

Seeks \$15,000.00 For Injuries Received In Recent Accident

Suit Filed in Superior Court By G. W. Lee Against D. M. Roberson

A \$15,000 damage suit has been filed in the superior court of this county by G. W. Lee against D. M. Roberson, trading as Roberson's Slaughter House, the plaintiff alleging he was injured to that extent in an accident at the defendant's plant a month ago.

The complaint as filed by the plaintiff's attorney, H. G. Horton, read in part, as follows:

"That the defendant in the operation and conduct of his said business, the Roberson's Slaughter House, as aforesaid, and at the time of the injuries sustained by plaintiff herein after set forth, had failed to qualify under the Workmen's Compensation Act and had elected not to operate thereunder, and by reason thereof of this plaintiff now avails himself of and claims the benefits of the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act with reference to employers who fail to qualify and operate under said act."

"That on or about the 26th day of November, 1940, the defendant in the conduct of his business used a power driven sausage or meat grinder, the same being a dangerous machine, tool or appliance, especially to persons who were not familiar herewith, and on or about the 26th day of November, 1940, the said defendant was plaintiff's employer, having plaintiff employed to do such work as he could in and about defendant's Slaughter House business, and on the date complained of the defendant caused the plaintiff to work at said certain driven sausage or meat grinding machine, said plaintiff at the time being engaged in work for his employer, the defendant, and in the line of duty and while working at said machine the plaintiff's left hand was caught in said machine and four (4) of the fingers of his left hand were cut off and the ligaments of his arm torn and pulled out and his hand terribly mangled and mutilated, and the plaintiff severely injured while in the line of duty, as aforesaid, and about the work of his employer, and suffered and still suffers excruciating physical pain and torture and great mental anguish, and has had to undergo considerable medical expense, and by reason of such injuries plaintiff continues to suffer great pain and has been unable to resume work and is totally and permanently injured."

"That the defendant knew, or should have known, that the plaintiff was green and ignorant concerning such machines, tools or appliances, and it was the duty of the defendant to have instructed the plaintiff and warned and informed the plaintiff of the dangers incident to working in, around and about such machinery, tools and appliances, and to furnish the plaintiff with a safe place in which to work, but the defendant negligently failed to instruct the plaintiff about the dangers of such machinery, tools and appliances, or to in any manner."

(Continued on page four)

Mrs. W. H. Burden Passes In Hospital Christmas Morning

Funeral Services Are Held in Methodist Church Last Thursday

Mrs. Mamie Sineath Burden, respected Williamston citizen, died in a local hospital Christmas morning at 2:15 o'clock following an illness of only a few weeks' duration. Taken ill with pleurisy about a month ago, Mrs. Burden was forced to her bed and entered a hospital two weeks ago. Her condition improved and recovery was expected until Sunday morning of last week when she suffered an heart attack and never rallied. Although she had been in declining health for almost three years, Mrs. Burden continued a keen interest in her friends and the happenings as they were reported locally and on a world-wide front.

The daughter of the late J. R. Sineath and wife, Mrs. Burden was born in St. Matthews, South Carolina, on September 18, 1880. She was a granddaughter of the late Dr. A. N. Wannamaker, member of a prominent South Carolina family. In 1895 she was married to Mr. W. H. Burden in Orangeburg, South Carolina, where he lived until about four years ago when she moved to Williamston to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. John Wier, Jr. During her stay here she made many friendships and was highly regarded by all those who knew her. She was a member of the Methodist Church here.

The last rites were conducted in the church by her pastor, Rev. B. T. Hurley, last Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Interment was in the local cemetery.

Besides her daughter here, Mrs. Burden is survived by her husband and a daughter, Mrs. M. B. Smith, of Columbia, South Carolina.

The daughter of the late J. R. Sineath and wife, Mrs. Burden was born in St. Matthews, South Carolina, on September 18, 1880. She was a granddaughter of the late Dr. A. N. Wannamaker, member of a prominent South Carolina family. In 1895 she was married to Mr. W. H. Burden in Orangeburg, South Carolina, where he lived until about four years ago when she moved to Williamston to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. John Wier, Jr. During her stay here she made many friendships and was highly regarded by all those who knew her. She was a member of the Methodist Church here.

Prizes Awarded for Holiday Decorations Here Last Week

Admittedly finding their task a difficult one, the judges in Williamston's greatest Christmas holiday decoration contest awarded the prizes and made favorable comments early last week. Briefly stated the decorations, numbering almost 100, were regarded the best ever, as a whole, and added cheer to the Christmas spirit. The removal of the lights and decorations after tonight will more clearly determine the value of the lights by contrast.

