

## Cross Roads Farmer Shot to Death at Home Sunday Night

### KILLED WITHOUT WARNING WHILE ON HIS PORCH

Frank Cox, a Neighbor, in Jail Here Charged With Killing Henry Jolly

### DENIES HE IS GUILTY

Cox Accused of Having Killed Jolly Because Latter Had Reported His Still

J. Henry Jolly, a farmer living in Cross Roads Township, this county, was instantly killed and John Taylor, jr., a neighbor, was struck about the face last Sunday night about 9:30 o'clock, as they stood on the porch at the Jolly home, by a load of shot said to have been fired by Frank Cox, alleged distiller in that community. Mr. Jolly's head was partly blown off and his brains were scattered by the gun's shot. The wounds inflicted on Mr. Taylor's face did not prove to be serious.

His life threatened earlier in the day, Mr. Jolly called Taylor to his home, asking that he stay with him as Cox was planning to take his life. Taylor had been in the house about an hour and a half when he decided to go to Everetts, about 3 miles away, for an officer. He was accompanied to the door by Mr. Jolly, and they had been there only a moment when, without warning, the killer shot down the man and hit Mr. Taylor with two shots.

Arrested in Dardens last night by Sheriff Roebuck and Deputy Grimes, Frank Cox denied the charge, offering one of the poorest alibis ever offered by a man facing a murder charge, according to officers. He was placed in the jail here last night, but up until noon today no preliminary hearing had been held.

Immediately following the killing, Coroner S. R. Biggs and Sheriff A. L. Roebuck were called and an investigation was started at once. Tracks leading from the Cox home corresponded with those leading from the place of the killing to the home of a negro, Frank Little, where they ended. This evidence led to the arrest of Little early this morning and made possible the collection of evidence that is believed will result in Cox's conviction. Prior to the negro's arrest, a coroner's jury, Messrs. J. S. Ayers, C. S. Hunter, C. B. Riddick, Lester Peel, G. W. Taylor, and J. R. Bullock, started an investigation and traced the deed to Cox.

Sworn statements, given the jury by Mrs. Jolly, her daughter, and John Taylor, jr., follow:

Statement of Mrs. Jolly: "Mr. Jolly, Margie, and I were at the hog lot feeding the hogs and saw Frank Cox coming toward the house with a gun. He came up to the hog lot where we were, and he said, 'Well, I had the hell beat out of me today.' Mr. Jolly said, 'What's the matter?' Cox stated that he had lost \$67 and accused Mr. Jolly of being the cause of his losing it still and stepped back and said that he was going to kill Mr. Jolly. He drew his gun on Mr. Jolly with threats to shoot him. Mr. Jolly ran into the bushes. Mr. Jolly's daughter and I prevailed on him not to shoot him. He also threatened to shoot me. He then left, going toward the road. This was about 7:45 p. m. When we came back to the house we saw Mr. John Taylor coming and stopped him. Mr. Jolly told Mr. Taylor that Frank Cox had threatened his life and asked him to please stay with him, which Mr. Taylor did. About 9:30 p. m. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Jolly were on the front porch. Some one shot Mr. Jolly and killed him. The

### PEOPLE SLOW TO LIST TAXES

Not More Than 65 Per Cent in Town Have Listed; Friday Last Day

One of the most noticeable features in the listing of property for the 1929 taxation, according to Mr. W. T. Meadows, local list-taker, is the small amount of household and kitchen furniture being placed on the books. "It might show a big increase before the task is completed next Friday, but up until yesterday, I believe every article coming under that classification could be packed in any one of the smallest store buildings on Main Street," Mr. Meadows stated.

Yesterday was a dull day with the lists, and it is practically evident that many owners will be subject to a penalty for not listing their property in the period specified by law. The time for listing expires next Friday, and it is estimated that hardly more than 60 or 65 per cent of the taxable property has been listed at this time.

shot came from the front porch. I was standing in the hall."

Lola Jolly corroborated her mother's statement.

John Taylor's evidence: "I came by the Jolly home about 8 p. m. Mrs. Jolly called me to come to the house. Mr. Jolly asked me to come into the house and stay with him as Frank Cox had threatened his life. I stayed about an hour and a half and started to leave and was on the front porch and Mr. Jolly was on the front porch facing me. I was about three feet from him when some one shot Mr. Jolly from the end of the porch about 20 feet away and killed him. I carried Mr. Jolly into the house. Several of the shots struck me on the side of the face."

