

NEGRO, ARMED WITH REVOLVER, ROBS FARMER ON PUBLIC ROAD

W. D. Stapleford of Truitt's Has Exciting Experience Near Bridgeton

GINGER CAKE NEGRO GETS THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS

Posse Formed, Negro is Wounded and in Hiding—Bloodhounds Sent For

While returning to his home yesterday afternoon shortly after 3 o'clock and while near Bridgeton, W. D. Stapleford, who lives near Truitts and who conducts a mercantile business at that place, was waylaid by an unknown negro man at the point of a pistol and robbed of thirty-five dollars.

Mr. Stapleford came to New Bern about noon yesterday for the purpose of doing some trading. He visited a number of places and shortly before returning home asked a negro man to hold his horse while he went into a nearby store to make a purchase. The negro was the one who later attacked him and it is supposed that he saw the roll of currency in Mr. Stapleford's wallet and at once plotted to rob him.

A short time after leaving this store Mr. Stapleford started for home. The trip until after he had passed Bridgeton was uneventful.

When about three hundred yards from the old Fowler road, according to Mr. Stapleford's account of the affair, the negro came up from the rear and told Mr. Stapleford that if he did not give him his money he would kill him. The negro brandished his pistol in the other man's face and fired it but without pointing it directly at him.

The negro pulled out a round from the cart and raised it to strike the white man. The latter caught the blow on his arm and then the two clinched in a scuffle which lasted several minutes, the negro finally getting possession of Mr. Stapleford's money and making off at the top of his speed.

Posse is Formed
Mr. Stapleford hurried back to Bridgeton and reported the occurrence. A posse, headed by T. W. Holton, was quickly formed and started in pursuit.

In a little while they caught sight of the negro fifty yards away dodging behind some trees. He had his pistol in his hand and was showing plenty of fight. He fired at the posse and Mr. Holton returned the fire with a shot gun loaded with No. 6 shot. The negro stumbled. Mr. Holton fired several times in rapid succession and the last time the crack of the gun rang out the negro fell. He was now on the edge of the pocusin and darkness had fallen. As he was armed with what appeared to be automatic revolver and was apparently determined to fight to the limit, the possemen decided not to go into the pocusin in the dark after him, but, instead, to wait for day, guarding in the meantime the means of egress from the pocusin and not believing that he would attempt to go through the pocusin a distance of twelve miles to get to the station at Ashtons.

Sheriff Lane and Deputy Sheriffs Thomas Smith and J. W. Huff as soon as they were notified of the occurrence went to aid in the search. Last night Sheriff Lane ordered the bridge draws kept open so that the negro could not get back over into New Bern. The Fowler road was also guarded at the behest of the Sheriff.

Bloodhounds Coming.
The chief of police of Tarboro is on his way here with two bloodhounds which will be put on the trail of the fleeing negro. He should get here with the animals this morning. Sheriff Lane first telegraphed to Goldsboro to see if bloodhounds could be had there. There was none there. Then he tried Greenville and again was disappointed. On the third round Tarboro was tried and it was found that the chief of police had two hounds. He telephoned that he had about one hour to make an eighteen-mile auto trip to catch the Norfolk Southern train from Raleigh to Chocowinity, but thought he would have no trouble in catching it.

Description of Negro.
The negro who is believed to be a New Bern negro, is described by Mr. Stapleford as of ginger cake color, weighing about 150 pounds and thirty or thirty-five years of age.

Mr. Stapleford is at Bridgeton with relatives to be on hand for identifying the negro in case he is found as it is very likely he will be. The money taken consisted of one twenty dollar bill, one five dollar bill and eight or ten one dollar bills.

Officers Thus Far Have Failed To Capture Negro Who Waylaid Mr. Stapleford.

SEEN AT VARIOUS PLACES
Traces of Him On Norfolk Southern Railroad Between This City and Vanceboro.

After a search lasting all through the previous night Sheriff R. B. Lane yesterday morning called in his deputies who were engaged in a hunt for the negro who on Tuesday afternoon attacked W. D. Stapleford, a citizen of Truitts, near Bridgeton, and robbed him of thirty-five dollars.

