

Farmer of County Nearly Drowns In Canal Last Friday

Leland Williams Dragged
From Water By Herbert
L. Roebuck

Leland Williams, young Martin County farmer, almost lost his life when he fell into a canal while fishing several miles below Columbia last Friday. Dragged unconscious from the water, Williams responded to artificial respiration after several minutes and was removed to a Columbia hospital for treatment.

Fishing from the bank of the narrow but fairly deep canal, Williams apparently fainted and fell into the water. Joe Wynne, fishing nearby did not see him fall but heard the splash. Running to the spot, Wynne saw Williams floating on his back, his motionless arms outstretched and showing no sign of life. Wynne called his fishing companions, Herbert L. Roebuck and George Wynne. Before they could reach the spot, Williams went down. Shown the spot where he submerged, Roebuck pulled off his coat and dived in, grabbing the man by the collar and pulling him ashore.

George Wynne, trained in the ways of first aid while a member of the armed forces, applied artificial respiration, and about six minutes later the man showed signs of life. One of the party drove to Columbia for a doctor but the medics were busy patching up victims of an auto wreck and could not go. Returning to the canal, the party member found Williams alive and they placed him in the car and carried him to the hospital.

Rendered almost crazy from shock, Williams was fastened to the bed, but gradually improved and was able to return home a few hours later.

Plan To Organize AMVETS Here

All Martin County veterans of World War II are urged to attend the organizational meeting of the AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II) Wednesday night, November 13 at 8:00 in the Williamston High School auditorium. At this meeting the principles of the AMVETS will be explained in detail and definite plans drawn up for the election of officers and future meetings. Provision will be made for all colored veterans who are interested in this organization.

The AMVETS was organized in December of 1944. It is the largest World War II Veterans organization in existence. AMVETS is a non-political, non-party organization and supports no "ism." Its primary purpose is to promote good will toward others and help to obliterate any attempt of a nation or nations to wage war on others.

The AMVETS were instrumental in the delegation of Commander Harold E. Stassen to the United Nations Conference held at San Francisco. It was the belief of this organization that a member of the armed forces of the United States should be appointed to attend this conference which will weigh heavily in the future.

The AMVETS led the fight for terminal leave pay for enlisted men of the armed forces. Other activities of this veterans organization include winning permission from President Truman for a non-military medical corps for the Veterans Administration, an investigation leading to the conviction of corporations making artificial limbs under the anti-trust laws, bringing about the dismissal of General Hines from the Veterans Administration and other activities.

The chapter to be organized here is being sponsored by local veterans who believe that such a chapter will serve this community and the county beneficially in the future. At the initial meeting copies of the principles of the AMVETS will be distributed.

Auto Catches On Fire On Street Here Sunday

Catching fire when a glass gas filter broke, a Buick automobile was slightly damaged on the main street here last Sunday evening at 5:45 o'clock. The fire department was called out and the fire was put out before much damage was done.

Twenty-two Divorce Cases On Calendar

Few Defendants
Contest Claims
For Separation

Plaintiffs Allege Adultery
In Only Two Of The
Twenty-Two Cases

Twenty-two divorce cases have been booked for trial during the special term of Martin County Superior Court convening next Monday. Few defendants are contesting the claims for absolute separation and adultery is alleged in only two cases. Most of the marriages went on the rocks during the last war years, some breaking up after a number of years of teamwork.

In his suit against Lelia Faye White, the plaintiff, Lester White, says he left this country for foreign service in January, 1944, that in February, 1945, the defendant gave birth of a child in Ohio. The action is not contested.

The divorce action of Lucy B. Andrews against William B. Andrews is based on two years' separation, but the defendant has been dead for some time.

Inez R. Keel is suing Roddis Moye Keel, Sr., for divorce on the grounds of two years' separation. Married in 1938, the plaintiff claims custody of the one child.

Bonnie E. Bland in his case against Elise Moore Bland alleges the defendant committed adultery in the summer of 1944 in this county. The defendant, now of Fayetteville, denies the allegation and apparently will contest the action in the court next Monday.

Basing her action on two years' separation, Della Whitehurst is suing William Whitehurst for a divorce. In the complaint, the plaintiff says they were married in 1928 and separated in 1940 after nine children were born to the union, all but five of whom are now self-supporting.

Robert A. Wilson is asking an absolute divorce from Florene Wilson, the plaintiff claiming that they separated in 1943 after marrying in 1942.