With this evidence in hand, officers carried on an all-night search for Cox, but no trace of him was to be had until late yesterday when he gave himself over to officers at Dardens, stating then that he had heard they were after him, and as he was not guilty he wanted to have the officers examine him. Shortly after surrendering, Cox was questioned by Coroner Biggs and officers in the county jail here. Maintaining his innocence with much fervor, Cox, during the quizzing, admitted that he went to the hog lot at the Jolly home about dark Sunday, that he did not threaten the life of Jolly nor that of Mrs. Jolly. "I only went there to frighten Jolly," he stated. From there, according to his statements, Cox went to a near-by woods, where he slept until about 3 o'clock the following morning. Finishing his sleep on the ground, he then went to the home of Frank Little to inquire if his wife had been there looking for him. Leaving the Little home Cox stated he "beat around" first one place and then another, finally going from the highway at Allen's filling station between here and Everetts to the railroad and down that to the Cullipier place, and from there to Will Bland's home on the Wild Cat road. He left his gun at the Bland home and had Bland to carry him to his brother-in-law's home in Angewtown, where he had carried his wife and children Saturday. He claimed his first knowledge of the murder was gained from Bland at his home. In a later statement he said he had first heard of it from Frank Little.

Cox had very little to say, but his evidence led to the arrest of Little as a material witness. Officers found the gun at the Bland home late last night, and sworn statements were secured in which it was stated that Cox had acknowledged shooting Jolly.

Taking an oath, Little stated to Chief of Police Daniel that on the morning of May 27, Cox went to his home and asked for a pair of shoes; that he gave him an old pair of slippers worn by Cox when arrested. "I gave him the slippers and saw him stoop down as if to remove his tennis shoes. When it came light I saw where he had walked off barefooted," Little concluded.

About two weeks ago Cox's liquor still was captured, and he accused Jolly of reporting it to the officers. Since that time Cox had threatened Jolly's life, but not until last Sunday did he carry the threats directly to the man.

Cox will be tried in the superior court convening here next month. Jolly, age 49 years, was a native of Beaufort County. He married a Miss Williams, of this county, and leaves by that marriage seven children, and one daughter by a second union. Funeral services are being held this afternoon by Rev. R. F. Pittman, of the Free Will Baptist Church, interment following in the Mount Zion cemetery.

### REVIVAL IS BEING WELL ATTENDED

Rev. B. Duke Critcher In Charge of Services at Methodist Church

Beginning here last Sunday morning, the revival in progress at the Methodist church is attracting large crowds, and present indications point to a very successful meeting. Rev. B. Duke Critcher, one of Williamston's native sons, but now a pastor in the Oxford circuit, M. E. Church, is conducting the services, and is delivering a series of splendid sermons.

A practicing attorney in the local courts for some time, Rev. Critcher, two years ago, gave up his practice and entered the ministry, and during that time he has firmly established himself in the work of the Church. He served as pastor of the Whitakers Methodist Church and is now connected with the Oxford circuit.

His sermons here are being well received by large and attentive crowds each evening at 8:00 o'clock. Prayer meetings are being held each morning at 10 with much success. A special service for young people has been announced for next Saturday evening, Rev. Mr. Critcher urging that all the boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 20 years attend.

The meeting will continue into next week, according to present plans.

### POLICE HAVING A QUIET TIME

Fewer Warrants Issued in Last Few Months Than For Some Time

"Quiet times are certainly in evidence in our local court," remarked Mayor Robert L. Coburn yesterday morning when he was asked several questions relative to cases on docket for trial.

"We haven't had a case other than trivial ones in some time now," the mayor stated. Hardly more than \$20, in fines, have been collected in six months, Mr. Coburn pointed out, indicating general good behavior here as well as an unfavorable status in the financial world.

The town head's statements were readily verified by Chief of Police Daniel, a party to the conversation. According to the chief, fewer warrants have been issued during the past several weeks than has been the case for a similar period, since he entered upon the duties of the office. Other than a few automobile law violations, no cause for arrests has presented itself, the officer declared.

