

## County Young Man Ends Life At His Home Last Sunday

Allen F. Stocks, Veteran of World War II, Fires Shot Into Heart

Alfred F. Stocks, veteran of World War II and a hard working young farmer of near Robersonville, ended his life at his home last Sunday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. A load of shot fired from a 12-gauge shot gun into his heart, the young man was found dead on a couch in the living room about thirty minutes later by his younger brother, Wiley Stocks, 11 years old.

Driving a nail into a piece of stove wood, the veteran pulled off his shoes, sat down on the couch and leaned against the couch arm. He fired the gun with the stick of stove wood, and the entire load entered his heart, the powder burns covering a fairly large place on his body.

The tragedy came as a marked surprise to members of the family who pointed out that he had made no threats to end his life, and apparently seemed to be getting along all right. He had been married and separated from his wife.

Sunday afternoon about 2:30 o'clock his step-father and mother, Mrs. Pearl Evans Stocks Roberson, and other members of the family decided to visit in the neighborhood. The young man said he planned to go to the show. A neighbor heard the report of a gun at 4:30 o'clock that afternoon, but thought nothing of it until the family returned home and discovered the body.

Stocks was born in Pitt County near Winterville, spending most of his early life there before going with his family to Tarboro. The family moved to Martin County about five years ago.

Besides his young brother, mother and step-father he is survived by three sisters, Mrs. J. Clifton Roebuck of near Robersonville, Mrs. John T. Bunting of Parmele and Velma Stocks of the home. A brother, Pvt. Joseph G. Stocks, was killed while serving in the country's armed forces somewhere in Holland on September 23, 1944.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister. Burial will follow in the Robersonville Cemetery.

## Drives Car Into Ricks Bus Sunday

Driving out of a side road three miles beyond Oak City on the Hobgood Road last Sunday evening, Fred Henry Dolberry plowed his old model car into the side of a Ricks passenger bus operated by John Mobley. No one was hurt and no great damage resulted to the bus. Chief Edmond Earlv, investigating, the accident stated that possibly \$150 would offset the repairs. The bus schedule was delayed for more than an hour and a half or until a relief bus could be dispatched to the scene.

A young girl riding in the Dolberry car received a slight leg injury.

Dolberry was quoted as saying that he did not look and did not see the bus as he drove into the highway.

A hearing in the case will be held before Justice J. B. Whitfield in Oak City Wednesday morning.

### ROUND-UP

Local and county officers had another busy period last week-end when they rounded up and jailed twelve persons, ten colored and two white, their ages ranging from 21 to 52 years.

Three were detained for investigation and the others were charged with crimes ranging from public drunkenness on up to murder. One each was charged with assault, reckless driving, carrying a concealed weapon, drunken driving, issuing a worthless check and murder. Three were charged with public drunkenness.

## Gambling Act Leads To Killing In County

### RECORD

With the exception of those years when new registrations were ordered, the registration of potential voters for any kind of an election established a new record here last Saturday when approximately 325 persons registered with Registrar John E. Pope for the rapidly approaching municipal primary election here. On the previous Saturday, 70 persons registered, boosting the number of new names on the books to 395. At the present time approximately 779 persons have their names on the books.

Next Saturday at 6:00 o'clock the registration books close. Any one planning to participate in the April 14 primary election should make certain that his or her name is on the books prior to that time.

## Several Fires In The County Early Sunday Morning

### Jamesville Negro School And Storage House Here Burn

Fire believed to have been of incendiary origin destroyed three buildings here and in Jamesville early last Sunday morning, causing a loss roughly estimated at \$8,500.

Local firemen received their first call at 12:30 that morning when fire had gained considerable headway in an old storage house adjoining the Williamston Supply Company on Elm Street. There was a long delay in sounding the alarm and by the time the fire-fighting equipment reached the scene, the fire was spreading to large piles of lumber and to an enormous sawdust pile. Fanned by a high wind, the fire was gaining a substantial foothold in the sawdust pile and burning toward the main buildings when the firemen laid two large lines of hose and confined it to the old building, housing some seed cotton. Mr. J. S. Whitley, owner, estimated the loss at \$200 to the building and about \$200 to the lumber. No insurance was carried on the building which the owners had planned to tear down, but the lumber loss was covered by insurance.