The awards were made only after a close and thorough inspection of every competing decoration, the judges. Mesdames Charles Davenport, J. L. Uzzle and Oscar Davenport, all of Jamesville, announcing the following winners:

Doorways: Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Green, first; Mrs. Joseph A. Eason, second; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Manning and Reginald, third, and Mrs. S. C. Peel, fourth.

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Peel won first prize in the tree decoration contest. Second prize went to Mrs. L. T. Fowden and Pete; Mr. and Mrs. Jodie Woolard won third, and Mr. and Mrs. George Harrison were awarded fourth.

Officer J. H. Allsbrooks, encouraged in his artistic work by Mayor J. L. Hassell, won first prize with his city hall decoration in the public building group. Second prize went to the courthouse gang further down the "River Road."

Honorable mention was given Belk-Tyler's and Clark's stores, and Peel's and Margolis' store windows were rated best in the window decoration contest.

Possibly the decorative scheme advanced by P. P. Peel was the most talked about in town and attracted unusually large crowds. The Washington Street merchant stating that he had more people in his store during the holiday season than in any previous year. Mr. Peel is all ready to wish everyone a happy new year in a new way.

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Prominent Citizen Of County Dies At His Home Sunday

Last Rites Held Yesterday Afternoon For James L. Coltrain

James L. Coltrain, a leading county citizen and highly respected citizen of the Farm Life section of Griffins Township, died at his home there Sunday morning shortly after 5 o'clock, his passing marking the end of a long period of intense suffering. He had been in ill health for almost two years, and had spent most of the past six months in bed. His condition had been critical for some time and the end was expected from day to day over a period of weeks.

The son of the late Charles C. and Mary Elizabeth Hardison Coltrain, he was born in Griffins Township 67 years ago next February. His early life was spent on the farm where he learned the rudiments of country life. In early manhood he accepted a job with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, and was serving that organization as a conductor when his father died and he returned home to take over the farm and help care for the family. A few years later he was married to Miss Bessie Brown, of Jamesville, the event marking the beginning of a period in his life that was thoughtfully devoted to his family. Mr. Coltrain was recognized as a valuable citizen to his community and county. He was a progressive farmer and was instrumental in the formation of the Martin County Branch of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association which organization he faithfully served until his death. An accommodating neighbor and friend to his fellowman, he always took a firm stand in defense of decency and righteousness.

While he was closely associated with a fertilizer manufacturer for a number of years, his life was devoted to his farm and home. His agricultural pursuits were successful, and he profitably engaged in the lumber manufacturing business for a number of years. Few homes experienced a greater devotion than that shown by him for his loved ones. He possibly found his greatest happiness in making others happy, thinking little of his own welfare. Even his intense suffering during recent months was accepted without complaint, and greetings exchanged with friends and members of his family until a short time before his death were marked by a friendliness that endeared him to everyone whose pleasure it was to have known him.

Besides his wife he leaves seven children, Miss Mattie Coltrain, Mrs. Marie Manning, Mrs. Hugh Daniel, Mrs. J. R. P. Griffin and Archie Coltrain, all of Griffins Township; Roy Coltrain, of Williamston, and Mrs. Ashley Wynne, of Everetts. He also leaves a brother, Mr. C. C. Coltrain, of Griffins Township, and two sisters, Mrs. Lewis T. Holliday, of Bear Grass Township, and Mrs. Henry Robertson, of Griffins Township.

Funeral services were conducted at the home yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. D. W. Arnold, assisted by Rev. W. B. Harrington and Elder P. E. Getsinger. Interment was in the family plot in the Hardison Mill Cemetery.

Construction work on a new filling station—the town's twentieth one—will get underway within the next few days in the tobacco warehouse district, it was learned today following the formal execution of the contract late yesterday. The station will be located on Washington Street between the Farmers Warehouse and Norris' Tin Shop. The cost of the station was not disclosed, but the contract price will approximate \$5,000, it was unofficially learned.

The station is being built by Le-man Barnhill for the Gulf Oil Company. No operator for the station has been named as far as it could be learned.

Harry Jones is moving the old house from the lot and will locate it on Marshall Avenue for the purchaser, M. D. Wilson.

Mrs. Doughtie was born in Northampton County near Rich Square 73 years ago. She spent her early life there and moved to Kelford following her marriage to Mr. Raleigh Doughtie who died some years ago. Three years ago she moved to this section to make her home with her daughter. Possessed of a Christian character, she made many friends during her stay in this section. She was a member of the Baptist church at Kelford for half a century.

Funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Kelford church, and interment was in the family cemetery, near there.