Elder L. Gardner is suing Lola Gardner for a divorce on the grounds of two years' separation. The couple separated in 1943 after about one year of married life.

In the case of W. D. Bell against Jennie Bell, the plaintiff claims they separated in 1944 following their marriage in 1943.

In the case of James Washington against Mary Washington, the defendant, contesting the action, admits they separated in 1944 following their marriage about ten years previously, but that she was forced to leave. She alleges that after she was forced to leave, the plaintiff took another woman into the home and cohabited with her. The plaintiff also claims that she worked hard and helped pay for the home. *Site is being reported.*

George Washington Joyner is suing Dorothy Joyner for a divorce based on two years' separation. They were married in 1942 and separated in 1943.

In the case of Paul Cherry against Mildred Cherry, the plaintiff. *(Continued on page eight)*

Cars Crash Here At Intersection

No one was hurt but considerable damage was done last Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock when two cars, a \$2,000 Chrysler and an old model Chevrolet, crashed at the intersection of South Houghton and Railroad Streets. James Clifton Abdell, 1768 Fontainebleau Crescent, Norfolk, was driving his new Chrysler into town when R. J. Duggins, RFD 1, Williamston, started to make a left turn at the intersection.

Both are booked to appear in the county court December 2, Abdell for driving too fast and Duggins for operating a car on the wrong side of the road.

Damage to the Chrysler was estimated at \$200 by Chief C. R. Mobley who investigated. Repairs to the Chevrolet will cost between \$25 and \$50.

RETURNS



All precedents in the local charge were broken last week-end when Rev. B. T. Hurley was returned by the Methodist Conference at Henderson for his seventh year as pastor of the Methodist church here.

Petition Signed By Many Voters

With approximately 40 percent of the local voters' signatures already appearing on the petition to request the next legislature to change the town's election of city officials from the long-used convention type election to a primary type and have the town divided into wards, the members of the Jaycees' Civic Improvement committee are beginning this week a canvass of the residential sections of the town.

After having circulated the petition through the business sections of the community last week, the committee members expect to reach a large number of voters during their campaign which is expected to last until the entire town has been canvassed.

The Jaycees will work in teams of two, with the several teams being assigned to different streets. Since most of the club members work during the day, the petition will be circulated in the residential sections at night. Considerable interest is being shown in the move, several voters having requested the committee to bring the petition to them in order that they might sign it, the Jaycees reported.

Hunters Attacked By Wild Animals

Hunting deer on the Conoho Hunting Club reserve last Saturday morning, Nathan Bullock and Albert White were attacked by wild hogs. Attacking dogs used in tracking deer, the hogs, a sow weighing about 300 pounds and three pigs, turned on the hunters who were forced to shoot them to protect themselves. Several other pigs ran away but not until they had offered to attack the men and were shot and wounded slightly. The four animals were dressed and placed in a freezer locker.

MEETING

The first meeting of the local parent-teacher association since its organization a few weeks ago will be held in the high school auditorium Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock, President Hugh G. Horton announced.

Miss Lissie Pearce, elementary school supervisor for the county, will address the meeting while Mrs. J. S. Blair of Wallace, state field worker of the Parent-Teachers Association, will make a brief talk and conduct a round-table discussion of problems. Mrs. W. H. Eryant, district supervisor, of Ahoskie, will also be present.

Several business matters will be placed before the meeting for discussion, including plans for staging a special show on Friday night of next week.

James G. Staton Died at His Home Here Last Friday

Funeral Held In Church of
The Advent Saturday
Afternoon

Funeral services were conducted in the Church of the Advent here last Saturday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for James Grist Staton who died at his home on the corner of Main and Houghton Streets Friday morning at 9:00 o'clock. The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Darst of Wilmington and the rector, Rev. John W. Hardy, officiated, interment following in the family cemetery on the old home farm, Kelvin Grove, near Williamston.

In declining health for the past ten years or more, Mr. Staton had received treatment in various hospitals and spent months in Hot Springs, Arkansas. About five years ago he disposed of all his holdings and virtually retired from all activities except for hunting and fishing, a pastime which he had greatly enjoyed from boyhood. He was forced to give up that sport and had been confined to his home most of the time during the past two years. For about a week before the end he did not feel very well and spent most of the time in bed, but his condition was not regarded as serious until last Friday morning when he suffered a heart attack at 4:00 o'clock and died in his sleep five hours later.

