

Young Girl Victim Of Unusual Attack

Wednesday Morning

Officers Unable To Get Lead In Baffling Case In Poplar Point

Miss Annie Mae Hardison, 17, was the victim of an unusual attack in the home of her half-brother by marriage, Robert Hollis, in Poplar Point Township between 2 and 3 o'clock Wednesday morning. Describing it as one of the most baffling cases reported in the county in some time, officers said late yesterday that they had been unable up until that time to get a definite lead, that no arrest was expected immediately.

The daughter of Mrs. Bill Hollis, she went to visit in the Hollis home and to help prepare a barn of tobacco for market. She was sleeping in a room with a small child and was awakened when an intruder, entering the front door, placed his hands on her head. "I tried to raise my head twice and the man pushed it down," she said. "I tried to scream, but he would not let me. The victim was quoted as saying. Officers stated that the victim screamed, and the attacker struck her on the head just above the right ear twice with some blunt instrument, possibly a flashlight. Mr. Hollis, hearing the scream, ran into the room and the intruder darted out the front door and ran down the road. The attacker broke a plank in the porch and his foot went through the floor, but he was not delayed very long.

Mr. Hollis reported the attack, and Sheriff G. B. Roebuck and several other officers started an investigation immediately. Bloodhounds were called and the intruder was traced down the road several hundred yards to a point where he is believed to have boarded a car and drove away with one or two other persons.

Neighbors saw the car parked in the road, and heard parties talking, but they could not identify the machine or the voices.

Neither Mr. Hollis nor the victim could definitely identify the intruder.

The young woman was treated in a local doctor's office, but no stitches were necessary to close the two small wounds. She said that she never lost consciousness as a result of the attack, that she was badly frightened at the time.

County Native Dies In Roanoke Rapids

Frank Price, a native of this county, died in a Roanoke Rapids hospital last Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock following a long period of declining health.

The son of the late Joseph Price and wife, he was born in Goose Nest Township about 86 years ago, and spent most of his life on the farm. About seven years ago he moved to Roanoke Rapids to make his home with a son, Linwood Price. He was married in early life to Miss Bertha Savage who died about eight years ago.

Funeral services were conducted at his late home Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock and burial was in the family plot in the Oak City cemetery.

He is survived by seven children, Mrs. Billie Bowers, of Hamilton, Mrs. Marvin Copeland of Robersonville, Mrs. Roland Gray, Mrs. Howard Faye, and Linwood Price of Roanoke Rapids and Eugene and Samuel Price of Newport News; a sister, Mrs. Mollie Vick of Speed, and a brother, Charlie Price of Roanoke Rapids.

Farm Life School Opens Lunch Room

The management of the Farm Life School lunchroom, which opened Wednesday, October 17, has been greatly improved this year. Last year under the supervision of Mrs. Eris Taylor, the food was prepared in the home economics kitchen. The eats were delicious but the kitchen was so small that preparation was difficult. Also there was much disturbance for those who were being served. Taking all in consideration, it was decided that the unoccupied teacherage would be just the thing needed.

The committee engaged Mrs. Jim Williams to prepare the school children nourishing meals and lately a young colored girl has been providing the extra needed help. With the cooperation of every pupil in bringing plates and vegetables Mrs. Williams and her assistant have been able to serve piping hot bowls of soup, tempting plate lunches, pop-sicles, hot dogs, hamburgers, and sandwiches. Everyone agrees to the idea of the lunchroom being a huge success.

Rev. Dennis Warren Davis is The Sweet Home Church

Rev. Dennis Warren Davis is conducting a series of revival services in the Sweet Home Christian Church this week. Home coming will be observed by the church Sunday, and the public is invited.

Fifty Cases Handled In County Court Monday

Fines Amounting To \$685 Are Collected During Long Session

Judge Smith And Prosecutor Roberson Worked Until Dark Clearing Docket

With fifty cases on the docket, Judge J. Calvin Smith and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson worked until dark before clearing the slate in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday. The session, opening at 9 o'clock that morning, was one of the longest on record, and the court collected \$685 in fines during the day. The court had not been in session for two weeks and some of the cases had accumulated. However, several were continued and quite a few not scheduled for trial until next Monday.

The session attracted a large crowd, but by nightfall only the defendants, court attendants and one or two spectators were present for the windup.

Proceedings: William Henry Williams, charged with larceny and receiving, was adjudged not guilty.

