

## FRANKLIN MOB LYNCHES NEGRO

Take Prisoner, Guilty Of  
Axe Slaying, Away From  
Sheriff John Moore

### HUNDREDS VISIT SCENE

Avenge the brutal murder of a respected Franklin county farmer, a mob of unmasked men took a negro prisoner from Sheriff John P. Moore and two deputies on Tuesday at noon, carried him to within half a mile of where three hours before he had chopped off the head of Charles G. Stokes, and lynched him.

While the battered body of the negro swung from a scrub oak, hundreds of persons, a number of them from Warren county, visited the scene where Roosevelt "Sweat" Ward hanged for the murder of the 67-year-old farmer of the Epson neighborhood.

The ride that resulted in losing the prisoner to the mob began about 11:40 o'clock from Louisburg after it became apparent that feeling was running high against the negro, being held in the county jail, and that a mob was gathering.

News spread quickly of the atrocities of the negro, a native of Franklin county but who had been living in Norfolk and only recently returned. Apparently gone suddenly insane, he began his mad but brief career in violence before a crowd when Spurgeon Ayscue, a white man, gave him a lift in his car. Ward struck Ayscue over the head with a pop bottle. Ayscue got the negro out of his car near the home of Mr. Stokes, who lived near the place occupied by Ward's family and obtained a warrant from Justice of the Peace O. B. Frazier against the negro for assault with a deadly weapon.

It was to serve this warrant that A. A. Fuller, sworn in as a special (Continued on Page 8)

## Mutilated Body Is Found On Track

Littleton, July 31.—Charged with the murder of William Alston, 25-year-old negro whose body was mutilated when it was struck by a Seaboard Airline freight train near Darden's Lumber Company on Sunday night, three negroes are being held in the Halifax county jail without bond to face trial at the August term of Superior court, which convenes at Halifax on August 12.

Those charged with the crime are Wilson Lee, Willie Mae Arrington and Annie Belle Arrington. In addition to this trio, Haywood Shearin and Minnie West, also negroes, are being held under \$100 bonds each for their appearance as material witnesses. Unable to post their bonds, they were carried to jail.

The negro, it was said, had been drinking, and it was thought at one time that he fell asleep on the track, but a thorough investigation on the part of authorities led them to believe that Alston was murdered and placed on the rails to thwart suspicion.

The hearing was held Tuesday before Magistrate J. R. Kirkland, who found probable cause and bound the three negroes over to Superior court.

## Miss Leach Issues Warning To Boys

A note of warning to news boys is sounded this week by Miss Lucy Leach, county welfare officer, who points out that a good many of the lads are violating the Child Labor Laws by selling papers without permits.

"It will be just too bad for them," she said, "if a field worker from the Department of Labor comes here and checks up on those who are working without permits." Employment certificates, or permits, may be obtained from Miss Leach by boys qualified to do this work.

### MUST REGISTER

All relief clients who have not registered in the Reemployment Office will not be eligible for work when work starts under the new program, announcement was made from the office, which is located in the upper story of the Dameron building at Warrenton, this week.

### Grand Exalted Ruler



COLUMBUS, O. . . . Judge James T. Hallinan of the New York Supreme Court (above), an Elk for a quarter of a century, is now the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, unanimously elected here.

## Woman Killed In Automobile Wreck Near Steel Bridge

One young woman was killed, another was injured critically and three young men were hurt when two automobiles collided near Steel Bridge on Friday night.

Miss Paralee Thomas, 30, of Alabama was the young woman who died in the wreck. Her body was taken to an undertaking establishment in Henderson.

The injured, who were taken to a hospital in Henderson, are J. Arthur Branch of Chapel Hill, Miss Virginia Poovey, 20, of Charlotte, and Sam Jenkins of Franklin, Va. While all of them suffered painful and severe cuts, they are expected to recover, according to reports reaching here Saturday from Henderson.

The driver of the second car, Thomas Willard Shaw of Baltimore, Md., and Charlotte, N. C., was arrested by a Virginia state officer on a charge of manslaughter and later released under bond of \$100. Suffering minor injuries he went to a hospital in South Hill where he spent the night.

The car in which the party of four was traveling was going north, and is understood to have been en route for Virginia Beach for a week end outing, while the Shaw car was traveling south towards Norlina.

