

## Alleged Killer Is Given Hearing and Placed Under Bond

### Crowd Hears Peterson Deny Guilt in Purrington Murder Case

Mack Peterson, local notorious Negro bootlegger, had his first round in the court in connection with the Purrington murder case last Tuesday evening when he was given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell in the courthouse. Peterson, through his counsel, pleaded not guilty to the murder of George Purrington, 33-year-old local colored man at Buck's beer garden on Washington Street here last Saturday night.

The colored population turned out more than a hundred strong, and a few white people were present for the preliminary hearing which ran nearer the course of a social function than the first step in the law's course to claim a man's life.

Evidence, bringing repeated laughs and smiles from all with the exception of Peterson and the justice, was confusing and at times strikingly contradictory, and when the last of the nine witnesses summoned by the State had said his say there was little doubt as to who killed Purrington but the evidence hardly disclosed how it was done.

Justice Hassell found probable cause of guilt and fixed the bond in the sum of \$1,500 which Peterson could not raise immediately, a member of the defense counsel explaining that it would have made no difference if the bond had been fixed at \$15,000 as his client could furnish one of neither size.

Willis "Bang" Smith, who later evidence tended to show was drunk and who was about to be carried home, was the first witness called. He placed the time of the killing anywhere between 10 and 12 o'clock, later evidence indicating that the killing took place about 11:30 o'clock. The usual throng was circulating up and down the dangerous street and in the beer garden, and Smith, admitting on cross examination that he had spent his last 20 cents for half a pint of wine which he shared with strangers, declared that everything was moving along very peacefully until the fight started. "George was sitting down in Buck's place and I saw Peterson picking at him, and heard Purrington tell Peterson to go away and leave him alone," Smith said. He added that he saw Peterson strike Purrington and saw Purrington knock Peterson on the ground and crawl on top of him, that Peterson was striking at Purrington's back with a knife. Smith said he did not see Peterson stab his victim. Asked if he was not drunk, Smith declared that he did not drink any more wine because his money would not let him.

Robert Everett, 15-year-old delivery boy, was the next witness who, according to his testimony was at Buck's place doing nothing. He said he saw Peterson and Purrington on the beer garden porch arguing, that Mack went inside and got a knife, came back and struck Purrington in the face. Everett said he saw Peterson cut Purrington but did not know that he had stabbed him. As soon as he learned how badly Purrington was cut, he ran home, the witness using hand motions to describe his quick exit from the scene of trouble.

Alonza Biggs, the next witness, stated that he was inside of the beer garden, that the first he knew of the fight was when the two men fell from the porch with Purrington on top beating Peterson in the face and Peterson cutting back at Purrington with a knife. Not knowing that Purrington had been fatally stabbed, Biggs moved in and twisted the short

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## Jamesville Farmer Dies On Wednesday

Roland B. Holliday, well known farmer and citizen of Jamesville Township, died at his home there at 4:15 o'clock Wednesday morning following an illness of many years' duration. His condition had been critical for some time and the end was expected.

The son of the late B. N. and Laura Davis Holliday, he was born in Jamesville Township 59 years ago, living in that community all his life. In early life he married Miss Luda Hardison who died about fifteen years ago. Mr. Holliday, a member of the Poplar Chapel Church, was one of the pioneer mail carriers in this county, using an old Model T car to make deliveries from the Jamesville office. He farmed a greater part of his life, however, or until ill health forced his retirement.

He leaves six children, Elsworth, Mamie Louise, Leon and Brightmon, all of Jamesville Township, and Burdon and Evelyn Holliday, both of Pinehurst. He is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. G. L. Cooper and Mrs. C. W. Mizelle and two brothers, T. W. Holliday and A. N. Holliday, of Jamesville.

Funeral services were conducted at the home yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. Dennis Warren Davis and interment was in the family cemetery, near the home.

## Peanut Prices Showed Added Strength On Local Market

After hovering between four and one-half and five cents since the season opened a few weeks ago, peanut prices are showing added strength on the local market this week. Early sales were made mostly at 4-4 1/2 cents, but five cents was the common figure today, according to a general report coming from the market this morning. It was the first time this season that good bunch sold for that price, but it is generally believed now that most of the crop will be moved at that figure. "Prices may go up or they may come down," one buyer was quoted as saying, but the general opinion is that the five-cent figure will prevail, as a rule.

