

Farmer Relieved Of \$1,040 In His Sleep On Sunday

Jess Gainer Wakes Up And Finds Money and Common Law Wife Gone

Jess Gainer, colored farmer living near Williamston on the Hadley farm, was relieved of \$1,040 in cash presumably by his common law wife and her sister early last Sunday morning. A slight lead has been established in the case, but no arrests have been made Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said late last night.

It was a bad week-end for Gainer, reports stating that after living with Delzora Corey, his common law wife for about thirteen years, he wanted to get married last Saturday but could not offer the proper credentials.

The Corey woman's sister, calling herself "Mother Batt" and professing to be a preacher, came to this county a short time ago to spend a few days following a visit with sisters in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rocky Mount. Saturday night about 11 o'clock the family retired, Gainer taking the daybed in one room and the sisters going to another room. About 1:00 o'clock Gainer got cold and went for a quilt. He noticed that the Corey woman's suitcase had been moved, and then he found the two sisters gone. He then missed his money, Gainer explaining to officers that he had it concealed in a shirt pocket under another shirt. Using a pair of scissors, someone had cut the pockets open and removed the money while Gainer slept.

Gainer appealed to neighbors for help soon after he discovered his money was missing, but it was early Sunday morning before the robbery was reported to officers. A search for the two women was started, but officers have not yet learned how they left the county or where they went to. It is thought that the robbery was planned some hours in advance, that a confederate picked them up and carried them away.

The Corey woman's husband, "Butcher" Corey was seen talking to her Saturday afternoon, and one report states that he attempted to send her a message later, but that the message never reached her.

(Continued on page six)

Remove Inmate To State Institution

William David Brown, young colored man ruled mentally incompetent by doctors here last week, was removed to a state hospital in Goldsboro last week-end by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck. The trip was uneventful except for a short stop in Snow Hill.

Just as the officer was preparing to drive away from a filling station, Brown pointed out to the sheriff a hand sign pointing to a Snow Hill undertaker's establishment. Brown, an inmate in the county jail for almost a week, told the officer that the hand was that of the Lord, and insisted that the officer follow the sign. Paying the request no great attention for a second, the officer was reminded of the sign by loud shouts and whoops from Brown. The sheriff made the turn in accordance with the sign, drove around a block and missed the sign that trip and all was well with Brown.

The young colored fellow attracted more than usual attention ten days ago when he entered a church in the Hassell section at 4 in his long underwear and overcoat and took over the religious service. He later wrecked a liquor still claimed by him to be his own, and was riding into the town of Hassell on horse back, still dressed in the overcoat and long drawers and carrying several gallons of liquor which he was "carrying to a place where the Lord had told me to carry it."

County Young Man Gets Discharge From Navy

After more than three years in the service, Joseph R. Davenport, Rdm. 3/C, was honorably discharged from the Navy at the Charleston Separation Center last Thursday.

The young man, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Davenport of near Jamesville, was given the captain's commendation for rescuing an American airman drifting at sea, and wears several ribbons and medals.

Few Register First Day For School Election In District

Very few persons registered the first day the registration books were open for the special school election to be held in the Williamston school district on Saturday, May 4, Registrars Edith Stallings for Precinct No. 1 and O. S. Anderson for Precinct No. 2, said yesterday.

During last Saturday forty-seven persons registered in the district, thirty-five in the No. 1 precinct and an even dozen in the other precinct within the district. Most of those registering lived within the town limits, the remaining ones coming from scattered sections in the district.

The registration books will be held open two more Saturdays, but it will be possible for citizens to register by special appointment with their respective registrars. The books will be opened on Saturday, April 27, for the challenge of any elector's name.

A last-minute change in the

lection personnel was found necessary when local garages decided to observe Saturday afternoons as a holiday. Jos. Gray Corey, receiving the original appointment as registrar for Precinct No. 1, resigned because the registration center in the Williamston Motor Company would be closed on Saturday afternoons. Miss Edith Stallings, capable secretary of Attorney B. A. Critcher, was appointed by the county commissioners to succeed Mr. Corey as registrar, and she is holding the books open in the attorney's office, corner of Main and Smith-wick Streets.

No polling place has been selected for Precinct No. 1, but arrangements will be handled in due time to handle the vote on May 4. During the meantime all citizens interested in better schools for the district are urged to register with their respective registrars.

Raiding Parties Busy Last Month

ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck reported another busy period on the liquor law enforcement front last month. "We worked just as hard in March as we did in February, but did not capture as many stills," the officer said, his review of the monthly report to the county's alcoholic beverage control board clearly indicating that the illicit business is on the decline in this county.