### BUILDING OIL PLANT AT RIVER

Sinclair Company Erecting Three Tanks There; To Remove Tanks Uptown

The third gasoline and oil distribution plant is being constructed on the river frontage here, the Sinclair Oil company installing three tanks near the Standard Fertilizer Company's plant. The plant will have a storage capacity of 50,000 gallons of oil, one tank of 20,000 gallons capacity being placed for regular gasoline; another of 15,000 gallons capacity for a second type of gasoline and a third, 15,000 gallons capacity, for kerosene.

Upon the completion of the river plant, the company will remove its uptown tanks and receive all its products for distribution in Bertie and Martin counties by water, it was stated yesterday by Chas. James, a representative of the company.

According to Mr. Earsley, foreman for the company, of Atlanta, the plant will be ready for use in about four weeks.

### Scoutmaster and 8 Scouts Planning Trip to Reunion

Mr. Wheeler Martin with eight of the local Boy Scouts is planning to attend the Confederate reunion in Charlotte next week, where they will assist in caring for the veterans. Five hundred Boy Scouts from all sections of the State are planning to attend the convention and aid in the care of the old soldiers.

The boys' expenses will be paid with the exception of transportation charges. According to present plans, the boys with their leader will make the trip through the country on a coupe with a light trailer attached. It might be, however, that they will get the use of a truck. They will leave either late Sunday evening and camp over night or leave early Monday morning, making the trip in one day.

### MAKE PLANS FOR CLUBS' OUTING AT CAMP LEACH

Miss Sleeper Asks Those Going to Notify Her At Once

BEGINS NEXT WEEK

Home Agent Gives List of Articles To Be Taken to Camp; Lasts From June 3 to June 8

In a letter addressed to 4-H club members in this county, Miss Lora E. Sleeper, home agent, is urging all the boys and girls who are planning to go to Camp Leach next week to notify her at once that she might make proper arrangements to care for them. This is very important, Miss Sleeper stated last night, as transportation and other arrangements must be made a few days in advance. No girl will be eligible to take the trip unless she informs the agent that she wants to go before Monday.

"The agent's letter follows: 'It is getting on toward camping time, June 3rd to June 8th, and so far few girls have let me know whether they wish to go or not. I am very anxious for all the names of girls going to camp so that definite plans can be made. There is less than a week left and much has to be done before Monday, the time for leaving. Following is a list of things each of the girls should carry: 1-2 dozen oranges, apples or bananas, 1-4 box of cocoa, 1 box macaroni, 1-2 pound of cheese, 1-2 dozen Irish potatoes, 1-2 dozen sweet potatoes; 3-4 pound of butter, 10 eggs, 2 pounds of meat, 1-2 box dry cereal, 1 pound of sugar, 1 cabbage, 1 small can tomatoes, 2 cans of peas, 1 can fruit, 1 box crackers, 1 can milk, 1 loaf bread, 1-2 dozen lemons, 1 plate, cup, knife, fork and spoon, sheets, blanket and quilt.

"We will have to use school trucks this year, or if you have someone in your neighborhood with a car who would carry four or five, I would appreciate very much knowing. 'If you are going to camp please send in your fee of \$2.50 and if there is a surplus it will be refunded to you. When you write me whether you can go I can go ahead planning on trucks, drivers, etc. Do not delay. If you have written in that you were going, this does not apply to you; with the exception of the fee.

Girls cannot go to camp unless two garments have been completed or an equivalent in room improvement. Boys cannot attend camp unless they have some chickens which they are taking care of.

A good program is being planned for boys and girls. Two men, who can swim, have volunteered to go; this year and they will have charge of the boys.

### ABOUT THROUGH BUILDING LINES

Power Company Will Complete New Distribution System in Few Days

The rebuilding of the town's electric distribution system will be completed within the next two or three weeks, according to those in charge of the work. While a number of customers in certain parts of the town are being served from the new equipment at the present time, all outlets will connect with the new lines within the next three weeks, it was stated by Engineer Parker yesterday.

Material making up the old system will be junked in its entirety, and the system is being modernized in every particular. A number of workmen has been here during the past several months taking a part in the rebuilding program, but, as a whole, progress has been very slow. During that time service to light and power consumers has been interrupted very little.