It was thought at the time that the negro had stolen a boat, as one belonging to Archie Wallace was missed from its mooring on the east side of the river yesterday morning and was later found tied up at Union Point on this side of the river, and had come to New Bern. Later in the day the Sheriff received information that a negro answering the description of the fugitive, had arrived at the construction camp of the East Carolina Lumber Company who are building a tram road in Pamlico county and had asked for work. He was informed that no additional help was needed and continued on his way.

Late yesterday afternoon another telephone message was received by the Sheriff. This was from D. P. Whitford at Ashtons. Mr. Whitford stated that fugitive had been seen there and after inquiring about the schedule of the passenger trains passing that point left the town, presumably going to Vanceboro.

The authorities all along the line between New Bern and Washington have been notified to be on the lookout for

the fugitive and every effort will be made to apprehend him.

Mr. Stapleford, the victim of the assault and robbery, was yesterday feeling the effects of his encounter with the highwayman physically but will probably be completely recovered in a day or two.

Believing the fugitive would attempt to board the train en route to Norfolk at some point along the line, Sheriff Lane last night telegraphed the Chief of Police at Washington to send a man to Chocowinity and have him watch all trains arriving there. The Sheriff left on the midnight train for Chocowinity, intending to watch for the man at points along the line.

The chief of police of Tarboro failed to carry out his promise to come to New Bern with his bloodhounds. Nor did he send any message to Sheriff Lane explaining his failure to show up. Presumably he failed to make his arrangements to get to the Norfolk Southern railroad in time to catch the early train and then decided not to come at all.

HERE IN BEHALF OF WALKER ROAD
N. A. Purifoy Tries to Arouse Interest of Merchants in Thorougfare.

THE ROAD IS NOW PASSABLE
But More Work Will Have to Be Done to Conserve Effort Already Expended.

N. A. Purifoy, who lives on the Walker road in the eastern part of the county, was among the visitors in the city yesterday. Mr. Purifoy's main object yesterday was to work up some enthusiasm among the business men of the city in regard to putting the Walker road in such condition that it will be an incentive to the farmers living on the lower end, near the Beaufort county line, to come to this city to do their trading instead of going to some town in Beaufort county.

Mr. Purifoy says that during the past few months the citizens living along the road have done considerable work on it and have put it in passable condition but unless more work is done in the near future that which has been accomplished will be lost. The matter has been brought before the county commissioners and they have been asked to put a section of the convict force to work on it, but at the present time they have not seen fit to do this.

As the matter now stands the road is open to traffic and in such condition that vehicles can pass over it with ease but unless the work already done is made permanent the road will soon be in as bad condition as it was twelve months ago. At the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners they will be asked to put seven or eight of the convicts on the road and work until they complete it.

More Business at Local Express Office Than in First Three Weeks of 1912.
NO CUT RATES SEEM IN SIGHT
Express People Not a Bit Worried Over Introduction of New Postal Wrinkle.

According to a statement made yesterday by Z. V. Taylor, manager of the local office of the Southern Express Company, the new parcel post law has not in the least affected the business of this office.

Mr. Taylor says that his records show that during the past three weeks there has been a greater number of packages sent from and received in the local office than there was during the same period in 1912. When asked if he thought the Southern Express Company would cut their rates, he replied that he had received no information from headquarters in regard to any such proposed action and that he did not believe that such would be done.

"At times," said Mr. Taylor, "it is almost impossible for us to handle the amount of business with which we are favored. Especially is this true when there are unusually large shipments of fish and also on numerous occasions during the trucking season." Continuing, he said: "If the company lowers its rates it will cause congestion in the handling of shipments which will cause great loss to both the company and the shipper. The parcel post law is not hurting us because it has created a new class of business and a class we could not afford to handle."

Records kept at the local postoffice show that more than eight hundred packages have been received here via the parcel post route and more than a thousand have been sent out since January 1, 1913.

This One of the Live Questions Being Considered by the General Assembly
MATTER BEING DEBATED HERE
Strong Article Written in Behalf of Such a Law by Mt. Olive Citizen.

A live question before the General Assembly and one which is of great importance all over the State is that of the proposed Statewide stock law. Keen interest is felt here and there are many New Bern people who believe that such a law would be of great benefit to the State. One of those anxious to see the Legislature pass such a law hands us for publication the following written to the Raleigh News and Observer by H. G. Williamson of Mt. Olive.

"To the Editor: This letter is intended especially for every member of the General Assembly now in session, each one of whom I trust will read it carefully.