Miss Thomas was a student at the University of North Carolina summer school. Branch, most seriously hurt of the three carried to the hospital in Henderson, is a brother of Johnny Branch, former University of North Carolina football star.

## Scoggin Motor Co. Incorporated

The Scoggin Motor Company of Warrenton was incorporated this week with an authorized capital stock of \$25,000 and subscribed stock of \$10,000, the latter being held by Mrs. Kate P. Scoggin, Miss Katherine H. Scoggin, and J. P. Scoggin of Warrenton.

At the same time the Scoggin Chevrolet Company of Henderson was incorporated with an authorized capital stock of \$50,000, and subscribed stock of \$20,000, the latter being held by G. R. Scoggin, Mrs. Thomas Shearin and J. P. Scoggin of Warrenton.

The certificates of incorporation, which were filed in the office of Stacey W. Wade, Secretary of State, licenses both concerns to buy, sell and otherwise deal in new and used automobiles.

## Littleton Theatre Will Open Today

Littleton's new Haliwar Theatre, under the management of J. H. Boyd III, will have a gala opening on Friday night, August 2.

"Every Night At Eight," a Paramount picture starring George Raft and Alice Faye, is the feature. It is being shown in Littleton for the first time in the entire South. It opens at the Paramount Theatre in New York City on the same date. Reports from the West Coast say that this is Mr. Raft's best picture. He is ably supported by a big cast, including Patsy Kelly, Walter Catlett, the Three Rallos Rogues and Frances Langford. This is the first motion picture to take advantage of the new craze for amateur radio programs. In addition to this feature, there will be "Moans and Groans," a (Continued on Page 4)

## Over \$1,000 Is Taken In By Two Whiskey Stores

More than \$1,000 worth of liquor, wine and gin was sold in Warren county last week by the two stores set up by the Control Board, it was learned yesterday.

The bulk of the sales transpired at Warrenton where revenue from alcoholic beverages passed over the counter amounted to \$988.00. Sales this week have been lighter than last week.

More than twice as much liquor was sold here last Saturday than any other day since the store opened on July 22; however, there was no evidence of drunkenness on the streets. Officer Lee Wilson said that not a single arrest was made Saturday and that the crowd on the streets was unusually well behaved.

### WHISKEY STORES MUST CLOSE AT 6 O'CLOCK

It is illegal for liquor stores to remain open after 6 o'clock in the evening, according to a ruling received here this week from Attorney General A. F. Seawell.

The ruling of the attorney general came by request after difference of opinion had arisen over the wording of the Pasquotank Act, which states in one paragraph that stores "shall be closed on Sundays, election days and days established as legal holidays, and on week days between six o'clock p. m. and nine o'clock a. m." and in another paragraph "shall open said stores after nine o'clock in the morning and close them at six o'clock p. m., unless otherwise ordered by the board."

Stating that he could see no conflict in the two sections, the attorney general said: "The law intended positively to prevent any sales between 6 o'clock p. m. and 9 o'clock a. m.; as between 9 o'clock a. m. and 6 o'clock p. m. the hours of sale may be regulated by the control board."

## Coroner, Summoned To Scene, Fails To Find A Corpse

Coroner Jasper Shearin found no corpse when he rode into Norlina yesterday morning before light to hold an inquest over the body of one of the four negroes reported to have been killed at 12:25 o'clock when the Pointiac in which they were riding was struck by a truck of the Epes Transport Co. of Durham at the intersection of highways Nos. 58 and 1.

When the truck crashed into the automobile the force of the impact demolished the car and seriously injured the negroes, but none of them were found dead when the coroner and Deputy Roy Shearin arrived at the scene.

Following the accident, Deputy Shearin was notified that one of the negroes was dead, another was not expected to live, and requested to bring the Coroner of Warren county with him.

When the deputy and coroner arrived at the scene they found that all the negroes had been injured and that two of them were (Continued on page 8)

## Masons To Meet At Franklinton

A district meeting of the Lodges of the 19th Masonic District A. F. and A. M. will be held in Franklinton on Wednesday, August 7, with the Franklinton Lodge as host for the occasion, announcement was made this week.