The upward price trend was attributable by some to the interruption in harvesting activities following the rain last Monday night. However, the goobers continued to move in fairly large volumes and are expected to push on toward a peak next week. One report stated that a few farmers had started picking too soon

after the rain, that they were offering damaged peanuts for sale. One buyer stated that the practice, if followed in too many instances, is very likely to depress the market. However, such cases are very few, it is understood, the reports stating that picking will hardly be resumed on a large scale before late this afternoon or tomorrow and possibly not before next week, weather conditions permitting.

No peanuts have been stored here in government warehouses for the edible trade, but a few are being delivered for the oil trade. The few deliveries were made by those farmers who had overplanted a tenth or two over their allotment, and to avoid the penalty and to protect their oil conservation payments they are diverting the few surplus bags. Manning and Gurkin, and Barnhill, Gurganus and Corey are receiving peanuts for the government here, the price ranging around 3.30 for oil stock.

### LOOKIN' AROUND

Commissioner C. D. Carstarphen is doing a bit of lookin' around and incidentally at his own expense in the interest of the county. Going to Raleigh today, he is to confer with the Local Government Commission about refinancing a \$45,000 Cross Roads bond issue at a lower rate of interest. It is possible, the commissioner points out, to save the taxpayers about \$5,000 in interest in the course of time or about \$500 a year. From Raleigh, the commissioner is planning to visit Lillington, down in Harnett County, to investigate the county's bookkeeping system there. Not that there is anything radically wrong with Martin's, the commissioner believes a better and in the long run a more economical system for keeping records and accounts can be established in this county.

## Contract Let Here For Modernization Of Watts Theatre

### Will Tear Away Entire Front And Replace It With Structural Glass

Plans were announced virtually complete by J. Wigg Watts, owner, for the modernization of his theatre on Main Street here. A contract has been let and work is scheduled to get underway within the next week or ten days. Mr. Watts stating that a starting date cannot be definitely determined until the delivery of materials is guaranteed. Orders for the material have been placed, and as far as it could be learned none of them will come under the priority provisions of Office of Production Management.

According to Mr. Watts, the entire front of the theatre will be torn out to make way for a super modernistic architectural arrangement. The new front will be built of white structural glass and a brownish brick the strips of glass extending to the very top of the building. A few feet will be added to the height of the building which will lose its identity in the modernization program. While the theatre and radio shop will continue under the same roof, the new front will show two distinct buildings. Wine colored glass will be used on the lower part of the front, and the main theatre entrance and doors to the radio shop and balcony will remain virtually unchanged as to their position and dimensions. The marquee, often referred to by the late J. W. Watts, Sr., when the theatre was first built about twelve years ago as the awning, will be altered, the owner of the property stating that a contract for a new one was pending and was not included in the general builder's agreement. Until the contract for the marquee is executed, the cost of the modernization program cannot be determined, but it is understood that it will be several thousand dollars.

Just how much time will be required to handle the modernization work cannot be determined definitely, but Mr. Watts thinks it can be completed within a month or six weeks. The builders will not interrupt the show programs which will be continued according to present schedules for the most part.

The builder's contract was let to W. R. Wyatt, of Rocky Mount.

### County Commissioners To Hold Regular Meet Monday

With very little business on their calendar, the Martin County Commissioners are anticipating a comparatively quiet and uneventful session next Monday. Current bills will be inspected and a jury list for the December term of the superior court is to be drawn. Clerk J. Sam Gettenger stated that he knew of no new business that will likely be discussed at the regular meeting.

## Local School Honor Roll Carries Many Names First Period

### Honor List Broken Down into Two Groups by Authorities This Term

A total of 129 names appear on the first period honor rolls as released this week by the principal of the Williamston schools. Changed from last year, the new honor lists are in two divisions. Honor roll I includes scholarship of 90 and perfect attendance during the six weeks period, while Honor roll II requires the same scholarship but allows a maximum of five absences during the period. The latter honor roll is designed to lend encouragement to the pupil who achieves excellent scholarship in spite of absences which may be due to illness or other causes.

