pierce two miles east of Ayden. Coroner Griffin H. Rouse said Thursday.

Pierce, white owner of the farm was working at a nearby tobacco barn when he discovered the fire. He rushed to the house and tried to extinguish it, but the flames were too strong. He then called the fire department. The firemen arrived and fought the fire for about an hour. The fire was finally extinguished, but the damage was done.

Miss Ruby Lee Thomas, 10 years old, was found in the kitchen. She had been playing with a match. The fire started in the kitchen and spread to the other parts of the house. The firemen were unable to save her. She died shortly after arrival at the hospital. No inquest was held.

### RACE MP DIRECTS TRAFFIC IN ITALY; JOB DONE BY GROUP, MEETS GREAT APPROVAL WITH ALL

BY ARTHUR HATFIELD  
LECHORNI, Italy (AP)—The Army staff car passed his traffic post and the railway police gave the officer in the rear seat one of his last smiles which was returned with equal smiles. The military police unit had directed traffic at the busy intersection, and from all indications a good job was being done.

The Nineteenth MP company, which has the highest percentage of colored soldiers in the Mediterranean Theater. Its commanding officer, 31-year-old Captain Henry T. Morgan, veteran of the Italian campaign, has made three trips by air in the past month to personally select his men from various units in the MTO. In his efforts to get the best he has not always had the cooperation of other commanding officers. He has usually got what he wanted because of the steady backing given to him. He has never given first priority in the selection of men from a replacement arriving in the Lechorni area.

Men in the Nineteenth MP, which assumed police duties July 2, fell under classes one, two and three in the Army General Classification Tests. There are no class four or five. Ninety-five per cent of the troops have attended high school while forty per cent have either completed college training or were in the process of doing so.

According to Colonel W. A. Pack, first sergeant of Lechorni Base Station, which supplied the Fifth Army and ground forces of the Army Air Forces and the Navy during the Italian campaign, he could not have picked a better man than Captain Morgan to command the Nineteenth MP's.

"The officer is a hard worker and he means what he says. I have every bit of confidence in him and know that he will do a fine job," the Colonel said.

Captain Morgan, Pittsburgh born, attended school there and moved to Washington in 1927, where he worked for the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. He entered the Army in March, 1941, received training at Camp Croft, South Carolina and was commissioned at the Armored Force Officer Candidate School at Fort Knox, Kentucky in 1942. He arrived overseas in Italy November, 1944, and commanded "A" company of the 750th Light Tank Battalion.

When his troops captured Voltri he held the town for two months until as it may be until the arrival of American military government. He was the only officer to see the Purple Heart to his credit.

### TIDEWATER ADDS A. DEPARTMENT

WILMINGTON, N. C. (AP)—Recognizing the importance of agriculture to the overall prosperity of Eastern North Carolina, the Tidewater Power Company has set up an agricultural department headed



NEIL BOLTON

by Mr. Neil Bolton, formerly of Charlestown, West Virginia. The aims and purposes of this department will be to work closely with existing farm agencies already functioning in the territory, to assist the farmers in whatever way possible to increase crop yields, livestock and dairy production, to keep abreast with latest farm methods and disseminate available information to them which will benefit the most on the farm.

The success of all business in Eastern North Carolina is dependent on the prosperity of the farmer. It is a well known fact and a principle of cooperation between business and the farmers is in existence that can only result in the mutual benefit to all.

Mr. Bolton comes well qualified for the position of Agricultural Agent. He is a graduate of West Virginia University College of Agriculture. He served in the capacities of Assistant County Agent and County Agent in Jefferson County, West Virginia for 10 years. Mr. Bolton was a Lieutenant in the Navy for over years, serving in the South Pacific.

### HOUSING BLAMED FOR RACIAL HIGH TENSION

Philadelphia (AP)—Overcrowding and a lack of housing facilities have created interracial tensions and friction in several West Coast cities, notably Los Angeles and San Francisco, and nothing is being done to alleviate these conditions, G. James Fleming, secretary of the race relations group of the American Friends Service Committee, asserted Monday.

Fleming, who returned from a two months' tour on California cities, declared that a widespread influx of Negroes has caused minor racial antagonisms to flare into overt tensions and rioting, but added that the city officials "have frankly expressed their inadequacy to cope with such situations."

"However," he said, "nothing is being done to alleviate the crowded conditions which cause nerve tension among all peoples and inevitably lead to trouble."

"While there is no sign of fri-

### PEONAGE CHARGE FILED IN GEORGIA

Atlanta, Ga. — Roswell P. Biggers, 65-year-old white farmer, was arrested by FBI agents Monday on charges of securing release of 14 men from the Conyers, Ga., jail and holding them as peons in his 1,000-acre farm.

According to Henry King who is in charge of the Atlanta FBI office, he will use a federal grand jury in United States District Court here to charge Biggers.

Short, tall and deeply tanned, Biggers who has been arrested several times in the past, was held in a cell before on a peonage charge, "quietly while his release was being offered," he said, "I have nothing to say."

In a complaint filed by U. S. Commissioner David L. Meyerhardt, evidence uncovered by the FBI Biggers was charged with making a fictitious charge against Booker T. Johnson and later securing his release to work on his farm under peonage about May 20.

King also mentioned the names of four others who the Justice Department at Washington said were involved in the case. They are Robert Holmstrom, Felton Jackson, Lester Links and J. C. Banks.

According to J. H. Phelps, a Justice of the Peace at Conyers, a number of farmers using Negro labor as to Biggers when their employees were imprisoned. Mr. Biggers to "buy up their warrants."

### NEW JOURNAL FOR A. AND T.

GREENSBORO — The initial copy of the "Journal of Research in A. and T. College publication," the first issue of the new journal, was distributed last week by Dr. Charles L. Cooper, editor.

In the past there has been a great demand for such a publication to report the work of every land-grant college for Negroes. Assisting in the editing of the new periodical is Robert E. Howell, associate editor.

The "Journal" has as its purpose the dissemination of interest and participation of greater activity in the field of research by faculty members and graduate students of the college. Through the "Journal" the college proposes to present abstracts of studies of a scientific or a philosophical nature, of both and to disseminate such information in the hope of developing greater interest in the scientific approach to the solution of problems. It is an annual publication.

of four big construction firms here, as other adhered to the union's order for a one-day strike urging construction firms to submit a newer and higher wage scale request to the Wage Adjustment Board in Washington.

Affected by the lay-off period were jobs of the J. A. Jones Company, C. W. Kirkland, Guest and Company, and McDevitt and Street, James Hampton, International Laborers Union, Local 1094, gathered at their meeting hall, at Second and Columbia Streets here last Tuesday. Work was halted on jobs

Single-Day Strike Closes Down Jobs in Charlotte

While 214 members of the International Hod Carriers and Construction Laborers Union, Local 1094, gathered at their meeting hall, at Second and Columbia Streets here last Tuesday, work was halted on jobs

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