Mr. Staton, son of the late James Thomas Adrian and Ella Bonner Grist Staton, was born at the home of his maternal grandparents in Beaufort County, near Washington, on September 2, 1874, and lived there until the death of his mother. When he was eleven years old he moved with his father and two sisters to his father's old home near Williamston where he prepared himself for a colorful career in agriculture.

When a young man he turned from the farm for a few years to study telegraphy and serve as Coast Line agent and mayor of Everetts for a short period. Leaving there he located in Williamston, engaging for a while in the mercantile business with the late Eli Gurganus. Quitting the mercantile business, he helped organize the local tobacco market in the early part of the century and was prominently connected with its operations for about twenty-five years. During the meantime he engaged in extensive farming operations in this and Washington Counties, ranking at one time with the largest landowners and farm operators in this section of the State. He owned and operated a cotton gin, was a partner with Henry Daniel at the old Daniel and Staton mill for many years, and was interested in other lines of business. He was one of the founders and president of the Peoples Bank until its liquidation in the early twenties after which he limited his attention principally to farming operations.

Mr. Staton served several terms as a member of the Martin County Board and the Williamston Town Board of Commissioners. As a member of the county board he advocated good roads, and under his administration the first day was placed on the road leading to Washington by an organized commission. He was also a member of the town board when the town's water system was installed in the late teens. He served as a member of the State Department of Agriculture under two governors, Gardner and Ehringhaus.

A communicant of the Episcopal church here for fifty years, he served many years as its treasurer and as senior warden, and held the 32nd degree in Masonry.

In early manhood he was married to Louella Poole, a first cousin. Three children were born to that union and they died in infancy. Following his wife's death and on September 2, 1908, he was married to Mrs. Fannie Chase Biggs, a native of Virginia, who survives with a nephew, Charles H. Godwin, Jr., of Williamston.

It was the family's request that no flowers be sent.

Active pallbearers were, Messrs. Victor Champion, F. U. Barnes, H. A. Bowen, Henry Handy, Lewis Roberson, Clayton Moore of Winston-Salem, William Chase of Norfolk and Hubert Morton of Kinston.

Question Recaptured Convict In Connection With Assault

Child Killed By Hit-And-Run Driver Near Oak City

The life of McKinley Jones, 13-year-old colored youth, was snuffed out suddenly between sunset and dark when he was run down by a ruthless truck driver on N. C. Highway No. 125 about three and one-half miles west of Oak City. A large hole knocked in his head, both legs broken and the body mangled, the little fellow died instantly.

Few details of the tragedy could be learned immediately, but members of the highway patrol and other officers are still conducting an inspection of vehicles and checking enough evidence which, it is believed, will lead to an arrest within a few days. "We have gained a fair description of the death vehicle and feel certain it can be identified," a member of the highway patrol said this week, explaining that no positive action is being considered until evidence now in hand can be checked.

The position of the boy in the

Otis Ragland, 29,
Is Being Held In
Undisclosed Jail

Large Posse Recaptures
Man In Williams Township
Friday Afternoon

Otis Ragland, one of eight convicts escaping from the Martin County prison camp on the night of November 3, was recaptured by a large posse in Williams Township late last Friday afternoon and is being questioned in connection with a brutal attack on Mrs. Floyd Moore earlier in the day. Officers have not disclosed all their findings, but preliminary reports strongly indicate that the 29-year-old convict is involved in the attack.

Her head injured when she was knocked to the floor and choked when he tied a table cover over her head and around her neck, Mrs. Moore suffered greatly from shock and was placed in the care of a physician. She was later said to be getting along very well, but continued highly nervous.

Mrs. Moore was working in her kitchen during the noon hour when her assailant burst through the door, threw an old jumper coat over her head and knocked her down. When he made ready to leave a few minutes later, he removed the jumper coat and tied the table cover around her head, and told her not to move for two hours. A few minutes later Mrs. Moore heard a car traveling the highway and she got up and ran out of the house but was too late to flag it down. She then ran up the road about two hundred yards to Nurney's filling station and reported the attack.

Within half an hour, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Capt. J. E. Elbridge, superintendent of the prison camp near Williamston, were heading a large posse, including a number of highway patrolmen, guards and citizens, numbering possibly 100 or more. Bloodhounds were brought to the scene in record time from the Pitt County prison camp, and they picked up a track at the house and after following a zig-zag course through the woods for about two hours, Ragland was surrounded possibly some over a mile from the Moore home. While the chase was in progress other officers took pictures of the tracks and they were said to match perfectly those made by Ragland.