Eighty-six names appear on the first list and 43 on the second:

**Honor Roll I**  
First grade: Carolyn Bullock, Joyce Ann Cowan, Harrell Everett, Jr., Preston Hughes, Betty Lou Dudley, Nannette Harrison, Jean Holloman, Jean Howard, Marie Peel, Sally Robertson, Jerry Savage, Ann Sessoms, Patricia Shone, Joyce Ward.

Second grade: Jerry Allsbrook, Dorothy Cherry, Mary Louise Cherry, Samuel Hardison, Helen Nicholson, Ann Jones, Jackie Harris, Ernest Taylor, Bennie Moore, Bobby Gurganus, Keith Boyd.

Third grade: Reynold Phelps, Leslie Goddard, Louise Corey, Elizabeth Griffin, Betsy Horton, Barbara Jackson, Jane King, Mary C. Leggett, Jean McLawhorn, Rhoda Faye Peele, Harriet Peele, Ann P. Woodard, Bobby Clayton, Jack Edwards.

Fourth grade: Madeline Chesson, Rachel Chesson, Warren Goff, Jessie Mae Melson, Lilybet Muse.

Fifth grade: Julian Mason, Landy Griffin, Sally Hardison, Doris Culpher, Dorothy Rodgers, Clayton Hadley.

Sixth grade: Melba Revels, Lola Peele, Laura Frances Peele, Gertrude McLawhorn, Dennis Moore, Edna Hadley, John Gurkin.

Seventh grade: Dan Bowen, Hugh Horton, Charles Sireloff, Jeanette Andrews, Lucy Andrews, Thelma Carrow, Margie Davis, Louise Griffin, Gloria Hayman, Louise Hines, Elizabeth Hopkins, Maxine Phelps, Elizabeth Taylor.

**High School**  
Eighth grade: Hal Dickens.  
Ninth grade: Jane Goff, Curtis Hopkins, Anne Meador, Jack Mobley, Joseph Wynne.

Tenth grade: Conrad Gettenger, Harold Hargett, Virginia Hines, Delia Jane Mobley, Luther Peele, Wil-

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## Minor Wrecks In County Yesterday

No one was hurt and no great property loss resulted in two minor automobile wrecks in the county yesterday. The fenders on a pick-up truck driven by Albert Robertson and those on Farmer J. Lawrence Peel's car were slightly battered and bent when the two machines sideswiped each other on the Poplar Chapel Road in Jamesville Township early in the morning. Damage was estimated at \$25 by Patrolman Whit Saunders who investigated the accident.

Both drivers were fined \$5 and taxed with the case costs in Justice Hassell's court yesterday afternoon. Mr. Peel for driving on the wrong side of the road, and Mr. Robertson for operating a car with improper brakes.

## REMEMBRANCES

By CHAS. SMALLWOOD  
Williamston, N. C.  
DURING 1870's and '80's

Just a few more recalls of academy concerns, and then on to mention of other things.

One of my yet unraveled mysteries is the fact that Miss Sue never did honor (or dishonor) me with a sprinkling from Dinah's Hill. Why, I have never known. While I may as well say that I was not a bad boy, neither was I over good. I was as imperfect in my studies as the next one, and many a boy did I see get a thrashing for that which I knew I was as entitled as he. But it did not come, nor did Miss Sue ever lead me to believe she was doing me any favors, or even cared to. I got many a sharp verbal reprimand, and keeping-in to study during recesses, along with plenty of others, but Dinah-Hill stump sprouts were kept busy elsewhere. It may be that Miss Sue's laborious endeavor to teach me not help me, or maybe actually scare me to death.

In after years I asked Mr. Biggs if he had ever instructed Miss Sue not to whip me. He said, No, he had never thought of the matter.