James LeRoy O'Mary, charged with careless and reckless driving, pleaded guilty and the case was continued under prayer for judgment until November 12. A continuance was also granted in the case charging Jack A. Farmer with drunken driving.

Jake Downs, charged with drunken driving, was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his operator's license revoked for one year.

Charged with an assault, Raymond Williams pleaded guilty of simple assault and the court suspended judgment upon the payment of the costs, the defendant also paying \$30 to the prosecuting witness and \$25 to the prosecuting witness' attorney.

Charged with passing a school bus, Booker T. Mizelle was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost.

Zen Howell Harrell, Jr., was fined \$15 and taxed with the cost for speeding.

Pleading not guilty in the case charging him with operating a motor vehicle without an operator's license and with improper brakes, Sam Simmons was found guilty and drew a six months road sentence.

All but 60 days of the term were pending upon the payment of a \$25 fine and cost. The defendant is not to operate a car or have intoxicating liquors or be publicly drunk for one year. He is to begin serving sentence on the first Monday in December, and bond in the sum of \$100 was required.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost in the case charging Hubert Barber with operating a motor vehicle with no driver's license.

Charlie Razor, charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and with improper brakes, was fined \$35, taxed with the cost and recommended that no license be issued the defendant for twenty days.

Charged with careless and reckless driving, Ernest Jenkins was fined \$20, taxed with the cost and had his driver's license suspended for twenty days.

Zeb Biggs, charged with drunken driving, was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his license revoked for one year.

A continuance was allowed until November 12 in the case charging James Everett with drunken driving and disorderly conduct.

R. R. Alexander was fined \$100 (Continued on page four)

Returns Home After Stay Of Three Years in Pacific

After spending three years in the South Pacific, Chief Petty Officer J. P. Holliday returned to his home in Jamestown last Friday after receiving his discharge. The son of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Holliday, the young officer was a member of the Seabees and was in the thick of the fighting on several of the South Pacific Islands.

BOND QUOTA

Martin County has been assigned an over-all quota of \$544,000 in the Eighth Bond Drive which is scheduled to get under way next Monday. Drive Chairman D. V. Clayton announced yesterday. The people of the county are being asked to invest \$243,000 in "E" bonds and \$301,000 in negotiables. The quota is the smallest assigned the county since the early part of the war, and the leaders are confident it will be over subscribed.

Tentatively scheduled to meet in the Branch Bank here next Tuesday night at 8 o'clock, township representatives are to accept district quotas and make plans for carrying the victory bond appeal into every part of the county.

PRESUMED DEAD



S/Sgt. Henry Wesley Allen, Jr., missing over Kiel, Germany, since January 5, 1944, is now presumed dead, his mother, Mrs. Bettie Gray Allen Jackson, of Jamestown, was recently notified by the War Department.

Fire Victim's Body Exhumed In County

The body of Ralph W. Barbour, Raleigh insurance man who lost his life in a fire in this county last July 28, was exhumed last Tuesday and removed to the family plot in Smithfield for burial. The father of the 32-year-old man and his uncle, carrying a removal permit and with the consent of the victim's widow, the former Miss Kathleen Hodges of this county, accompanied a Raleigh undertaker to this county for the body.

"We just wanted him buried in our family plot," Mr. Barbour was quoted as saying after going over the details surrounding his son's tragic death.

Young Barbour and his wife came to this county on the night of July 28 to spend the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Henry Hodges. He retired that evening and Mrs. Barbour went with her parents to sit up at a tobacco barn. While the family was there the dwelling caught fire, presumably from a lamp, and burned down, the man losing his life.

Funeral services were conducted the following afternoon and burial was on the Hodges farm.

Local Peanut Mill Starts Operations

With the new crop of peanuts moving to market, the plant of the Williamson Peanut Company started operations Wednesday when test runs were made. Full-scale operations are now under way with one shift at the various posts. With conditions favorable for the harvesting and marketing of the crop the plant will maintain its present schedule for a few days and add more shifts to care for increased deliveries.

Most of the crop move to the plant at the present time is coming from the border section of the State. Quality is only fair, and production in most sections is far below original estimates.

Harvesting activities are proceeding slowly in this county and few sales have been made so far. It was unofficially reported that at least one sale had been made for \$9.25 per hundred, that one farmer had refused \$9.30 for a limited number of bags. Most of the early sales are averaging only \$8.75, reports state.

Business Decrease In Justice's Court

While the county court was handling a record docket last Monday, Justice John L. Hassell reported a business decrease in his court during the past few days. Only five cases were docketed during the period.