During the period, the officer and his assistant, Deputy Roy Peel, wrecked nine liquor plants and poured out 1,080 gallons of beer, made mostly from molasses and a cheap grade of that. They also poured out six gallons of illicit liquor, white and clear as crystal with a small worse than that of a skunk. Two alleged offenders were cited to the courts, but no convictions followed during the month.

During the first few days of April, the enforcement officers had taken one-third as many stills as they did during all of March.

One, a crude plant with a 50-gallon capacity oil drum for a kettle, was captured in Griffins Township last Wednesday morning. The officers wrecked five fermenters and poured out 100 gallons of molasses beer and a gallon of white lightning. That afternoon, the officers found two stills at a plant in Bear Grass, the operators stepping up production from one of 30-gallon capacity to fifty. Two fermenters were destroyed and the officers poured out 100 gallons of molasses beer or mash.

Picking up a scent last Thursday, the officers found about three gallons of white liquor buried a short distance from the old Greenville Road about three and one-half miles from Williamston. Ownership of the liquor and the five gallon glass jug could not be determined immediately.

Fire Destroys Home Of Former County Resident

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the home and all contents belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stepps, Jr., near Snow Hill last Saturday afternoon. The members of the family were away from home at the time, and they saved only the clothes they were wearing.

Mrs. Stepps, before her marriage last January 14, was Miss Louise Cullipher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cullipher of near Williamston with whom she is making her home until living quarters can be found in Greene County.

MONEY ORDERS

Effective April 15, 1946, the money order window at the Post Office will close at 5:00 o'clock p. m. instead of the regular closing hour of 6 p. m. This earlier closing has been made necessary by the increase of business in this department, and is to enable the clerks to balance their accounts without the use of overtime. All other windows will remain open as usual for the transaction of other business. Patrons are requested to cooperate by transacting their Money Order business between the hours of 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m.

CANCER DRIVE

After getting off to a slow start, the drive to raise \$1,000 in this county for an unrelenting fight against cancer is now rapidly gaining momentum, according to late reports coming from the leaders. County Chairman R. L. Coburn stated last night that one or two districts are making splendid progress, that they would possibly reach their goals the latter part of this week.

Today, 300 direct mail letters were mailed to citizens in Williamston, urging them to support the fund. "We are hoping the appeals will strike home, that a liberal response will follow," Mrs. F. B. Cone, chairman for Williamston, said. Bob Adkins reports that Robersonville is responding splendidly. Chairman Coburn is visiting several of the other townships today in the interest of the drive.

Fifteen Register With Draft Board

Fifteen Martin County men—six white and nine colored—registered with the draft board in March, it was announced following a meeting of the draft officials a few days ago. The registration was unusually small.

Names and addresses of the registrants:

- Columbus Knowles, Jr., col., RFD 1, Jamesville.
- Julius James Sheppard, col., RFD 2, Williamston.
- Daniel Martin Jones, w, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Geo. Welton Outlaw, col., Williamston.
- Elmer Goss, col., RFD 2, Robersonville.
- William Archie Johnson, w, RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Sir Walter Raleigh Hardison, col., RFD 3, Williamston.
- John Donald Price, Jr., w, Jamesville.
- George Robert Bryant, col, RFD 1, Hobgood.
- James Alphonso Ward, w, Williamston.
- Fred Henry Dolberry, RFD 1, Palmyra.
- Wilbert Joyner, col., RFD 1, Palmyra.
- John Aaron Mizelle, col., RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Johnnie Pittman Taylor, w, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Arthur Nichols Brown, Jr., w, RFD 1, Palmyra.

Reports Biddie With Three Normal Legs

A biddie with three perfectly shaped legs and feet was found last week-end in a brood of sixteen chicks by Farmer G. H. Moore on his farm near Williamston. The chick seems to be normal in other respects and is as healthy as the best, the farmer said.

Schedule Revival In Church At Piney Grove

Beginning tomorrow evening at 7:45, Rev. W. B. Harrington, the pastor, will conduct a series of revival services in the Piney Grove Baptist Church, it was announced today. The meeting will be brought to a close Sunday, and the public is invited.

Expect Hardison To Resign If He Runs In Primary

Education Board Post To Be Filled By Democratic Executive Committee

Although his candidacy has not been officially announced and his application to have his name appear on the democratic ticket in the May 25 primary has not been received by Sylvester Peel, chairman of the Martin County Board of Education, it was fairly certain late Monday that Leslie Hardison, Jamesville business man, would enter the race for county commissioner from the Jamesville-Williamston district.