Another recollection, and one which seems to me should have gotten my hide a tanning, was Miss Sue's laborious endeavor to teach me Cube-Root. She labored long and hard, explained and demonstrated beyond reason for some days over the one problem of adding to a cube, and designating it in figures on the blackboard. She even had a cube of wood with additional pieces to be figured for making the additions, but I could not get it. She even worked the problem on the black-board, explaining as she went, but to no avail. However, I did manage to slip a copy of her figures onto a piece of paper, which I took home and memorized each figure and its position, including the lines, and when she called the matter up next day, I walked to the board and put it down in rotation, as though mentally working the sum.

She said, Well, you must have stayed up late last night, why couldn't you do that before? And I grinned. Had she then given me another sized cube to figure, she would have had me sure. But maybe she thought of her "success" with Asa-Tom, and decided to let well enough alone, and not conjure up additional endeavors with a humbuck. There has been no transaction during my life since then, that has called for an operative knowledge of cube-root; but one cold night, about forty years after, while warmly snuggled in bed, conjuring slumber, my mind reverted to Miss Sue and our cube-root problem, and I there mentally drew a cube, added to it on all sides necessary to make it into a larger but perfect cube, mentally figuring as I did so. I then arose, went into the living room, which was yet warm, and in two minutes had the thing expressed in figures on a piece of paper. Such mental reversions as this may be why now after so many lapsing years, I am able to recall happenings of those by-gone days, and the people who played their parts therein.

Mr. Biggs' drug store was the one grand spot of those days. School was accepted as an inevitable, sleep a necessity; but to be at the drug store was my heart's delight. I would play with the boys during recesses, but after school there were no crowds, no games which would win me away from being at the drug store, and among the men whose haunt it was. It opened early and closed late, and most everybody came and lingered when they could, and there I learned to love the conversations of older folk, as against those of my own age. Now, as there are not so many who are older than I, I seek the younger, which enables me to keep in harmony with the days that be, instead of growing "mossy," and this delving back into "yesterday," is only for a time to answer its purpose, I lose it the moment something of today calls me.

Of those who came often and stayed long at the drug store, were Dr. Hassell, Mr. Walter Hassell, Mr. Tom Biggs, Mr. John Hatton, Judge Crawford, father of the Crawford boys; Sheriff Hardison, Mr. Church Hardison, Mr. Dan Simmons, Mr. George

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## County Committee Elected Wednesday

Messrs. C. C. Martin, of Jamesville; Jesse F. Crisp, of Oak City, and J. R. Winslow, of Robertsonville, were elected to head the AAA farm program in this county for the fiscal year beginning tomorrow by duly named delegates in a meeting held here Wednesday morning. Martin was re-elected chairman, and Mr. Crisp was continued as vice chairman of the committee. Mr. Winslow succeeds R. T. Griffin, of Williamston, as a member of the committee.

The election held in the agricultural building recorded some close votes and unofficial reports state that it was a bit spirited.

The new committee takes over the job of heading up the farm program including allotments tomorrow. Mr. Winslow had previously served as a member of the group.

## United States Destroyer Sunk Off Coast Of Iceland; Fate of Crew Has Not Been Determined

### Public Library Day Will Be Observed By Local Library

Public Library Day, a nationally-celebrated event during National Book Week—November 2-8—will be observed by the local public library next Friday, November 7th, it was announced today by a member of the committee.

Special preparations are being made to have in the new library attractive displays of new books. Open house will be observed next Friday at 8 o'clock when a short program will be given.

Since its opening in 1938, the local library has circulated 38,270 books to 1,080 registered borrowers. The service has been made possible by donations, gifts of magazines, books, furniture, rooms, time given by individuals, organized clubs, business firms, town and county, and the Works Progress Administration, the

## Teachers Of County Hold First Meeting Of Term on Tuesday

Holding their first meeting of the new term here last Tuesday evening, 106 of the 110 white teachers in the county perfected the Martin County unit of the North Carolina Education Association and heard an address by Jule B. Warren, business manager of the State association and the man whose book was bombarded for its factual errors. Aside from its factual errors, the book is considered all right and is still being used in the schools of this county.

Professor Marvin M. Everett, principal of the Robertsonville Grammar School, was elected president of the county unit. Mrs. Grace Lupton, of the Oak City Schools, was named vice president; Miss Bettie Everett, of Williamston, secretary, and Miss Ruby Malone, of Bear Grass, treasurer.