Grand Master Chas. B. Newcomb of Wilmington, Grand Secretary John H. Anderson of Raleigh and other Grand Lodge officers will be present, it was said.

Officers of the various lodges will meet at 5 p. m. for an afternoon conference, and at 7 p. m. a barbecue dinner will be served. The evening meeting will be held at 8 o'clock. Grand Master Newcomb will be heard at this time and the Master Masons degree will be conferred upon a candidate from Louisburg Lodge No. 413.

Lodges of the 19th district are located at Franklinton, Louisburg, Epsom, Youngsville, Henderson, Norlina, Warrenton and Littleton. Harry Walker of Norlina is D. D. G. M. of the district and will preside over the meeting. All Master Masons are invited.

## LITTLETON MAN IS STRUCK WITH HOE

John Alston In Critical Condition; Frank Lancaster Denied Bond; Jailed

### HEARING IS POSTPONED

Littleton, July 31.—John Alston, prominent lumberman and farmer of near Littleton, lies in the Roanoke Rapids hospital in a critical condition as the result of injuries he sustained on Friday afternoon when he was struck across the head with a weed hoe in the hands of Frank Lancaster, farmer of the Odell section.

After Mr. Alston had been attacked by Mr. Lancaster he crawled back into his car and drove into Littleton, a distance of five or six miles, where he fell into a state of unconsciousness from which he has not rallied.

Reports reaching here from the hospital, where he was carried immediately after arriving at Littleton, are to the effect that his condition is grave and that in the event he recovers the use of his body that he will probably suffer from mental disorders the remainder of his life. The blow which he received from Mr. Lancaster, it was said, fractured his skull and caused paralysis to set in.

Following the assault Mr. Lancaster was arrested and placed under bond of \$1000. He was later taken into custody and brought to the Warren county jail where he is being held without bond until a preliminary hearing is held. The hearing was expected to be held before Judge W. W. Taylor in Recorder's court on Monday morning, but Solicitor Phippen asked that it be postponed until the results of Mr. Alston's injuries are known. This met with the approval of counsel for Mr. Lancaster, Frank H. Gibbs, and was sanctioned by the court. The hearing is scheduled to be held either today (Friday) or Monday morning.

The assault upon Mr. Alston was attributed to anger which was born several years ago during the construction of a house and kindled into action more recently over the threshing of wheat for Mr. Alston's brother, Bob Alston. It was stated that Mr. Alston gave Mr. Lancaster the contract for constructing a house several years ago and before the building was entirely completed Mr. Lancaster left the job. The carpenter, it was said, claimed that Mr. Alston liked by \$10 of paying him all his money, while Mr. Alston contended that inasmuch as he did not finish the job and it was necessary to employ another carpenter that he did not owe him the \$10.00.

Recently, the story goes, Mr. Lancaster got Bob Alston to thresh out some wheat for him, and when the time for settlement came Mr. Lancaster told Mr. Alston that his brother owed him \$10 and that he could get the money from him. Mr. Bob Alston is credited with having stated that he had nothing to do with that matter and insisted that he be paid for his work. Mr. Lancaster refused, it was said, and the wheat thresher got out claim and delivery papers for his toll of wheat. Friday afternoon Mr. Lancaster stopped Mr. Alston as he was driving his car and the two men had some words, it was said. According to reports, Mr. Alston started to step out of his car and Mr. Lancaster crashed him across the head with a weed hoe.

## Charles Lee Terrell Is Brought Home

Charles Lee Terrell, who has been critically ill for several weeks, was brought to the home of his mother, Mrs. B. P. Terrell, on Sunday from Washington, D. C., where he was in a hospital for some time. The trip was made in the T. V. Allen ambulance with Pettis Terrell and Norman Novell. They were also accompanied to Warrenton by Miss Edith Terrell of New York, who has been with her brother since his illness in Washington, and Mrs. Jeff Terrell of Washington. Mr. Terrell's condition is thought to be somewhat better since his arrival here.

Miss Grace Wagner is spending several days at Atlantic City. Mr. C. N. Williams of Richmond was a visitor at Warrenton yesterday.

### Another Astor Heir



P.A.S. NEW YORK . . . Mrs. John Jacob Astor 3d., (above), is the mother of a new Astor heir, a son being born last week. Mrs. Astor is the former Ellen Tuck French, whose marriage to young Astor was one of the big social events of 1934.

