

Bolton War Vet Knifed To Death Near Wilmington

Walter B. (Happy) Watson slain as he attempts to stop two men from fighting

FOUR MEN ARE HELD IN BRUNSWICK JAIL

Victim Was Employee Of Black's Service Station; Lived With Parents At Bolton

Walter B. (Happy) Watson, 26-year-old employee of Black's Service Station in South Whiteville, was stabbed fatally with a knife at a roadside inn six miles west of Wilmington in Brunswick county Friday night.

Brunswick County authorities are holding Marion George McDonald, 40, and Harry Frederick Jones, 40, on a charge of murder of Johnny Martin Davis and J. S. Graves as accessories to the crime.

Watson, a chance visitor in the area, was slain as he attempted to separate two men who were engaged in a fist fight.

Coroner John G. Calson reported this morning that an inquest into the Watson murder case will be held on Friday night at 7:30 o'clock in the courthouse at Southport.

Watson had gone to Wilmington to see J. L. Brown, another Black's Service Station employee, and they were returning to their homes in Bolton when Watson asked Brown to stop to look up a friend.

Brown, who witnessed the slaying, said Watson was not a participant in the fight, but interferred with the remark, "Why don't you boys quit fighting?" according to Brown, the slayer was a bystander who pulled out a large, long knife and stabbed Watson.

After being struck twice, Watson staggered against the wall of the building and dropped to the ground.

The four men, including the participants in the altercation, were taken from the scene and were not released until Saturday.

The slaying occurred about 11 o'clock Friday night.

Brown, who did not know any of the men involved except Watson, said he couldn't identify any of the men by name. He said he understood that McDonald was the knife-wielder.

The two Davis men are reported to be brothers.

The slain man was an overseas veteran of the recent World War. He was unmarried.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. (Continued on page five)

Brief News Flashes

CANDIDATE VISITOR
F. Ertle Carlyle, candidate for Democratic nomination for Congressman from the 7th district, was a visitor here Tuesday.

WEEKLY SERVICE
A Holy week service will be conducted at Sacred Heart Catholic church on Tuesday night of this week from 8 o'clock to 9 o'clock. Everyone is invited to attend. On Easter Sunday morning Mass will be celebrated at 9 o'clock.

PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC
A pre-school clinic for the children who are to enter school next fall will be held at the Waccamaw school next Tuesday, March 30, by Mrs. Lou Smith, county health nurse. Parents who have children that are to start to school in September are urged to bring them to the clinic.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
A three-hour Good Friday service will be held at St. Phillips Episcopal church in Southport Friday of this week, beginning at 7 o'clock. The Rev. A. L. Sturgus and other Episcopal ministers will be part. The public is cordially invited to this service, which will start at 3 o'clock.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE
A community Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 5:45 o'clock on Monday a. m. at the Shallotte Methodist church with the Rev. Richard Weinstein in charge. Mrs. Virginia Young will be in charge of the music, which will feature the Shallotte high school glee club and the choirs of the Methodist and Baptist churches of Shallotte.

EASTER COMES AGAIN



Accepting Applications For Long Beach Office

According to advice received by Postmaster Burnice Russ from Atlanta Fourth Class Postoffice Approved

MAY BE SERVED THROUGH SOUTHPORT

Service Will Begin As Soon As Suitable Quarters And Post Master Can Be Selected

The Atlanta, Ga., district of the Post Office Department has issued invitations for applications for the office of Post Master at Long Beach, a new 4th Class Post Office that will be established and served from the Southport office when and if a post master and suitable quarters are secured.

As a 4th Class office, it is understood that no salary goes with the position. The Postmaster will receive compensation according to the stamps sold at the office.

The invitations state that no civil service examination is necessary on the part of applicants. As usual, former service men and women will have a degree of preference.

Acting Post Master Burnice Russ at Southport says he is not definitely informed, but he understands that the mail for the beach office will be handled through the Southport office.

Good Progress On Road Work

Three Of Four Miles Of Right-Of-Way On Holden Beach Road Have Been Cleared And Grading Is Started

Three or four miles of the right of way of the Holden Beach road project have been cleared of trees and stumps and some grading has been done by the E. W. Grannis Company of Fayetteville. Moving in on the eight mile long project about three years ago the company has made fine progress, considering the rains.

Quite a number of short changes in the route are being made in order to give a much straighter road, as well as to save distance. With most of the road going through a fine farming section and the route already thickly covered with nice homes, the drive from No. 17 to Holden's Beach will appeal to motorists.