Rufus Taylor, a more-or-less regular customer, was fined \$5 and required to pay \$7.50 costs for being drunk and down.

Charged with disorderly conduct, Saint Leon Swain was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of \$9 costs.

Sentenced to the roads for thirty days for disorderly conduct, Ben Evans appealed to the higher courts and was required to furnish bond in the sum of \$100.

Charged with disorderly conduct, and assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest, Cole Cowan was bound over to the county court in \$100 bond.

B. Moore, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was bound over to the county court under bond in the sum of \$100.

Increased Donations Reported for United War Fund in County

Appeal Made To Canvassers And Contributors To Put Drive Over the Top

After lagging badly for weeks, the United War Fund Drive is gaining momentum rapidly in the county and the outlook is now more encouraging, according to a report released yesterday by Chairman Clarence W. Griffin. Reports from district chairmen are not complete except in one or two cases, and it is hard to tell just how the drive will come out, but late information shows that the canvassers are settling down to the unwanted but humane task and that contributors are proving more liberal as the time for the campaign nears its close.

Up until late yesterday, only five districts had made a report, and only two of them were announced complete. Williamson reported \$2,010.78 of its \$6,282.96 quota in hand, leaving over half of the territory yet to be heard from, including donations ranging up to \$300. Explaining that they had not yet been canvassed, several local citizens yesterday volunteered their donations, ranging up to \$25 from individuals.

No change was reported in the amounts raised by Dardens where the drive went over the goal, and by Poplar Point where the drive was announced complete but short of its goal.

Cross Roads, with \$280.00 of its \$450.00 goal already raised, is still working to meet the challenge.

Bear Grass has collected \$307.70 of its \$550.00 goal, and it is understood that the drive is still in progress there.

To date, \$2,825.53 has been raised and placed in the bank for the five districts. Robersonville, it is understood, has more than \$1,000 in hand, and it is fairly certain that the reports through yesterday when finally checked will boost the total to around \$5,000. These figures represent hardly half of the county, meaning that at the present rate of progress, more than \$10,000 should be raised and reported by the middle or latter part of next week.

Reports reaching home from devastated countries maintain that American boys are actually denying themselves willingly to share their food with starving children. The United War Fund, in addition to the work being carried on for American servicemen, is doing all in its power to get relief to the starving and ill clad. The extent of its work will be determined by a thoughtful people back home. A donation denied any United War Fund canvasser in Martin County can well mean that just so much help will be denied suffering humanity in those countries that fought as our allies. Remembering the great need for relief, United War Fund leaders are again directing a humble plea to every man, woman and child in Martin County, urging everyone to support the drive. Those who have made contributions already and who can make another are asked to do so. Those who have not been canvassed are asked to look up a canvasser in their respective districts and make a liberal donation. The time is short and the need is urgently great. Help Martin County meet the challenge thrown to it by poorly clothed and hungry children in foreign lands.

Robbery Reported In County Tuesday

Forcing open the front door, robbers entered the store of Terry Brothers in Bear Grass either late last Monday night or early Tuesday morning and stole some merchandise. A music box was broken up, but a detailed list of missing items and the damage done by the robbers could not be learned immediately.

Some time during Monday night, thieves stole the car of Mrs. Dock Ayers near Bear Grass, officers believing that both jobs were handled by the same party or parties. The Ayers car, left in the yard with the key in the switch and a pocket book containing about \$20 in the seat, was pushed into the road and driven away.

NEW TAGS

The new 1946 state motor vehicle license plate was placed on display in Harrison and Carstarphen's show window here last week. Its yellow numerals on a black background, the new plate will be placed on sale in early December. Only one plate is being issued for the new year, but a return to dual tags is expected for 1947.

Despite the war and shortages, vehicle license tags have been issued in greater numbers by the local license bureau. In 1944, 4,502 car tags were sold, the number jumping to 4,792 up until the 20th of this month. Total plates sold in 1944 numbered 6,206 while the total so far this year stands at 6,523, an increase of 317.

County Youth Goes Hungry To Share with Starving Tots

That the United War Fund has a tremendous and humanitarian job still to handle was brought home a few days ago when a Martin County young man, writing from Holland, pointed out the serious situation the Dutch are facing. "It is bad to see grown people go hungry, but it is worse to see little, helpless children pleading for a bit to eat for their frail bodies," the young man said. He added, "Many times I would go hungry myself and share my own food with the pitiful little tots."