## Bright Urges Growers To Save Second Leaves

Tobacco barns of Warren county are running full blast now as farmers of this section toil from the wee hours of the morning until far in the night harvesting the golden weed.

The tobacco crop this year is one of the best that the county has experienced in many seasons, however the leaf is ripening unusually fast and some producers are having a hard time getting one barn cured before another has ripened too much.

Bob Bright, county agent, said this week that some farmers are making a mistake trying to save all their tobacco when the crop is ripening faster than they can handle it. He advised that the first leaf be sacrificed in favor of the second when both are ready for the barn at the same time.

"If the first leaf on the stalk is too ripe to cure properly, it is better to leave this and start on the second leaf than to house it and have the second leaf too ripe before the first is cured," the county agent opined. "If every leaf is taken, in cases where the crop is maturing faster than it can be handled, farmers will find that they have gone all the way up the tobacco stalk curing damaged tobacco. In some instances it is better to sacrifice a few leaves and catch up than to have the entire crop damaged by trying to save the first leaves," Mr. Bright said.

The rapid ripening of the 1935 crop of tobacco is attributed to the unusual amount of rain which fell in this area a few weeks ago.

## Exploding Bottle Causes Loss Of Eye

Littleton, July 30.—John Threewitts, employee of the Orange Crush Bottling Company, located here, lost his right eye Tuesday morning when a bottle exploded. Following the accident he was carried to a hospital at Roanoke Rapids where his injuries were attended.

The cause of the explosion or the details of the accident are not known.

## Warren Farm Debt Committee Meets

The Warren County Farm Debt Adjustment Committee met last Monday and considered four financially distressed farm debt cases.

Harry F. Watkins of Durham, state representative of the North Carolina Farm Debt Adjustment Commission, met with the committee and assisted in the disposal of these cases.

All financially distressed farmers of Warren county are urged to file their applications with this committee and avail themselves of this free and comparatively easy method of solving their financial problems.

The Warren County Committee, as appointed by Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus, are: A. S. Bugg of Warrenton, chairman; R. L. Capps of Arcola, vice chairman; Jesse Gardner of Churchill, secretary; and W. A. Delbridge of Norlina and E. H. Pinnell of Warrenton, members.

Miss S. Beatrice Overby serves as acting secretary for the Warren county committee and her office is located in the ERA headquarters at Warrenton.

Misses Willie and Alice Robinson are visiting in Candor.

## Opening of Schools Is Deferred Until September 23rd

The opening of all schools of Warren county has been deferred until September 23, following a ruling of the Warren County Board of Health yesterday. This action was said to be due to safeguard against the spread of infantile paralysis in the county and is subject to review by the board on September 1.

Last week the Board of Education had set September 2 as the opening date for negro elementary schools and September 9 as the date for the opening of all other schools, subject to ruling by the Board of Health.

Discretion of parents and guardians shall govern in the matter of allowing children to use public swimming pools and attend public gatherings. The Board of Health by unanimous vote agreed that the ban placed on these activities several weeks ago should be lifted.

The board adopted a resolution requiring that all school bus drivers shall be subject to a careful physical examination, which shall include a testing of the eyes. Such examinations shall be conducted by the practicing physicians of the county at a fee of \$1.50.

## No Active Cases Paralysis In County, Says Health Officer

There are no active cases of infantile paralysis in Warren county at present and the quarantines have been lifted from the homes of the seven persons who suffered from the disease during the recent epidemic which threatened to sweep the state, it was learned yesterday from Dr. G. H. Macon, county health officer.

With the exception of one negro child who still shows the effects of the disease, all of those who suffered attacks of paralysis recovered without deformities, Dr. Macon said.

The county health officer also stated that there are no cases of typhoid fever in Warren. He attributed the absence of this disease to the typhoid vaccination campaign which was conducted in this county last summer.

## Former Negro Register Deed Dies

Mansfield F. Thornton, respected negro and for 22 years Register of Deeds of Warren county, died at his home near Warrenton on Tuesday afternoon at the age of 85 years. Funeral services were conducted from his home yesterday afternoon.