It was learned that he tendered his resignation yesterday as a member of the Martin County Board of Education to enter the race for commissioner, but the resignation could not be accepted by the education board. It is understood that the resignation will go to the County Democratic Executive Committee, E. S. Peel, chairman, where it will be considered. The resignation had not reached the committee chairman early this morning.

Appointed by the last legislature for a four-year term, Mr. Hardison was scheduled to serve at least two more years on the board of education in this county. However if he resigns and his resignation is duly accepted there will still be no opening on the education board to be filled by the omnibus bill in the legislature next term at the direction of the voters in the democratic primary next month. The law provides for unexpired terms on the board to be filled by the county democratic executive committee.

Since Mr. Hardison's resignation has not reached the committee, no comment was to be had relative to a possible successor. However, it is quite likely that the committee will go into another part of the county for a successor since Jamesville has had two representatives on the board for several terms. The upper part of the county has been without a representative on the board for some time.

Political Activity On The Increase

Causing little more than a ripple on the surface up until now, politics are beginning to take on new life in this county, but even then interest is limited, more or less, to the professionals and the candidates themselves. Competition is now in the making in one or two offices, but no "hot" election with a big vote is in sight just now.

Congressman Herbert Bonner was in the county again this week in the interest of his campaign for the renomination in the May 25 primary. R. Lee Humber, his opponent for the First District Congressional seat, had representatives in the county yesterday. Both were quoted as saying that the "situation looked bright."

Mrs. Crissie Biggs Dies In Everetts

Mrs. Crissie Biggs, a native of Bertie County, died at the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. B. B. Biggs, in Everetts last Tuesday. An invalid for nine years, she had been confined to her bed most of that time. She was 76 years old last December 29.

When quite young she was married to Robert Biggs, and one son, Biscoe Biggs, was born to the union. Following the death of her first husband she was married to Dawson Biggs. She is survived by six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Biggs was a member of the Bear Grass Primitive Baptist church and Elder A. B. Ayers, assisted by Rev. J. M. Perry of Robersonville, Rev. Councilman of Windsor and Rev. Mr. Holt of Bethel, conducted the last rites at her late home last Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock, and interment was in the Everetts Cemetery.

Alleged Thief Is Caught At 'Light' Checking Station

Several Others Arrested For Operating Vehicles With Improper Equipment

Checking lights and equipment at more or less regular intervals, highway patrolmen never know what will turn up during an investigation. Stationed at the corner of Main and Houghton Streets here last Friday night, the officers checked possibly more than 100 cars before their attention was attracted to an old model rattletrap by the driver's actions.

Running almost into the checking station before he realized what was going on, William Purvis, colored of Poplar Point Township, backed up and parked midway the block in front of the Robert Everett home. The officers thought it unusual, so Patrolman W. E. Saunders walked up and instructed Purvis to drive on down to the corner where there was more light. Glancing back over his shoulder, the patrolman saw Robert Brown, colored, jump from the car with a bag partly filled with something. Purvis and Brown proceeded to the corner, but not until Brown had hidden the bag containing three nice hams in the Everett yard. Patrolman Saunders went back, found the meat and reported to the sheriff who later found that the meat which had been hidden in the Everett yard in an emergency was stolen from Johnny Holliday on the Everett farm in Poplar Point Township.

Purvis declared that he did not know the meat was stolen. Brown, believed to have been operating with a confederate, was adjudged guilty in the county court yesterday and drew a six months term on the roads. The sentence was postponed until the fall. Purvis, charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper equipment, was fined \$30 in the court.

At least seven persons were arrested at the checking station for operating motor vehicles with improper equipment, and others were advised to have their lights checked. The station was the second one conducted in this immediate section during recent weeks. Despite repeated warnings, urging them to have their lights fixed and other equipment put in shape, many motorists wait until their vehicles are checked before even offering to remedy what is proving to be a deadly menace on the highways.

Local Jaycees In Regular Meeting

Holding their regular meeting in the Woman's Club Hall here last Friday evening, members of the local Junior Chamber of Commerce selected winners of the organization's contest conducted in the local high school to get the young people's idea of what is Williamston's most needed improvement. The papers had been eliminated down to ten by a special committee before the meeting and John Hatton Gurgan, chairman, had those ten read before the group. First prize, a \$25 bond, went to Elizabeth Manning. Tom Brandon, Jr., received \$15 and Sallie Hardison was awarded \$10 cash for placing second and third in the contest.