Mr. Warren, who, in addition to his work as business manager for the North Carolina Education Association, edits the North Carolina Education Magazine, reviewed the work of the organization in the past several years and stressed the need for a strong organization of teachers for the future. The school man also discussed the retirement fund and other topics of general interest to the group. In Mr. Warren's opinion the addition of a ninth month to the State-supported school term is possible. He was said to have based his opinion on the trend of the times and an administration friendly to education. Present indications are that the ninth month will be considered by the 1943 legislature with the possibility that the longer term will be instituted in 1943-44.

Following the educator's address, the teachers were served refreshments by the local home economics department, assisted by Miss Irene James, home economist for the Virginia Electric and Power Company and a former member of the Robertsonville faculty.

President Everett and members of a special committee will formulate programs and determine dates for future meetings of the county organization.

## Man Killed Between Here And Windsor

Herman E. Tarkington, 47-year-old white man, was instantly killed between here and Windsor at 9:30 this morning when he walked into the side of a car driven by Harold E. Vick, local man.

Walking from under a filling station, Tarkington caught his left leg in the rear bumper of the car. The limb was torn from the body and carried 34 feet down the highway. His body badly broken and mangled, Tarkington died instantly in the middle of the highway.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman Whit Saunders stated that Vick swerved his car to the left in an effort to miss the man, but that Tarkington continued into the highway.

It was unofficially reported that the victim was intoxicated, that his mother was quoted as saying he had been drinking when he left home.

A Bertie coroner's jury was called, and the accident was held unavoidable on the part of Mr. Vick. A formal hearing is being held in the case at Windsor this afternoon.

Mr. Vick, now associated with the Surplus Commodity Corporation, moved here from Winston-Salem a few months ago.

latter organization having been instrumental in keeping the library open with its generous participation in the program. The WPA has made available workers and for three years operated a bookmobile in the county. At the present time the WPA is furnishing a driver for the county-operated bookmobile who also does special work in the library.

From a small beginning, the local library has made marked progress. It is serving an increasing number of patrons and while many volumes have been added from time to time, there is a great need for more books. "If the library is to progress, it must have additional funds," a member of the executive committee said today, and plans have been made for a town-wide canvass for donations on next Wednesday and Thursday. A liberal support is urged.

### TOBACCO THEFT

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck expressed a sigh of relief Tuesday morning after the tobacco markets closed and not a single tobacco theft had been reported in the county. But the officer was rejoicing a bit too soon for the next morning he was advised that thieves had entered the packhouse of Farmer C. F. Perry, near Williamston, and carried away approximately 700 pounds of graded tobacco, leaving about one hundred sticks of ungraded leaf.

Farmer Perry discovered the theft early Wednesday morning and saw about fifty bundles of the tobacco scattered along a newly-made path leading from his barn across a field to the highway.

## Short Session Of Recorder's Court Held Last Tuesday

### Attorney Paul D. Robertson Handles Prosecution For Absent Solicitor

The last Monday session of the county recorder's court was a quiet and uneventful one. Few cases were called by Judge W. H. Coburn and only a small-sized crowd was present to hear the proceedings.

In the absence of Solicitor Don E. Johnson, who is taking a special course in defense at State College, Attorney Paul D. Robertson prosecuted the docket. No official arrangements have been made for prosecuting the docket in the continued absence of the regular solicitor, but it is understood that the county commissioners will likely discuss the matter at their regular meeting next Monday. Last week three attorneys handled the prosecution for the solicitor.

Proceedings in the court: The case charging Goldie Hyman with seizing tenant's crops was continued until December 29th.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Stanley Ayers and Wheeler Robertson pleaded guilty. Judge Coburn sentenced them to the roads for eight months, but the sentence was suspended upon guaranteed good behavior for one year from date and upon payment of the court costs.

The case charging James Johnson with trespassing was continued until the last Monday in December, this year.