"Uncle Mansfield," as he was known to the people of Warrenton, is believed to have held the place of Register of Deeds longer than any other man who ever filled the office in Warren county. He was elected on May 20, 1878, a successor to I. H. Bennett, and served until 1900 when the State Constitution was amended and J. A. Dowlin went into office. The records at the court house show that the last deed written by Thornton was on December 1, 1900.

MANSFIELD F. THORNTON  
Warren county has lost a good colored citizen in the death of Mansfield F. Thornton on July 30, 1935. From my observation he walked the path of rectitude and was esteemed by both white and colored.

For several years he held the office of Register of Deeds, and his conduct of that office met all the requirements of law, and his politeness and attention to his duties met with no complaint from the white citizens of the county who had business with the office.

As a citizen in private life since 1900, he has set a good example to his race. He retired to his farm, and did not eat the bread of idleness. He was faithful to his Church and his Sunday School, and until his last illness walked a mile each Sabbath morning to attend to his religious duties.

I think it can be said of Mansfield Thornton that he used the talents God had given him for which service the commendation of "Well done, good and faithful servant" closed the burden of old age in peace.

HOWARD F. JONES, SR.

## GEORGIA PRICES AROUND 20 CENTS

Opening Prices On Georgia Tobacco Market From 6 to 33 Cents

### RECEIPTS ARE HEAVY

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 1.—Bright leaf tobacco auction began today in 15 cities in South Georgia, with opening prices reported by warehouses at from 6 to 33 cents a pound and better.

Under the rush of heavy first day offerings and spirited bidding, exact figures on average prices were not available, but two warehousemen predicted the first day average would be around 20 cents a pound. For the 1934 season, the average for the state was 18.73 cents.

Heavy receipts were announced from all cities making early reports on sales. At some warehouses opening prices were reported slightly above first day's figures last year, and at others they were about the same.

First sales on two of Valdosta's four warehouses were reported at 22 and 25 cents a pound.

The state bureau of markets here said advices from the Red Warehouse at Douglas indicated first day prices there would average around 20 cents. The same warehouse said opening sales ranged from 6 to 33 cents.

The bureau said the Twin Brick Warehouse at Tifton gave opening prices at from 6 to 40 cents a pound, with the warehouse estimating a 21-cent average for the day.

The Hahira Tobacco Warehouse reported its first sale of a 96-pound pile of the loose leaf at 28 (Continued on page 8)

## No Cases Tried In Recorder's Court

No cases were tried in Recorder's court this week. Mrs. J. R. Harris was scheduled to face trial on a charge of obstructing a public out let, but her demand for a jury trial was responsible for this case being continued until next week.

At one time it looked as if Frank Lancaster, white man of Littleton charged with assaulting John Alston with a deadly weapon, would be given a hearing before Judge Taylor, but this was postponed until the extent of Mr. Alston's injuries are learned. It is expected that he will be given a hearing either Friday or Monday.

After disposing of these two matters for the time being, Solicitor Phippen went over the docket and ordered subpoenaed several persons who had been given suspended sentences provided they pay their fines and had not finished settling with the court.

## Rev. Arch Cree Dies At Louisville

The Rev. Arch Cree, formerly of this county and father-in-law of R. E. Davis of Creek, died at his home in Louisville, Ky., on Friday morning. He was 91-years-old and had been in feeble health for some time.

The Rev. Mr. Cree is remembered here by older residents, having at one time been the pastor of Gardner's church and having taught school at Littleton. He left Warren county approximately 20 years ago. His son, the Rev. Arch Cree of Salisbury, conducted services at the Methodist church at Warrenton for a week last summer.

Funeral services were conducted at Louisville on Saturday.

## Must Vaccinate Dogs This Week

Dogs of Fork township must be vaccinated against rabies this week, or else their owners must face the penalty of the law, Ben G. Tharrington, official vaccinator for that township, said yesterday.

While the law requires that all dogs be vaccinated, and ample notice of that fact has been given, Mr. Tharrington said, a number of citizens have failed to comply with the law. Unless this is done at once, warrants for their arrest will be issued early next week.

### BOBBITT REUNION

The annual reunion of the Miles Bobbitt family will be held at the home of Mrs. E. L. Harris at Inez on Sunday, August 4th.