It is believed that prowlers carelessly fired the building.

Later that morning fire destroyed the river cafe belonging to the Roberson estate at Jamesville. No estimate on the loss there could be had. The owner was in the building about midnight and the fire was in there at the time, that he propped against the heater while eating a meal. It is thought that some one fired the building.

A short time later fire broke out in the Jamesville colored school, and according to reports reaching here it is fairly certain that it was of incendiary origin. The fire started in the six-room structure in the front part of the building and burned it to the foundation, including the coal and wood house, and a smoke house nearby. A small home adjoining

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## Two Gang Plows Stolen Friday

Thieves, believed to have been operating at fairly close range, stole two walking gang plows, one an Oliver and the other a John Deer, from a tobacco barn shelter on Farmer J. F. Crisp's farm about one mile north of Oak City some time during last Friday night. The plows were loaded on a truck and carried away in the direction of Hobgood. A search in that section over the week-end failed to uncover a clue in the case.

The plows, almost impossible to replace, were valued at about \$200.

## Jno. Bell, Negro, Fatally Shot By Sam R. Riddick

### Men Quarreled Over Quarter; Riddick Claims Act Was In Self Defense

Johnnie Bell, about 40 years old, was instantly killed by Samuel Riddick in Jamesville about 1:30 o'clock last Saturday morning, first reports reaching here stating that a 25-cent gambling trick started an argument and led to the murder.

Using a .45 calibre pistol, Riddick shot Bell through the heart and in the left jaw, death resulting a few seconds later but not until the victim had staggered possibly twenty-five or thirty feet away from the spot where he was attacked. The bullet piercing the heart went all the way through the body, officers finding it in his clothes. The second bullet entered the left jaw, ranged downward and came out just under the man's right shoulder. A third shot went wild.

Details of the final attack could not be learned in their entirety, officers explaining that witnesses to the argument were hesitant in telling what they knew.

Assembling in the home of Eugene Singleton in Jamesville Friday night, Riddick, Bell, Dick Richardson, Mitchell Moore, Frank Green, Isaiah Smith and Richard Gray, were said to have engaged in a gambling game. Riddick was alleged to have pulled a gambling trick, costing Bell a quarter. An argument started, and Frank Green succeeded in getting Bell out of the house. He was leading him down the street when Bell pulled out a knife and declared that no one was going to rob him out of a quarter, that he was going back and get Riddick. Green, turning him loose, returned to the home and warned Riddick. Expecting Bell to enter the front door, Riddick started to go out the back. Just as he opened the door, Bell unexpectedly greeted him. As far as it could be learned no one witnessed the meeting, but Riddick maintains that Bell pulled out a knife and attacked him, that he shot in self defense. A knife, said to have belonged to Bell, was found on the ground at the door along with three empty bullet jackets discharged by the automatic pistol.

No one in the home moved to report the killing, but neighbors hearing the shots, called Constable Paul Holliday who made an investigation. The officer, searching in the backyard of the Singleton home, stumbled over Bell's body lying on the woodpile. County officers were notified and the killing was investigated. They traced Riddick to his home in Jamesville and learned that he had been there, that he left a few minutes later after telling his wife what had happened. Officers trailed him to the home of his father-in-law, Joe Pierce, in the Free Union section. Early that

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## Officers Wreck Three Oil Drums

Three oil drums, used as stills in the manufacture of illicit liquor, were destroyed in this county during the past few days by ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and deputies.

The first of the plants, crudely equipped, was destroyed near Hassell where the officers confiscated two gallons of illicit liquor. A second plant was wrecked in Bear Grass last Monday along with 100 gallons of cheap beer. The following day the officers wrecked a small oil drum, but found no beer. The owners had just moved the equipment to a new location, the officers explained.

In between the still raids, the officers made a search in Williamston Township and found four gallons of white liquor hid in the woods, but ownership could not be determined immediately.