Besides her daughter with whom she made her home, Mrs. Doughtie is survived by the following children: Mrs. Ollie Vick, of Kelford; Mrs. Verlie Gardner, of Norfolk; Willie Doughtie, of Bethel; Mrs. Lucy Myers, of Hamilton; Raleigh Doughtie, of Tarboro; Mrs. Minnie Miles, of Murfreesboro, and Mrs. Blanche Heath, of Hamilton.

The Williamston ABC store established a new high record with its sales on Christmas Eve day this year, according to an unofficial report coming from the board chairman today. Sales for the day totaled \$1,818.60. While a new record was chalked up here, sales in the county as a whole were slightly under those of a year ago, Robersonville reporting a fairly sizable decrease in its receipts. The sales last year and this year on December 24 were nearly \$1,000 greater than they were for the same day in 1938.

A comparison of sales, by stores, for December 24, 1939, and 1940, follows:

Williamston	\$1,753.10	\$1,818.60
Robersonville	1,132.45	856.00
Oak City	390.20	408.05
Jamesville	241.95	325.00

Authorities Determine Schedule Of Values For Listing Personal Property In County Next Month

Christmas Cheer Movement Is Declared Success In Section

The Christmas Cheer Movement, sponsored annually by local civic organizations and a sympathetic people, was declared a success by those in charge. More than 100 families, representing 412 needy ones, were remembered by the fund sponsors on Christmas eve.

The distributors of the bundles were greeted with wide-open eyes and appreciative hearts, and in nearly every one of the 103 humble homes where the doors were closed by want and almost dire poverty the spirit of the Christmas holiday season was made to appear. Some of the cases were described as truly pathetic, and all were appreciative to an almost unbelievable extent. It is the experience gained by visits in to the needy homes at one Christmas that the fund is re-established the following Christmas.

Reports from the fund headquarters state that the relief load for the movement was not quite as great as it was a year ago, that the small balance of cash carried over would be used in the purchase of a few articles for the destitute during the next few days.

"If those who contributed to the fund could have visited just a few of the needy homes last Christmas eve an open appeal in behalf of the less fortunate would not be necessary next Christmas, for they would immediately rally to their support," one of those handling the distribution was quoted as saying.

"Some of those who were remembered last week will hardly be here next Christmas as the infirmities of age are rapidly closing in upon them," another person who visited the homes said.

Working for a fair and equitable personal property valuation in this county for the 1941 tax year, Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes offered the list-takers in a meeting here yesterday certain instructions for handling the work. In his instructions he explained that all owners who refuse or fail to list their properties will be made subject to prosecution in the courts of the county. Unofficial reports state that the Martin County Board of Commissioners is likely to order an investigation of the tax books at the close of the listing period to make certain that all persons subject to taxation have their names on the books.

Mr. Grimes' instruction to the list-takers:

Get true full name, not nickname. Place nickname in parenthesis where party is known by that name. Street number and R.F.D. number, also name of farm or name of employer. Make every person sign abstract in own hand if possible. If by mark properly witness same. Do not list poll and personal property in absence of tax payer.

Know that every person listed is in your township.

Make a list of parties going to other townships. Also list of those coming from other townships giving township to which they went or from which they came.

Immediately at end of listing period forward me a list of all delinquents.

Get correct age, last birthday, indicate fully race, sex and non-resident.

Itemize well all things that might be included in any item on abstract. Make every effort to list and value automobiles correctly.

Pay particular attention to dogs informing all tax payers that they are responsible for all dogs at their homes owned by minors and must list them in their names.

Do not hesitate to list all property at what you think is a fair value even though the taxpayer may not agree with you. You are the judge.

In all cases complete abstract as fully as possible.

Local police today were said to be on the trail of robbers who entered several homes here during the Christmas season and disturbed gift lists and cash. Part of the loot, including a pistol stolen from the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Leggett on Warren Street, has been recovered, one report stated. Other details on the police check-up are being withheld temporarily. Considerable work has been spent by local police in an attempt to round up the thieves and while no arrest is considered likely at this time, officers are of the opinion the thefts have been solved.

After going into the Peel home on Academy Street a few days before Christmas, thieves struck back on Christmas eve when they broke into the Leggett home and stole a number of presents. "It wasn't the actual loss, but the fact that it was the night before Christmas that mattered so much," one member of the household was quoted as saying. The following day a \$50 cash Christmas present from a brother was stolen from Mrs. Mary Bell Osborne's pocketbook left in her apartment home on Main Street.

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Authorities Determine Schedule Of Values For Listing Personal Property In County Next Month

Christmas Cheer Movement Is Declared Success In Section