Frank Jones, an employee of the company, narrowly escaped death yesterday afternoon when he made contact with a high-powered wire near the river. He tore himself away from the wire, sending out a yell that was heard a great distance away. He was removed badly frightened but no seriously hurt.

### Regular Luncheon of Kiwanis Tomorrow

A regular meeting of the Kiwanis Club will be held tomorrow. Rev. B. Duke Critcher, who is conducting the revival at the Methodist Church here, and Miss Guffy, State health nurse in charge of the clinic being held here, will be special guests.

All members are urged to be present.

Visiting This Week  
Miss Pauline Lippard, of Statesville, is visiting her cousin, Mr. J. T. Troutman, and Mrs. Troutman at their home on Main Street.  
Here from Tarboro  
Dr. G. E. Weeks, of Tarboro, visited here yesterday.

### Clinic Gets Under Way Here; Care for 25 Patients Daily

Assisted by a corps of trained nurses, Dr. J. T. Sawyer performed the first operations this morning in the tonsil and adenoid clinic in progress here this week. Before seven o'clock this morning, many mothers and fathers from all parts of the county assembled with their children at the graded school building, the clinic headquarters, to await the arrival of the clinic personnel.

Twenty-five little tots were selected from the large group gathered at the building for treatment today. An equal number will be chosen tomorrow and on through Friday, the last day of the clinic, the doctors and nurses will aid

the children in a search for better health.

Mrs. H. P. Guffy, State Health Department nurse, who did preliminary work for the clinic last fall had everything in readiness for the doctors and nurses to start their activities this morning. A number of the children selected this morning had been operated on by noon today, and tomorrow morning they go to their homes to give the beds over to 25 more subjects.

The clinic, thoroughly systematic in its operation, is progressing very nicely, the nurses and doctors rendering every aid possible in caring for the little children.

### THINK COUNTY TO GET \$54,000

Equalization Fund Allotments To Be Made Next Month

While it is generally understood that Martin county will receive \$54,000 as a minimum from the State School Equalization fund, no definite amount will be determined until the equalization board at Raleigh makes the divisions sometime next month.

County reports, due in Raleigh the 29th of this month, are being prepared by school officials here, and after that data reaches Raleigh, it will require several days' time for the equalization board to complete its work, it is understood.

In 1927-28, Martin county received \$33,923.43 from the State Equalization fund and \$32,192.15 last year, a decrease in last year's receipts of \$1,731.28. This year, with the State Equalization fund greatly increased, this county will receive \$54,000 as State aid for the operation of its schools during the coming term, it is thought.

### G. F. ROBERSON DIES AT BETHEL

Was Former Resident of This County; Funeral Thursday

George Frank Roberson, formerly of this county, died at his home in Bethel last night at 11:30, following a few days' illness. Last Thursday he was active on his farm near Hassell, and was apparently well when he returned home. During the evening meal he suffered a stroke of paralysis and gradually weakened, death following last night.

Mr. Roberson, 69 years of age, was born in Cross Roads township, where he lived until a young man, going from there to a farm near Hassell. About ten years ago he moved to Bethel where he has since resided.

The body will be buried in a Bethel cemetery Thursday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock, Rev. C. B. Mashburn, of Robersonville, conducting the funeral services.

He is survived by two sons, Lee Roberson, of New Orleans and Alton Roberson, of the U. S. Navy, and his widow. He also leaves one brother, J. Bynum Roberson and a sister, Mrs. W. T. Taylor, both of Robersonville.

### Several Doctors Here En Route to Medical Meeting

Drs. T. W. M. Long, of Roanoke Rapids, W. D. Rogers and G. H. Macon, of Warrenton, were guests of Dr. Wm. E. Warren here this afternoon. The doctors were en route to Bay View where the Fourth District Medical Society meets this evening. They were accompanied there by Dr. Warren.

### Sunday School Teachers School in Everetts Church

The Sunday School Teachers' Training school in progress this week in the Everetts Baptist Church is meeting with much success according to a report received here this morning. Twenty-three pupils attended the school last evening, and the attendance is expected to increase as the schools continue through Friday of this week.

The school opens each evening at 8:00 o'clock and anyone interested in Sunday school work is invited to attend. Mr. L. M. Morgan, a pioneer in Sunday school work, has charge of the instruction lasting for about an hour and fifteen minutes each evening.