William Asa Taylor, Reuben Taylor and Edgar Taylor were charged with assaulting Gus Cowin with a deadly weapon in Hamilton week before last. At the conclusion of the State's evidence, the defense made a motion for a verdict of not guilty as to Edgar Taylor. The motion was granted. Reuben was found not guilty. William Asa Taylor was adjudged guilty, the court continuing the case under prayer for judgment until the first Monday in next December. At the hearing it was alleged that the Taylors had gone to Cowin to collect some money, and an argument started and the defendant attacked him with a knife, inflicting no serious wounds.

## Chamber Of Commerce To Hold A Meeting Tonight

Directors of the local Chamber of Commerce are slated to hold a meeting in the Washington Street office this evening at 7:30 o'clock. Secretary R. H. Smith announced this morning. Among other things, the group is expected to discuss again the parking situation with the intention of going before the town authorities a second time next Monday.

## Russia Says Germans Are Being Worn Out In Drive On Moscow

### Ship, Carrying 120 Men, Was In Vicinity Where Kearny Was Attacked

The United States destroyer, "Reuben James" was torpedoed and sunk presumably by a German submarine off the coast of Iceland some time during last night or early this morning, according to official reports coming from the Navy Department shortly before noon today. Details, it was claimed, had not been learned by the Navy Department at that time, but the report stated that news of the sinking would be released just as soon as it could be had. During the meantime there is speculation as to the fate of the crew of 120 officers and men. In its official announcement of the sinking, the Navy Department stated that it was not known how many men had been killed or lost. It was suggested however that since the destroyer was on convoy duty other ships could have picked up the survivors.

The 390-ton warship, commanded by Lieutenant Commander H. L. Edwards, 35-year-old former athlete of the Olympics, was attacked and sunk presumably in the vicinity where the U. S. S. Greer was attacked and where the U. S. S. Kearny was torpedoed.

Germany, first claiming it had no knowledge of the sinking of the Reuben James, later declared that the act was justifiable under international law.

Mixed congressional reaction was reported following the announcement telling of the sinking. Senator Thomas said there is no doubt about Germany attacking us. Isolationists, led by Senator Nye, declared that one can't walk into a brawl and expect not to get struck. President Roosevelt, offering only brief comment, said that the sinking would not appreciably alter America's policies. While the sinking of the Reuben James was holding the spotlight in the Atlantic, reports telling of a flare-up in the Far East were heard. It is believed that Japan is already well advanced in its plans for a drive against Indo-China and possibly Thailand.

Reports coming out of Australia and not yet confirmed stated that the British are moving its forces from the Middle East to the Caucasus preparatory to taking a stand against the German barbarians.

Extensive raids were made last night and earlier in the week against industrial centers and German shipping by the Royal Air Force. In the occupied countries all is not peaceful for the conquerors. Nothing late has come out of down-trodden France, but a report today stated that 80,000 Serbs had about wiped out German troops of occupation despite dive bombers and odds.

On the Russian war front, a showdown is believed nearing in the battle of Moscow, but in the south and other regions the Germans are continuing their push. It is admitted that the situation is serious for the Russians in the Tula sector, 110 miles south of Moscow and that the Germans were pressing into the Crimean peninsula. It is fairly evident that the Germans are being worn down in their drive against Moscow, that if they do not accomplish their goal

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## Josephus Daniels Resigns His Post

Josephus Daniels, greatly beloved North Carolinian and Ambassador to Mexico under the Roosevelt administration, has resigned the post, a report from Washington today stating that his resignation had been accepted.

News of Mr. Daniels' resignation was received here just a short time after it was announced that he was planning to leave Sunday or Monday to resume his activities at the diplomatic post, and no reason for the resignation could be learned immediately. It is generally believed that the old gentleman's age may have influenced the decision.

Later reports state that the venerable diplomat was retiring from a faithful service to his Chief and country on account of the failing health of Mrs. Daniels, that the decision to retire came upon short notice.

Accepting Mr. Daniels' resignation, President Roosevelt stated that the North Carolinian in his diplomatic post had made an outstanding contribution to the good neighbor policy. The resignation was reluctantly accepted. Mr. Daniels had conferred with the President just a few days ago, and at that time he was scheduled to return to his post in Mexico City.