The Jaycees had as their guests, Don Johnson, Tommy Owens, T. F. Davenport, Jr., Rudolph Peel, Thad Harrison and Francis Peel. Davenport, Owens and Francis Peel took membership with the organization, the president, Clarence W. Griffin, announced.

Expected Home Soon From Durham Hospital

Undergoing a major eye operation in a Durham hospital two weeks ago, Jim Manning is recovering fairly rapidly now and is expected home between now and the latter part of this week. The stitches are being removed today, but it will be some time possibly before the outcome of the operation is determined. The young man has been blind for several years.

CORRECTION

Reporting the county court proceedings last week, it was stated that Johnnie H. James was charged with drunken driving. The report was in error, and correction is gladly noted here. Mr. James was charged with speeding.

Only Few Days Left To File For County Political Posts

Although there are only a few more days in which office aspirants may toss their hats into the political pot, there has developed no competition, as yet, and in one instance an office is begging for a candidate.

Mr. Sylvester Peel announced yesterday that just enough candidates have filed to fill the major county offices, that no one had filed for constable and justices of the peace have been forgotten apparently.

According to a report received here this week, Leslie Hardison, Jamesville man, is filing for commissioner from the Jamesville-Williamston district, but the application had not been received by the election chairman late Monday. Filing time ends promptly at 6:00 o'clock p. m. on Saturday of this week.

BLUE MOLD

Striking the early part of last week in force, blue mold is raging in tobacco plant beds throughout the county, farmers, questioned here this week, declared.

Where the plants are small, the mold is wiping them out, and badly stunting those two to three inches tall. Farmers are not greatly worried over a possible plant shortage, most of them believing that the mold will soon pass on, that the plants in most cases will have grown out again in time for transplanting by the latter part of this month or early May.

The mold is striking earlier this season than in any other year, and is possibly more disastrous than any in several seasons.

Vaccinate Nearly 700 County Dogs

Nearly seven hundred dogs were vaccinated during the first week in the drive to stamp out rabies in this county, Tax Collector M. Luther Peel said last week-end.

The clinics, scheduled conveniently in nearly every section of the county, are receiving a larger patronage this year than they did last, reports indicate. Most of the dog owners are cooperating splendidly, but already a few forgot or for some other reason did not have their dogs vaccinated, it was learned. A list of those owners who fail to have their dogs vaccinated is being prepared as the drive progresses and will be turned over to the law enforcement officers for action at the close of the drive.

Dogs have been vaccinated in the various districts so far in the following numbers: Dardens and Padgett's store, 130; Jamesville, 179; No. 90 Filling Station, 75; Manning and Gurkin's store, 134; Lilley's store, 78; Corey's Cross Roads, 96, a total of 692 for the first week.

According to unofficial but reliable reports, two mad dogs have been reported in the upper part of the county so far this season. It is fairly certain that both were stray dogs, that they had not been vaccinated against rabies.

Today, clinics are being held in Bear Grass, at J. Paul Lilley's store Wednesday, at Staton Bailey's store Thursday, and Cross Roads on Friday.

Released Following Five Months In Army Hospital

Released from a government hospital where he spent five months receiving treatment for a leg injury, Pfc. John M. Leggett is spending a 30-day furlough with relatives in the county.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. John Leggett, he plans to return to Memphis, Tenn., for continued treatment.

BREAKING CAMP

The Army is closing its prisoner of war camp here this week, Captain Vincent Vehar stating today that most of the prisoners had already been transferred to Camp Butler.

Several Are Hurt In Car Accidents In Martin County

Three Removed To Hospital Here For Treatment Sunday Night

At least five persons were painfully hurt and others were shocked and slightly bruised in a series of highway accidents in this county early last Sunday night. Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Hair, members of the Jamesville faculty, entered the local hospital about 7:00 o'clock for the treatment of injuries received in an accident a short distance this side of Gardner's Creek on U. S. Highway 64. Two others, Leon Powell and a small child whose name could not be learned immediately, were carried to Plymouth for medical attention in the Papineau-Ferguson Clinic. A fifth victim, M. C. Hooker, local colored man, injured when run down on East Main Street here, was removed to the local hospital for treatment shortly before 9:00 o'clock that evening.