That's Holland for you, a country where 50,000 reported for work on a special job, and less than one out of ten was found physically able to stand up under the strain. Starvation and want have taken their toll. Then there are other countries facing similar situations, countries who fought back and who, no doubt, helped end the war before more men from right here at home were wounded or killed.

S-Sgt. H. Wesley Allen Is Given Up For Lost

Young Man Missing Over Kiel, Germany, Nearly Two Years

Mother Recently Advised By War Department At Her Home In Jamestown

S/Sgt. Henry Wesley Allen, Jr., missing in a bombing raid over Kiel, Germany, on January 5, 1944, is now presumed dead, according to a message received a short time ago from the War Department by his mother, Mrs. Bettie Gray Allen Jackson, of Jamestown. "No particulars or trace of the plane have been found, and your son must be presumed dead," the message stated.

The young man figured in a three-prong raid directed on a large scale against vital German targets that day. Unofficial reports state that losses were comparatively heavy. As far as it can be learned no members of the crew on the big bomber have been heard from since they started the ill-fated mission.

The son of Mrs. Bettie Gray Allen Jackson of Jamestown and H. Wesley Allen, Sr., of LaGrange he was born on September 5, 1923. After leading his classes in the Jamestown schools until 1939 he went to LaGrange to finish his high school courses with honors in 1941. After working in the Newport News Ship Yard, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps on November 17, 1942, and reported for active service at Pope Field, Fort Bragg. He later trained at St. Petersburg, Florida, and was graduated from gunnery school at Fort Myers, Fla., and received additional training in airplane mechanics at Keesler Field, Miss. He then went to Wendover Field, Sioux City, Iowa, for his flight training.

In late November or early December, 1943, he was sent overseas and was stationed in England. He is believed to have made only one or two missions before he was reported missing.

A grandson of the late John Allen and William and Betty Ward Gray, he is survived by his parents, a sister, Deborah Harrison Allen of LaGrange; a brother, Fred Taylor Allen, U. S. Navy, stationed at Banana River, Florida; two half-sisters, Mrs. N. E. Stephenson, Boykins, Va., and Mrs. Harry Barnhill, of Colerain. He is the fifty-sixth Martin County youth reported to have made the supreme sacrifice in World War II.

Baptists Announce Revival Meeting

The Memorial Baptist Church will begin a series of revival services on November 1st continuing each evening through the eleventh. The pastor, Dr. Ira Knight, will bring the messages throughout the meetings. There will be an opening song service with the regular and youth choirs participating and leading the congregational singing. A cordial invitation is extended to everyone to attend these services.

On Wednesday evening, the 31st, a special prayer service will be held at the church. All who earnestly desire a spiritual revival and evangelistic movement are asked to join the Baptists on that evening.

Episcopal Women Attend Meeting Here Wednesday

Nearly 175 women of the Episcopal church attended a meeting in the Church of the Advent here Wednesday. Bishop Wright of Wilmington addressed the group and luncheon was served at the Woman's club.

Bishop Wright was entertained during his brief visit here by Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Green.

Victim Maintains Silence While His Office Is Ransacked

Several Hundred Dollars In Tobacco Checks Stolen From Insurance Man

Entering the offices of W. G. Peele, local insurance man, agriculturist and industrialist, on Baltimore street last Wednesday night, thieves stole several hundred dollars in tobacco warehouse checks. As far as it could be learned nothing else was stolen, the thieves separating the tobacco warehouse checks from those offered in payment of insurance premiums.

Burning the night oil in his private office, Mr. Peele was pondering over his work just before going into the cashier's room to put the checks away. His private office door was closed and it appeared that no one was in the building at the time. He heard someone enter the reception room and proceed to the cashier's quarters. At first he thought it was the cashier, but he soon learned differently, and remembering the basic law of self preservation, Mr. Peele exercised supreme caution. The insurance man was quoted as saying that he valued his life more than a few checks, and it was declared that he turned out his light, tiptoed to the door connecting the two offices and listened to the two intruders as they hurriedly separated the checks and figured their take by flashlight.

The total amount of the checks could not be learned, but payment was ordered stopped, and the victim is not expected to lose anything.

Mr. Peele, it was said, braced himself against the connecting door and made ready for a determined opposition had the thieves attempted to enter his private sanctum sanctorum. Fortunately for the intruders they did not try to enter the private office, and Mr. Peele did not offer to leave the private office until his uninvited visitors left the building without being identified.

