

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM PERSON

The Gold Sand community seemed moving in the usual tenor of its way on the morning of January 17. Little did its people dream what was in store for them during the early fore-noon. Scarcely had the day duties begun when it was learned that William Person, one of its most popular and beloved citizens had been injured at a saw mill on his farm, by a falling limb. The limb striking his head and rendering him unconscious for a while. Mr. Person had gotten a safe distance from the tree that the mill workers had just felled. He was of the cautious type that would have been on the alert for self protection and only a few moments before his accident he had warned the working men to run to safety when a tree began to tremble. The thoughtful, watchful attitude that characterized his life manifested itself toward the colored men in his employ, making the last act of his life a thought for others. This was William Person always. The falling tree in some way, fell against another tree with such force that it broke off a limb and threw it back toward Mr. Person from the rear, the crashing tree causing so much noise, he failed to hear the on-coming limb, and never knew it struck him. Even after regaining consciousness, he did not recall having been struck. He was immediately taken to a local physician, who, after examinations and observations considered it best to remove him to a hospital.

From the time he entered the hospital at Rocky Mount, the doctors were uneasy and doubtful of recovery. The efforts of skilled physicians, influenced by a personal friendly regard for the sufferer, seemed of no avail. His wife and only brother, Mr. M. M. Person, remained with him the entire time at the hospital, so afraid were they he might want them, and hoping that they might administer comfort or pleasure.

On the afternoon of January 25, just as darkness veiled the earth the fetters of pain were thrown off, the penalty of the fearful accident was paid. The soul of William Person passed from this phase of being into the next, not to be with the unknown, but the known God, and share the joys of eternity that await the upright man.

The funeral services were held from the Person home, where Mr. William had spent his entire life. It was attended by one of the largest crowds ever seen in the community. Friends and loved ones coming from far and near to pay this last tribute of respect. Funeral services were in charge of Rev. E. R. Shuyler, the resident minister, assisted by Rev. John Edwards, Baptist minister from Centerville, Reverends J. T. Draper, L. C. Brothers, W. M. Towe, former pastors. Each paid a fitting tribute to the departed loved one praying beautiful prayers for Divine Guidance and heartfelt sympathy for the grief stricken family.

With the large family connections and having lived the life Mr. Person did it was meet that this crowd gathered to do honor to his memory. There were many tear stained faces present, evidencing a personal loss and many whose hearts bled for the cruel sorrow of the loved ones.

Midst a joyous, generous sunshine that seemed out of harmony with the solemn occasion and marked the tragic grief of the dear ones, William Person was laid by his parents whom he loved devotedly, in Oakwood Cemetery, Louisburg. Flowers, those emblems, alike of life and death, of "wedding bells and funeral knell, were there in rich profusion, and with their kindly beauty tended to dispel the funeral gloom.

The following were pall bearers. Active: G. D. Fuller, A. B. Alston, W. W. Boddie, W. E. Howard, James Speed, W. C. Perry. Honorary: Paul Elam, Sam Edwards, Henry Edwards, F. F. Hicks, D. J. Hunt, R. L. Burnette, Josh Tharrington, H. P. Speed, W. O. Reed, D. J. Dark, G. C. Parrish, J. R. Parrish, Perry Gupton, Claude Collins, T. R. Gupton, Alvin Cooper, D. O. Murphy, C. C. Perry, J. L. Foster, Percy Murphy, and G. B. Egerton.

Wires of condolence had been coming in ever since the tidings of this death had reached the public showing the esteem in which he was held by those who knew him and loved him. A neighbor, in speaking of him said, "I can't see how we can get along without Mr. Person, he was everybody's good Samaritan. Ever ready to lend a helping hand to those in need of any service he could render, from

the humblest to the loftiest citizen."

The servers of men are the lovers of God. Theirs is indeed a glorious company, and the contagion of their service a magnificent heritage.

The deceased was 51 years old. At the age of 27 he joined Sarepta M. E. Church, remaining a consistent member until his death. On April 19, 1926 he married Miss Eva Underwood, of Youngsville, who survives him. The grief stricken family have the sincere sympathy of the community.

—A FRIEND.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT OLD-AGE INSURANCE

QUESTION: I am employed in the shipping department of a wholesale grocery company. Two years ago I was advised to get a social security account card. However, it was not convenient for me to do so at the time, and I have never obtained an account number. Why do I have to have a social security account number? What good will it do me? What will happen if I never get a social security card?

ANSWER: Failure to obtain a social security account number might mean that in your old age you would fail to receive benefits which otherwise you could claim. If your employer is complying with the law, he is now deducting one percent wage tax from your pay. Your employer pays an additional one percent tax on your wages; and every three months he sends your wage tax to the Government with his own pay roll tax. If you are paying the tax, why not assure yourself the benefits? The chances are that nearly every one of your fellow workers has a social security account number. When your employer makes

his quarterly tax return he should include the name, account number and amount of wages he paid each employee (under age 65). When that wage information reaches the Social Security Board, it is entered on the "books," in somewhat the same way that bank deposits are entered on bank depositors' books. In the Records Division of the Social Security Board there are now about 35 million individual wage records. Each account bears the same number that is shown on the worker's social security card. That is how individual wage records are identified. Unless you have a social security account number, your wage record will not be found in the files of the Social Security Board. Each one of your fellow workers who has a social security account number will be credited, year after year, with his own wage earnings, and finally he will receive old-age insurance payments that are based on his wage record. It is not too late to secure credit for the taxable wages you were paid during 1937 and 1938; but first you will have to obtain a social security account number. Then ask your employer to furnish the Social Security Board field office with a statement of your wage-earnings since 1936. After that, you will be given credit for all taxable wages paid you since 1936.

Q: I have been working in a factory ever since the old-age insurance law went into effect. I understand that the wages paid to me in the past two years have been credited to my old-age insurance account, which is kept for me by the Social Security Board. Is there any way in which I can find out the exact amount of earnings shown on my wage record?

A: Yes. All you have to do is to ask for a statement. Any field

office of the Social Security Board will give or send you a postcard form on which you may write your request for a statement of your wages. You may write, "phone" or call at the Raleigh office of the Board, Commercial Building, Raleigh, N. C., and secure, free of charge, one of these post cards. Be sure to include your social security account number in filling out the card. Before mailing, place a one-cent stamp on the post card. You will promptly receive from the Government, a statement of all the wages you earned in the factory, as shown by your employer's report for 1937. Later in the year, you can get another statement showing wages paid you during 1938 in covered employment.

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