Placed in the county jail for a short time while officers questioned him and doctors made certain tests, Ragland was spirited away a short time later to an undisclosed jail. Officers, admitting that they were only taking a chance in obtaining evidence in the case by having the tests made, would not reveal their findings. It was learned that preliminary tests were made here, that the *smears were delivered by special messenger to a hospital laboratory and that they were later carried to the state laboratory.*

The group participating in the hunt for the criminal was angry, but there was not outward sign of violence. However, officers were of the opinion that the man's *(Continued on page eight)*

Return Fugitive To Prison Camp

Serving ten months in prison, his sixth term over a period of ten years, Percy Williams escaped from the Martin County camp on July 21 of last year, and was recaptured in Edenton last Friday. Charged with stealing prison clothes and escaping from the camp, Williams was carried before Judge J. C. Smith in the county court Monday and was sentenced to serve fifteen months, the term to begin at the expiration of the sentence he is now serving.

Williams explained to the court that he did not steal any clothes, that they were given to him by a fellow convict in payment of a bill for washing. "And, Judge, I did not broke away, I found the kitchen door open and just walked away," he explained.

Issue Twenty-Five Marriage Licenses In Martin County

White Issuance Largest For
Any October In The
Past Ten Years

Twenty-five marriage licenses were issued in this county last month. The number of licenses issued to white couples was the largest for any October in the past ten years. A total of 263 licenses have already been issued in the county so far this year or 54 more than were issued during all of last year, and if the marital business holds up this month and next, a record issuance will have been made.

Licenses were issued, fifteen to white and ten to colored couples, as follows:

White
Herman J. Williams and Betty Lois Cherry, both of Bethel.
Ernest Capps and Lola Vernise Hardison, both of Williamston.
Haywood Cherry, Jr., and Irene Butler, both of Williamston.

John R. Howell of Scotland Neck and Susa Malissa Jenkins of Hobgood.
James Robert Moore of Richmond and Ellen Cowan Twiddy of Williamston.

Julian H. Fagan of Jamesville and Neda Johnson of Robersonville.

Roy M. James, RFD 2, Bethel, and Evelyn Gray Matthews of Parmele. Jesse Leon Taylor of Stokes and Mae Wyatt James of Robersonville.

James Garland Carson of Bethel and Doris Matthews of Robersonville.

Billie Jonas Haislip, RFD 1, Bethel, and Mildred May Cannon of Robersonville.
Edward Ray Gurganus and Martha Atha Roberson, both of Williamston.

James Calvin Ingram of Elizabeth City and Mary Elizabeth Ramsey of Williamston.

James O. Wynne, RFD 3, Williamston, and Daisy Bullock of Oak City.

George Hyman Whitaker and Lucy Gray Modlin, both of RFD 3, Williamston.

Garland Edward Pierce and Gwendolyn Martin Hurley, both of Plymouth.

Colored
General Parker, Jr., and Charlotte Etheridge, both of Windsor.
James E. Williams of Washington. *(Continued on page eight)*

Plan Christmas Cheer Movement

Holding their regular monthly meeting, the board of directors of the local Lions Club went on record to continue their Christmas Cheer Program for the indigent blind and the needy of the community. Lion Clyde Griffin was appointed to serve as chairman of this project.

The board members also discussed plans for the sponsoring of a school boy patrol in connection with the safety of local school children in crossing the streets to and from the public schools. Further action was delayed pending receipt of more information regarding cost of uniforms and other requirements.

The Lions Club will again undertake the project of selling shelled extra large raw peanuts to members of Lions Clubs in other parts of the country, the proceeds to be applied to the Scout Hut Fund. Lions J. H. Edwards and F. G. Thomas are co-chairmen of this project, which will be the second year that the club has undertaken such an activity.

Further plans for help to the blind and visually handicapped were outlined, with the club expected to extend aid to several needy cases, through clinics and individual contacts. It was announced that the club had purchased a new radio and placed in the home of an aged local citizen who is now in failing health and who is having difficulty reading due to poor vision.

Several minor matters were discussed at the meeting, which was held at the home of Secretary Ross Froneberger, with Lions H. P. Mobley, J. H. Edwards, C. D. Pittman, D. C. McLawhorn, W. Clyde Griffin, W. M. Baker, J. H. Harrell, D. V. Clayton, C. J. Goodman, Homer Barnhill and Wheeler Manning attending.