Officers Wreck Four Liquor Distilleries

Martin County ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and his assistant, Deputy Roy Peel, wrecked during recent days four liquor distilleries in the county, including one just back of the Saunders and Cox mill not far off Williamson's East Main Street.

The illicit business, apparently struggling to meet shortages, is going forward on a very limited scale, it is believed. In Bear Grass Township, a few days ago, the officers found and wrecked a 15-gallon capacity oil drum still and poured out fifteen gallons of molasses beer.

In Robersonville Township's Stingy Point section, the officers wrecked two plants, each equipped with 50-gallon capacity drum stills and four fermenters. No beer was found at one plant, but at the other the raiders poured out 100 gallons of molasses mash.

The plant just off Williamson's East Main Street was equipped with an old oil drum and a few other crude items. The hogs had moved in on the plant and just about wrecked it before the officers made the raid.

Local Man Returns With Third Fleet

After three years and three months spent in the service, Aviation Ordnance Mate 1-C John Halton Gurganus returned to the States last week with the Third Fleet from the Pacific, and two days later received his honorable discharge. He and Mrs. Gurganus arrived Tuesday to visit his mother, Mrs. Mary Bonner Gurganus.

The young man, dissolving partnership with Pete Fowden in their soda shop to enter the service, immediately went on a clothes hunt and declared he soon learned there had been a war. Shoe prices are high and suits are not to be found, the young man explained, pointing to a gaily trimmed belt as the best of its kind to be had.

Attached to a flying squadron, the navy man did much flying while in the service. He has no definite plans for the future, but declared he would get back in a little business of his own some time.

Local Young Man Home From Pacific

Lt. (jg) Claude Baxter Clark returned home early last Tuesday morning following a long stay and much action in the Pacific theater, recalling a few of his experiences, the young man explained that his ship had many close calls, that it was one of ten to go into Lingayen Gulf and one of three to return. There were tough times around Iwo Jima, too, the lieutenant declared, adding that there were quite a few casualties on his ship.

After a stay of about two weeks with his family here, Lt. Clark will report to the separation center at Norfolk for his honorable discharge.

TOBACCO SALES

Tobacco sales on the local market are nearing the ten and one-half million mark today, some observers predicting early today that that figure would be passed.

Up until last evening, the market had sold 10,365,446 pounds for \$4,580,389.89 or an average right at \$44.20 per 100 pounds.

Prices continue to hold firm with some of the better grades going right up into the fifties.

Respected Cafe Man Dies In Henderson

Gus D. Matalas, highly respected local citizen and cafe man, died suddenly in a hospital at Henderson early yesterday morning. A native of Sparta, Greece, he was 71 years old and had been in declining health for more than a year. He was stricken while walking along the sidewalk and was removed to the hospital where he died a short time later.

Mr. Matalas came to this country 36 years ago and located in Paducah, Kentucky, coming to Williamson with his nephew, Gus Rigas, ten years ago next month. He led a quiet but noble life and although not very active he was a splendid citizen. He fed the hungry and had a sympathetic feeling for his fellowman. He recognized and appreciated life's finer ideals, and during his residence here he never made an enemy, but enjoyed the friendship of many.

With no news from his family and not certain about his fate, Mr. Matalas worried much during the war, and that is believed to have aggravated his condition.

Besides several nephews and nieces in this country, he is survived by his widow, Gafalea Matalas; three daughters, Mrs. Pete Soteros, Mrs. George Trazas and Mrs. Nicholas Alexopoulos, and fifteen grandchildren, all of Sparta, Greece.

Funeral services will be conducted in Henderson Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock and interment will follow in the cemetery there.

Saw Mill Forced Out Of Operation By Break-Down

The main plant of the Williamson Lumber Company on the Washington Road continues idle as a result of a serious break-down a few days ago. The main plant engine was badly wrecked when a piece of the machine broke, but repairs are being made and operations will likely be resumed the early part of next week.

During the meantime repairs are being made to other parts of the plant, and the planing mill continues operations.

NEW CAR

The first new model car to make its appearance in this section in over four years was placed on display in the showroom of the Williamson Motor Company, local Ford dealers, today.

A tudor sedan, the car has quite a few changes, especially in its mechanical make-up. N. C. Green, dealer, explaining that the improvements were the result of inventions and experiments made during the past several years.

The price of the new car has not been announced. A few new car deliveries are to be expected between now and the first of the year, and fair distribution is anticipated after that time. Sales will be made in the order of priority going to the most essential users, it was explained.