### Another Baseball Meeting To Be Held Here Tonight

With Ahoskie coming in as a fourth member of a four-county baseball league, another meeting will be held in Pete Fowden's office tonight at 8:00 o'clock in an effort to perfect the organization of the game. Beaufort, Bertie and Martin counties will have representatives meet with those from Ahoskie, and it is understood that a league will be formed tonight.

A team representing this county has practically been formed, and the first practice is scheduled to be held this afternoon on the Everetts diamond.

### COUNTY SCHOOLS CAN SELECT NO TEACHERS YET

Few of Them Are Making Tentative Choices, But No Contracts

### WORKING ON BUDGET

Situation Causing Much Inconvenience To Both Teacher and School Board Officials

While several of the schools in the county are selecting their teachers for the coming term, teacher elections are only tentative, according to an interpretation of the new school law. It is understood that no contracts will be valid until the various budgets are approved by the proper authorities and their signatures thereon added. While the budget making is in progress in this county, several weeks will be required to complete the work and until it is approved, no elections will be confirmed, it is understood.

Superintendent R. A. Pope stated yesterday morning that the situation is causing much inconvenience both to teachers and school boards, but that nothing definite could be done to relieve the existing conditions at the present time. It has been suggested that the various school committees make especial efforts in retaining the desired teachers, adhering closely to the factors controlling the number of teachers allowed the individual school.

Two or three school boards have recommended the election or re-election of teachers in this county, and the teachers have been notified to that effect, but in no case has a contract been carried to completion, it was stated.

### 8 SCOUTS TO GO TO CHARLOTTE

Have Good Meeting Last Friday; Choose Scouts to Go To Reunion

Holding one of their best meetings since the organization was perfected here about a year ago, the local Boy Scouts last Friday evening entertained several visitors in their temporary quarters, the old jail. The work planned for the next several months was discussed and eight of the 26 scouts present were selected to attend the Confederate reunion next week and assist in the care of the veterans. Walter Cook, Mack and Reg. Simpson, Billy Watts, Cush Hassell, Albert Leslie Clark, Jim Rhodes, jr. and Carroll Crockett will make the trip, having all their expenses paid with the exception of transportation costs.

Mr. R. J. Peel, one of the visitors upon the meeting, made a pleasing talk to the group of boys who, following the business session, took part in several sports to the delight of the troops' guests.

Following the meeting, Mr. H. D. Harrison, chief of the local fire company, acquainted the boys with a part of the town's fire-fighting equipment, pointing out to the boys how they could be of much aid by directing traffic and offering worthwhile examples to other children during fires. The boys enjoyed a ride down Main street and back on the new truck.

### Several of County's Banks To Be Closed Thursday

White Memorial Day, the 30th of this month, will be observed widely throughout the country, as a whole, and in particular communities in this section, very little attention will be paid the day as a holiday in this county, according to reports received here yesterday. The nation's post-offices will be closed and no city or rural deliveries will be made. Several of the county's banks, Farmers and Merchants here, and the Planters and Merchants, Everetts and the Bank of Oak City have announced that they would observe the national holiday that their employees might have the day off.

### Marked Improvement Is Seen in Crops Here

Warm weather following the rains of a few days ago is causing a marked improvement in the several crops through this section, according to a number of farmers questioned on the subject here yesterday morning.

While there are a few fields yet too wet for a plow, farmers have been very much pleased with the weather conditions to date. Few potatoes are grown in this immediate section, and the farmers are principally engaged in their crop cultivation.

### Revival Services at Court House Closed Last Friday

The revival conducted by the Rev. J. H. Little, pastor of the Free Will Baptist church at Whiteville, was brought to a successful close at the courthouse here last Friday evening. The meeting, starting early last week, was well attended.

**WATTS THEATRE**

Wednesday May 29  
**TOM MIX** in "THE DRIFTER" Also COMEDY Special Added Attraction **Dunbar's Vaudeville Review**

Thursday May 30  
**Aileen Pringle** and **Lew Cody** in "A SINGLE MAN" Also NEWS

Friday May 31  
**"ALL AT SEA"** with **Karl Dane** and **George K. Arthur** Also NEWS and COMEDY