## Local Undertaker And Minister Hurt In Auto Accident

En Route to Funeral When Car Strikes Theirs Monday Afternoon

S. R. Biggs, local undertaker, and Rev. John L. Goff, local minister, were painfully but believed not seriously hurt yesterday afternoon when an automobile driven by Anthony Lanier crashed into theirs on Highway 64 just beyond Sweet Water Creek. Treated in the local hospital, the minister, it was found, had no bones broken but he was bruised and suffered severe shock. He was unconscious for a short while following the accident. Thrown forward by the almost head-on impact, the undertaker mashed the steering wheel almost against the steering post and was bruised internally, but no ribs were broken. En route to the old Manning family cemetery in Griffins Township where the body of J. E. Manning was to be interred, the undertaker continued on his mission, but left shortly before it was entirely completed. He is confined to his home.

Leading the funeral procession, Patrolman W. E. Saunders saw Lanier approaching apparently at a fast rate of speed and signaled him with his caution light to slow down on the "S" curve beyond the creek. A beverage truck, meeting the procession, had turned off the hardsurface, and Lanier, who claimed the brakes on his Plymouth car failed, apparently became excited and turned to his left. The front part of his car struck the left front wheel of the Chevrolet, owned and driven by Mr. Biggs, knocking it partly off the highway.

Sensing the approaching danger, the minister threw his arm over his face, his elbow and head breaking the windshield.

The funeral procession was delayed about fifteen minutes while the road was being cleared and while the minister was transferred to another car for removal to the hospital.

Lanier, explaining that he had been instructed by his father to come to town and learn why a log truck had been detained, was formally charged with reckless driving, speeding, operating a car with inadequate brakes and without a driver's license. At a hearing late yesterday afternoon he was placed under bond in the sum of \$1,000 by Justice J. S. Ayers. The bond was arranged by Lanier's father, Wiley Lanier, a respected farmer of Williams Township.

No estimate on the wreck damage could be had immediately, but it will possibly exceed \$300 for each car.

## Little Damage At Plant Fire Here

Damage estimated at \$50 resulted when fire threatened the bath house at the Standard Fertilizer Company plant on Roanoke River here shortly after 9:00 o'clock last Thursday evening.

While its origin could not be determined, the fire is believed to have been started by spontaneous combustion. Discovering the fire, the watchman employed extinguishers and held it fairly well in check until volunteer firemen reached there and put it out with a small stream of water from a tank on the truck.

### EASTER SEAL SALES

The annual Easter Seal Sale got under way in the county yesterday, the leaders stating that they hoped to raise during the next few days several hundred dollars to support an aid program for crippled children.

This year the Delphia People's Circle of the Presbyterian Church in Williamston is cooperating with Miss Mary W. Taylor, Chairman of the Martin County League for Crippled Children, in putting on the drive for funds.

The public is urged to participate in this appeal for funds to be used for crippled children of both races in Martin County.

## Ten File For Places On Local Board of Town Commissioners

### Purchase Blount Property And Plan New Hotel Here

Purchasing the Blount Property, corner of Main and Smithwick Streets last Saturday, Messrs. Sid A. Mobley and Robert L. Coburn are making tentative plans for the construction of a new hotel here. Consisting of the George Reynolds Hotel, Harrison and Carstarphen insurance offices, Ann's Variety Store, Hotel Barber Shop and a sizable lot facing Smithwick Street, the property was sold by Mrs. E. P. Cunningham, the former Miss Carrie Dell Blount, to Mobley and Coburn for \$50,500, according to unofficial but reliable information. The transaction was completed last Saturday when Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham came here from Smithfield.

The sale involving Main Street property was the third unusually large one reported here during recent weeks, D. E. Darden having

purchased one-half of the Harrison Brothers building and J. S. Whitley having bought the Staton business property a short time ago.

Plans for a new hotel just back of the present hotel building are now being considered. Builder's plans have been ordered, and the project will receive more consideration within a short time, it was learned.

It is understood that the new owners of the property, recognizing the urgent need for enlarged hotel facilities here, will propose the formation of a stock company to finance the construction of a new and modern building. Quite a few local people are interested in a new hotel for the town, and it is fairly certain they will cooperate with the new property owners in advancing construction plans.