Although no new bridge or ferry is included in the present road project, the widespread popularity of Holden's Beach and the attraction that it also offers to sport fishing will bring so much traffic over the new road that a new ferry or bridge is only a question of time.

Easter Services At Local Churches

On Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock hour the choir of Trinity Methodist church will present the cantata "The Music of Easter." The Rev. L. D. Hayman will bring his Easter message at the 7:30 o'clock hour.

Members of the Southport Baptist church choir will present their Easter cantata at the evening hour in the high school auditorium. The music will be "The Easter Alleluia." The Sunday evening service at Southport Presbyterian church will feature special Easter music and an Easter message by the pastor, the Rev. J. M. Waggett.

Two Candidates For Commissioner

R. T. Woodside, Southport Man, and Bennie C. Williams, Shallotte Farmer, Seek Democratic Nomination

R. T. Woodside, Southport man who last week announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination as member of the board of county commissioners, has been joined this week by another candidate for the same office.

He is Bennie W. Williams, prominent farmer of Shallotte and well known throughout the county. Mr. Williams is a former Smithville township farmer, having sold his farm near Southport a few years ago to move back to his old farm on the Shallotte Point road. Prior to that for a number of years he served as superintendent of the Brunswick county home, a position in which (Continued On Page Four)

Clarendon Will Have Open House

Beautiful Plantation On River Road Will Be Open To School Children One Day When Cherry Trees Bloom

All Brunswick county high school children will be invited to Clarendon, the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Thomas on the River Road, when the Japanese cherry trees and other flowers are in bloom. This will be some time in April.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are living in Salisbury, temporarily, while Mr. Thomas is engaged in the construction of housing units. (Continued On Page Four)

Routine Session Of County Court

Usual Run Of Cases Tried Before Judge W. J. McLamb In Recorder's Court Here Wednesday

A fairly crowded docket was disposed of here in Brunswick county Recorder's court Wednesday before Judge W. J. McLamb, with the following disposition being made of cases:

Roscoe Robbins, Willard Tharp, William Tharp, public drunkenness, 30 days road sentence suspended on payment of costs and defendants to be of good behavior.

Mary Merrick, assault, judgment suspended on payment of costs, one half of costs remitted.

Johnnie O. B. Oliver, reckless operation, capias.

James Derwood Sherman, possession, judgment suspended on payment of costs.

Wilbur Todd, reckless operation and no operators license, judgment suspended on payment of a fine of \$40.00 and costs.

John W. Vereen, possession, judgment suspended on payment of a fine of \$10.00 and costs.

Robert LeRoy Long, reckless operation, \$10.00 fine and costs.

Abraham Tanker, speeding, capias.

Anthony Joseph Albanese, speeding, capias.

John Dula, drunk driving, reckless operation, continued.

Frank Miller, speeding, capias.

John Henry Jenkins, possession, fined \$15.00 and costs.

Jasper David Pellham, reckless operation, (Continued On Page Four)

Superior Court Convenes Here Monday Morning

Judge Q. K. Nimocks Of Fayetteville Presiding Over March Term For Trial Of Civil Cases

HOLMES WILL CASE SCHEDULED

Other Cases On Docket Indicate This Will Be Session Of Unusual Spectator Interest

A one week term of Brunswick County Superior court for trial of Civil Court is scheduled to convene here Monday, with Judge Q. K. Nimocks presiding. Only civil actions will be heard and the docket includes some of the most important cases in this class that have been heard here in years.

In three of the cases scheduled for trial, all hinging around the Holmes will case, nine lawyers are scheduled to appear for the defense and prosecution in each case.

In another case, a damage suit against the James Walker Memorial Hospital, charging it with having been negligent to the point of causing the death of a young Brunswick county service man, four lawyers are appearing for the plaintiff.

Although there are less than 20 cases on the motion and trial docket, Clerk of Court Sam T. Bennett stated this week that it was expected that the entire week will be required to handle everything.

Rafferty Shows Play Southport

Road Season For Brunswick County's Own Show Gets Underway With Week Here Under Auspices Of Volunteer Fire Department

Opening its 1948 season here Monday for a week's engagement under the auspices of the Southport Volunteer Fire Department, the Rafferty Shows are this year more than making good with their established plan of starting out each season with something new and different.

For transportation this year 87 trucks, trailers and automobiles are being used, nearly a third more than during previous years. The entertainment features consist of ten rides, eight shows, a minstrel and various other features. Two electric power units are carried along for use in places where local current is not readily available.