"It is my candid opinion that a State Wide Stock Law for North Carolina would benefit the people at large more than any law you can enact for our State designed to benefit all the people of North Carolina.

"I know by experience, where the stock law has been in operation for a good many years the farmers have more pork to sell and they have better stock. The stock law eliminates poor, scrubby stock, and also eliminates the usual aerie and trouble occasioned by poor fences and mischievous stock getting into neighbors' fields and causing injury and often lawsuits over some old mischievous cow or hog.

"As a matter of common justice, it is right for the man who pays out money for a farm to have to put a fence around it to keep out other neighbors' stock."

"No; I say it is not right. Every man who owns stock of any kind should be responsible for his own stock and should not be allowed to let them run at large, and a State wide stock law would reduce the fence tax at least 50 per cent.

"About two-thirds of our State now has a stock law. A great many counties in the State bought and paid for thousands of yards of wire fences. All this could be moved and used at the most definite points on the outside borders of the State and we could avoid using any fence at all on the borders of the coast and along large rivers. By doing this the cost will be very small and in two years our fence tax would be reduced fully one-half, and gates, all over the country, would be at an end. Hundreds of our small towns, under the present system, are compelled to have a fence around them like unto a hog pen.

"Now gentlemen of the General Assembly, if you will pass this law you will have enacted one of the most needed measures in our State, and you will receive praise from the mountains to the sea at the hands of 90 per cent of the people of North Carolina.

"I trust every editor who may see this article will copy the same in his paper and help to pass along the good work.

"In addition to the above, don't forget the dog law to protect the lives of the people from so many worthless curs going mad and causing so much trouble and pain in our land.

"Besides a good dog law would add a million dollars in tax to our Treasury or else would curtail a number of worthless dogs."

Divides Honors with New Bern
Decatur, Ill., Postoffice Also Receives Package of Skunk Hides

No longer does the local postoffice hold the distinction, if such it might be termed, of being the only office in the country through which a package containing skunk hides has passed via parcel post. Away out in Decatur, Ill., a similar package arrived in the postoffice and soon the office had been vacated and the package remained alone.

The following dispatch to the New York American from that place tells the tale of woe:

"Somebody threw a wrench into the smoothly running parcel post machinery at the Decatur postoffice to-day. It was a package of fresh skunk hides killed by a trapper on a rural route.

"Because fresh breezes were blowing in the country the rural route carrier was able to bring the parcel to Decatur, but as soon as he carried it into the building the clerks went out by another door. The parcel will be returned to the sender."

The express companies read with undisguised disgust the news that 6,000,000 parcels are going by parcel post every week.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

AGITATE STATE WIDE STOCK LAW
THIS BUILDING IS FIREPROOF
FAIR STOCK IS EASILY PLAGED
SOLVES THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

Scarcity of Labor Secret of Trouble Journal Correspondent at Thurman Surmises.
GOOD MEN VERY HARD TO GET
County Commissioners Get Gripe Rap In Connection With Central Highway Work.
(Special to the Journal)
Thurman Jan. 29—The weather for the past month has been fine for crop work and the farmers in this section have taken advantage of it by preparing their land for next season's crop.

Hog cholera, seems to be prevalent in this section but we hope to exterminate the disease in time to raise porkers for next winter.

The cotton crop was very short in this section. Last year's crop was not more than one-third of the yield compared to 1911.

Farm labor is scarce and the farmers cannot get good men at any price as they can get more for their labor in the timber industry. If labor is as hard to secure in all farming sections as it is in this section there is no need for further investigation as to the high cost of living.

The County Commissioners seem to have forgotten and forsaken the Great Central Highway in this part of the county. They had the convicts in No. 4 Township four weeks last fall and made nearly four hundred yards of passable road. It seems that they became discouraged with road building in this section and stopped operations. This road is a very important thoroughfare and the work it is hoped, will be resumed and completed.

John H. Smith and T. C. Andrews have moved from this place to Riverdale. E. H. Conner of Riverdale has moved to Thurman and will make this his home in the future.

Rev. F. C. Fulcher, pastor of the Methodist church at Riverdale, filled his regular appointment last Sunday and was greeted by a large congregation.