Traveling toward Jamesville, Mr. and Mrs. Hair were rounding what is known as "dead man's curve" when Leon Powell, driving a 1940 Chrysler, overran the curve, pulled back and hit the Hair car, a 1941 Chevrolet, head on. Mrs. Hair, thrown partly through the windshield, suffered a hand and leg injury and was unconscious a short time following the accident. Mr. Hair was injured in the chest and was cut on the chin. Powell, a Roper colored man, was badly hurt on the right knee, and a small child, riding with him, suffered a broken leg. Other occupants in the Powell car were slightly bruised and shocked, it was stated.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman W. E. Saunders said it was difficult to estimate the property damage, but that it would possibly exceed \$750 on the two cars. The patrolman had hardly cleared up that wreck when he was called to Jamesville where Solomon Keyes, Dardens colored man, had cleared a block of highway, cut down a post or two and plowed his brother's LaSalle club coupe into Miss Stella Rooks' home. No one was hurt, but the property damage will run possibly more than \$800, including that done to the home.

Driving toward Williamston, (Continued on page six)

Local Nine Wins Its Second Game

By Jo Jo Thigpen
Featuring a nine run rally in the 11th inning, Williamston took its second straight win in an exciting tilt played Sunday in "the town that never sleeps".

The locals drew first blood in the third stanza, scoring one run on two hits. Everett, the starting chucker, was replaced by Bullock on the mound for the losers in the fourth when Davenport, H. Wynne and Junior Perry collected consecutive bingles.

Robersonville fought back with runs in the fourth and fifth innings to tie the ball game up at 4-4. Wynne, sharing hurling duties with Sullivan, staged a pitchers' duel with Bullock until Willie Lassiter's boys unlimbered their big guns in the eleventh. The final inning saw 15 Martin hitters collect eight hits and nine runs to sew up the ball game.

E. Whitfield hit safely three times to lead Williamston as did Johnson and Everett for the Grimsdens.

Theron Perry, local infielder, was spiked in both arms by Ross on a play at third base but is expected to be back in the line-up for next Sunday's game. Garland Wynne received credit for the win; Haywood Wynne completed Williamston's battery while Whitehead caught for Robersonville.

These same clubs clash in the high school park here next Sunday.

Marriage Licenses Are Issued To Three Couples

Marriage licenses were issued in this county last week-end to three couples: Wm. J. Griffin and Tillie Gray Griffin, both of Griffins Township. B. F. Roughton, Norfolk, and Frances Girvin, of Jamesville. Samuel Killbrew and Mamie Harrell, both of Oak City.

Funeral Saturday For Mrs. Marriner

Funeral services were conducted at the home on Park Street here last Saturday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. J. J. Marriner who died in a Washington hospital last Thursday night. She had been in declining health for some time, death following a major operation performed earlier that day.

The daughter of Mrs. Anna Spruill Trueblood and the late T. R. Trueblood of Roper, Mrs. Marriner was born in Washington County 41 years ago on March 26, 1905. In early womanhood she was married to Mr. Marriner and lived in Battleboro a number of years before coming to Williamston four years ago this summer. During her stay here she made many friends and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She was a member of the Baptist Church, a devoted wife and mother and a splendid and thoughtful neighbor.

Surviving are Mr. Marriner and two daughters, Mrs. Maurice Bradley and Affie Hope Marriner, both of Williamston; two sisters, Mrs. Carroll Davis and Mrs. Ronald Jones, both of Elizabeth City; three brothers, Oscar and Philip Trueblood of Roper, and Bennie Trueblood, of the U. S. Merchant Marine; and two grandchildren, Sandra Wray and Julius Benjamin Bradley.

Rev. John L. Goff, pastor of the local Christian church, and Rev. C. G. Wood, Aulander minister, conducted the last rites and interment followed in the family cemetery near the family home not far from Roper.

Bank Observes Its Eleventh Birthday

The local Guaranty Bank and Trust Company observed its eleventh birthday anniversary last Wednesday. There was no formal ceremony, but the event marked another milestone in able banking service rendered this section.

While the local branch rounded out its eleventh year, the parent organization in Greenville was observing its 45th anniversary. Founded in 1901 on a small scale, the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company now holds a ranking position in North Carolina's financial field. It is headed by a former Martin County man, Mr. W. H. Woolard, and its other officers and directors are well known in this county and section.

ROUND-UP

Law enforcement officers had another busy period last week-end when they rounded up ten alleged violators. Seven were booked for public drunkenness, two for larceny and receiving and one, a lad of just sixteen years of age, for drunken driving. All ten were colored, and the ages of the group ranged from sixteen to thirty-seven years. The number of drunks falling into the hands of the law is steadily increasing, but "we are still picking up little more than what may be called a drop in the bucket," one enforcement officer declared.