Showing here each afternoon and night through this week, the Rafferty Shows will leave here early Sunday morning for a week's engagement in Goldsboro and the show will then launch out for the full summer route, carrying it through North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

The show is a Brunswick county business owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Rafferty, with the show's winter quarters at the junction of Nos. 17 and 74, near the Brunswick river bridge. Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty own considerable other property there, in (Continued on page four)

SCHOONER ATLANTIC PUTS TO SEA IN SEARCH OF NEW SHRIMP

Effort Will Be Made To Discover Where The Big Shrimp Go When They Leave The Coast

With much of its preliminary work in planning, mapping, etc., completed, the Navy-owned ship Atlantic, with several hundred thousand dollars worth of scientific instruments on loan from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, left here yesterday to begin actual operations to learn something regarding shrimp and their habits and possibly to locate new shrimp trawling grounds at a considerable distance off the coast.

About all that is now known regarding shrimp is that they spawn along the coast, reach a considerable size on grounds that are now known and can be used for trawling. After that, they are supposed to cease spawning, move further offshore and remain until they die or are devoured by other residents of the deep.

These off the coast shrimp that no longer spawn and which also no longer contribute to shrimp production, are called jumbos by reason of their size. During past seasons a local boat has occasionally caught a bushel or so of the highly prized jumbos, but most of them have gone to waste because their habitation has been unknown.

The chief task for the Atlantic will be to locate places where the jumbos stay, supposedly at quite a distance offshore. A necessary part of the work will be in making a close study of the ocean bottom and chart the places where the boatmen can operate without having their nets torn up by wreckage and rocks.

William A. Ellison, widely known North Carolina geologist and biologist, is in active charge of the work. Mr. Ellison has put in many years at exploration for oil and in various scientific research work.

As students at Duke University, Mr. Ellison and Mrs. R. H. Holden of Shallotte were classmates.

Brunswick Business Men Planning Market

Cooperative Effort Planned For Establishment Of Auction Somewhere In Shallotte Community

SELECTION OF SITE CONSIDERED

Possibility That This Effort May Result In Handling All Kinds Of Farm Produce Later On

A committee of five prominent Brunswick county farmers made preliminary examinations toward selecting a site for a livestock auction sale market at Shallotte Saturday. Several attractive locations were gone over by the committee composed of D. B. Frink, Houston Hewett, Claude Gore, O. P. Bellamy and W. B. Stalander.

The forming of a corporation and the construction of the market seems according to J. E. Cooke, cashier of the Shallotte branch of the Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company. Mr. Cooke stated that all of the members of the committee and farmers throughout the sections were enthusiastic at the prospects of establishing the market.

One valuable feature of such a market lies in the encouragement that it will give to greater production of cows and hogs, two products that can be made very profitable with better marketing facilities. Plans for this market are that it shall be cooperative. It will be owned and directed by the farmers themselves. The immediate preliminary steps are to secure a charter, set stock for funds necessary for the purchase of the site and the construction of buildings and pens. The stockholders will elect a board of directors and other officials from among themselves.

Many of the farmers interested see in the auction market a big step towards other things needed in Brunswick. Ultimately the corporation (Continued On Page Four)

Funeral Sunday For Mrs. Marran

Member Of Prominent Southport Family Died Friday Following Brief Illness; Laid To Rest In Southport Cemetery

Mrs. Mable Price Marran, prominent resident of Southport, died here Friday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. G. Wells. Mrs. Marran was 74 years of age and had been ill for only a few days.

Funeral services were held from the Sacred Heart Catholic church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, with burial following in the old Southport cemetery. Father Joseph Mundell had charge of the services.

A member of one of Southport's oldest families, Mrs. Marran is survived by one brother, V. H. Price; by two daughters, Mrs. Claude Chadwick of Swansboro and Mrs. W. G. Wells of Southport. Two grandchildren also survive.

Active pallbearers were: Rudolph Sanders, Richard Brendle, James Frazer, J. A. McNeil, H. T. St. George and Dan Harrelson. Honorary pallbearers were, J. B. Church, R. L. Thompson, W. M. Hayes, R. Will Davis, Chas. E. Gause, Robert St. George, J. J. Loughlin, Lr. Landis Brown, Wilbur Doshier, James A. Price, James S. Craig, D. M. Davis and Albert Doshier.

Will Sell Beach Lots At Auction

Goldston Brothers Twin Auctioneers Will Offer 50 Long Beach Building Lots To Highest Bidder Monday

The first big auction sale of building lots in Brunswick county in many years is scheduled for Long Beach at Southport on Monday, March 29. This Easter Monday sale is so disposed of 50 choice building lots owned by G. V. Barbee and will be conducted by the Goldston Brothers, twin land auctioneers of Sanford.