MADE SHORTAGE OF TELLER GOOD
FIVE AND TEN CENT STORE MAN COMES UP WITH EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
New York, Jan. 29—Frank W. Woolworth, head of a chain of five and ten cent stores and owner of the Woolworth Building, the tallest office building in the world, after he succeeded Bird S. Coler as President of the Guardian Trust Company gave \$80,000 to that institution to make good a shortage discovered in the accounts of a letter in December, 1905.

That Mr. Woolworth gave this check for this amount to prevent publicity on January 2, 1906, and afterward received about \$40,000 from other directors in repayment was disclosed when Charles E. Levy, who is suing the trust company for \$1,499.08, the balance due him on the refunding of his contribution filed a bill of particulars ordered by Supreme Court Justice Pease recently.

Mr. Levy says Mr. Woolworth announced that a State Bank Examiner discovered a shortage of about \$80,000 and that unless that amount were placed at once to the credit of the corporation the fact of the defalcation would be made public.

CHARITABLE BROTHERHOOD AT OLYMPIA SUSTAINS SERIOUS LOSS
(Special to the Journal)
Olympia, Jan. 28—C. D. Holton went to New Bern this morning to attend to some business matters.

We are glad to say that the majority of our citizens who have recently been on the sick list are fast improving.

Early last Sunday morning the building owned by the Charitable Brotherhood Lodge was destroyed by fire. The origin of the fire is unknown. The building was a valuable one and the loss falls heavily on the lodge.

Saturday night, last, some miscreant visited the premises of W. H. Whitehurst and cut open a number of sacks containing guano. Not satisfied with doing this they scattered much of the contents of the sacks on the ground. There is no clue as to who were the guilty parties.

The Olympia Iron Works, owned by C. B. Bunting, is putting out a quantity of work just at this time. A number of improvements have recently been made in the plant and it is now one of the most complete in the country.

John Tingle of Grantsboro was among the business visitors in our town yesterday.

KICKED BY MULE
John Campbell of Bridgeton was painfully injured yesterday morning when a mule owned by T. W. Holton kicked him on the leg. Mr. Holton had received a carload of horses and mules from the West on the previous night and Mr. Campbell, who is in the employ of the former gentleman, was unloading them. One of the animals became unruly and succeeded in planting one of his hoofs on Mr. Campbell's leg. It was at first thought that the limb was broken but an examination proved that the injuries consisted only of bruises.

Holidays are more pleasant in contemplation than in fact to most men.

NEGRO WORKMAN SEEN WITH LEATHER BAG LATER DISAPPEARS AND IS HEARD OF NO MORE
RUMORS OF BURIED TREASURE
Missing Man May Have Secured Hidden Hoard and Left For Parts Unknown.

Stories of buried treasure, of the hoards of miners and of vast sums of gold and silver hidden years ago, are rife on lower Metcalf street just at this time. The cause is the supposed discovery a few days ago of a large sum of money in the building, No. 13 Metcalf street, by a workman who at the time was engaged in assisting in the removal of the structure to a point further back from the street.

The building is known as the Dennis place, is owned by Mrs. C. W. Blanchard and was erected many years ago. Since that time it has sheltered many eccentric persons and it is generally supposed that one of these buried the money which is said to have been found. J. J. Scott & Son, co-ered house movers from Goldsboro, have charge of the work of removing the building and they had employed several colored men to assist them. During the time that the preliminary work was in progress, one of the men, who at the time was engaged in tearing down the foundation of one of the chimneys, was seen with a dust covered leather bag in his hand. The man's fellow workmen thought nothing of the incident and it would have passed entirely from their memory but for the fact that a short time later he left the premises and has not been seen since not even calling for the wages due him for his work.

No one saw the money supposed to have been found and its actual discovery is merely a matter of rumor but circumstances surrounding the case are leading many to believe that the workman did locate something of value whether money or jewels is a matter of speculation, and fear of detection caused him to refrain from returning to complete his work.

WORKING ON THE CASINO AT GHENT
CONTRACTORS WILL BE READY FOR OPENING BY MAY 1.
Several days ago the laying of foundations for the casino to be erected at Ghent Park was begun and since that time a large force of workmen have been engaged in the work of constructing this building. Monday morning another force of men began the work of extending the street car line to the park. This work will consume several days but will be rushed to completion on account of the fact that much of the material has been carried to the site over this line. The contractors who have the erection of the casino in charge say that it will be in readiness to be opened to the public on May 1.

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