Here much of the time during the past two weeks making preparations, Herbert and Johnnie Goldston, the auctioneers, are very much pleased at the outlook for this sale and the prospects (Continued On Page Four)

Life Sentence For Shallotte Negro Murderer

Scoper Gause Convicted Of Slaying Of H. Jim Williamson, Prominent Shallotte White Farmer In February, 1946

LOW MENTALITY SAVES GAUSE LIFE

Negro Had Previously Been Sentenced To Gas Chamber Only To Be Saved By Second Trial

For the second time Leon (Scoper) Gause, Shallotte negro, was convicted in the New Hanover Superior court last week of the murder of H. Jim Williamson, Shallotte white farmer, and was sentenced to serve the balance of his life in State Prison. He was taken to Raleigh Saturday morning by New Hanover officers to begin serving his sentence.

The first trial for Gause brought a sentence of death. On the ground that there was an error in the charge of the presiding judge to the jury, the Supreme court granted a new trial.

The killing of Williamson occurred in February, 1946. He had trouble with Gause, who was drinking, one Saturday afternoon. Later that night while he was in his sitting room with his wife shelling peanuts for planting, Gause fired at him with a shot gun through the living room window. Williamson lived but a few minutes. Gause fled and was captured at the end of a three-day hunt, in which several hundred people participated.

While the killing of Williamson is credited with having been cold blooded murder by those familiar with the circumstances, the obvious low mentality of Gause saved him from death. Unless he is pardoned he will spend the remainder of his life behind bars.

A number of Shallotte people, neighbors of Williamson, who seen Saturday, expressed themselves as being dissatisfied with last week's verdict.

Cemetery Will Be Cleaned Up

Work Of Straightening Up Old Southport Cemetery Being Supervised By Mrs. Helen Bragaw

Under the direction of Mrs. Helen G. Bragaw, who is giving voluntary supervision to the job, a force of three men began a much needed cleaning off and restoration of the old Southport cemetery Monday.

A survey has revealed that 27 of the gravestones in this cemetery are down. In addition the yearly crop of weeds and trash have left a very unsightly appearance. Mrs. Bragaw stated Monday that no favors will be shown. It is planned to give the lowly and unknown graves just as much consideration as any of those that are looked after monthly by families and friends.

Following the replacing of all headstones and cleaning off, a highly concentrated weed destroying solution will be used to destroy this year's crop of weeds.

The cemetery is a large one and filled as it is with oak trees and graves, the task of putting it into shape will be a lengthy and costly one. Relatives and friends of persons buried there and who are interested in the graves and graveyard having proper attention are urged to rally to the support of the Southport woman. Either checks or direct payments may be made to her. It is estimated that about \$300.00 will be needed.

Organize P.-T.A. At Waccamaw

Organizational Meeting Attended By Mrs. Belton Thompson, District President, Of Whiteville

The Waccamaw Parent-Teacher Association was reorganized at a meeting of teachers and patrons at a meeting held on Monday night of last week in the auditorium of the school.

The devotional was conducted by Rev. Edward Ulrich. This was followed by a skit called "Gypsy Magic," given by the library club under the direction of Mrs. Merle Bennett, the librarian.

Following the program Mrs. Belton Thompson, P.T.A. District Director of Whiteville, gave a very interesting talk on (Continued On Page Four)



W. B. KEZIAH

Our ROVING Reporter

During the middle war days Daniel S. Grant of New York and Lon Rogers of Chicago, were here about two months, getting permission of land owners for the use of their lands for army maneuvers. Both acquired a strong liking for Brunswick county people and were popular in return.

The war moved on and finally ended. Grant returned from somewhere overseas to his home in New York. Rogers returned to his home in Chicago. Starting when they were here both the New Yorker and Chicago man have been continuous subscribers to The State Port Pilot. This week a letter from Grant with a check for the renewal of both his papers' subscription, had this to say: "I had quite a bit of difficulty this winter, with mother and dad both being ill and the loss of one of my factories by fire, but in spite of this, don't

be surprised to see me rolling into Southport, my 'hometown' some afternoon to spend a couple of weeks." Our good friend, Clarence Montgomery, of Leland dropped in on us at the office Wednesday and renewed the old friendship by handing us a cigar. A year or two ago when we often called at Leland Clarence was always ready with a handful of this produce. We are always glad to see Clarence, not because of the cigars so much as the fact that he is a very fine fellow.

Residents of the states of New Jersey and New York are exceeding those of all other states in making inquiries regarding Brunswick county. Some few are merely tourists. The greatest number are inquiring about lands (continued on page two)