## Prison Camp Here Rated Among Best By Disciplinarian

### Disciplinarian H. H. Honeycutt Makes Inspection Sunday Afternoon

Making a periodic inspection of the State Highway prison camp here last Sunday, H. H. Honeycutt, disciplinarian for the State's prison system, found everything in order at the camp, and while he could not afford to make a public declaration of the dean of the business strongly intimated it was one of the best district camps in the State.

The kindly old gentleman, patient and most understanding, listened to the stories of quite a few of the inmates. One, serving a fifteen-year term, pleaded for a transfer to the western part of the State, explaining that he would like very much to be nearer home and his rapidly aging parents. His story, along with many similar ones, were heard with a sympathy marked by understanding for a fellowman temporarily in trouble. Captain John Delbridge, superintendent of the camp, and his force were complimented for their strict but humane system of discipline, for the condition of the camp.

Accompanied by Mrs. Honeycutt and a relative from Raleigh, Captain and Mrs. W. H. Stell of Tarboro, the former ward of State's Prison intentionally or unintentionally with strong emphasis on the first, timed his inspection with Cook Onnie C. Cotton's dinner bell. Drawing almost entirely from the prison farm larder, Cotton, who is "quitting" the camp on or about the 21st of this month, prepared a meal fit for a king, topping it with old-time sweet potato custard. Cotton did not say so in so many words, but it was apparent that he was cooking for "earned" time as well as the considerate disciplinarian.

Calling the 63 inmates in for dinner, Captain Delbridge offered an impressive example of discipline in his camp. Four cooks lined

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## Cow Crippled By Auto In County

A milch cow being led by Willie Anne Rogers on the Bear Grass-Everetts Road early last Friday evening was run down and crippled by an automobile driven by James Taylor Everett of Everetts. Driving in a curve, Everett, operating a 1930 model car, ran up on the cow suddenly, striking her and breaking her front legs. The car then swerved and continued into a road ditch. No one was hurt.

Called to investigate the accident, Patrolman W. E. Saunders killed the cow belonging to Fannie Mason. A hearing in the case was scheduled.

## Others Planning To Announce For Places On Board

### Time For Filing for Mayor And Commissioners Ends Friday at 6 P. M.

Town politics, limited in past years to a brief nominating convention, went into high gear yesterday when additional candidates filed for places on the local town board of commissioners, boosting the count to ten for commissioners. Two, John L. Hassell, the incumbent, and Robert L. Cowen, young attorney, are in the race for mayor.

The five old board members, G. H. Harris, N. C. Green, V. D. Godwin, L. P. Lindsley and Roy T. Griffin, filed last week-end to succeed themselves. John H. Gurganus, K. D. Worrell and Ben D. Courtney, formally announcing their candidacies for places on the board of commissioners last week, filed yesterday, paying their filing fees to the town clerk, G. H. Harrison. A. J. Manning and Dillon S. Cobb also filed yesterday for commissioner. Manning had considered entering the race for several weeks, but Cobb's candidacy came rather unexpectedly.

H. Leman Barnhill, mentioned prominently as a potential candidate last week, has neither filed nor formally announced his candidacy for commissioner, according to a report coming from the clerk late yesterday afternoon. James C. Cooke was also mentioned as a potential candidate, but no developments in his candidacy had been reported up until early this morning. C. D. Carstarphen is still being mentioned as a likely candidate for mayor or commissioner, but as far as it could be learned today he has reached no definite decision relative to his candidacy.

The time for filing ends on Friday of this week at 6:00 o'clock p. m., and further developments on the political front, it is believed, will take place before or about that time.

While no big guns have been fired on opening the campaign, Candidate John Hatton Gurganus last week-end publicized the town, asking the people to register and support him. No issues have been injected into the campaign so far, but rumors have it that some are brewing, and present indications point to an active and hot political contest. No candidate has started passing out cigars or kissing the little children as yet, but there has been some handshaking, a lot of talking and some back-stage maneuvering, it is believed. The campaign period every week about eleven more week days but a lot of fur can be made to fly during that brief time.

That interest in the campaign is reaching an all-time new high is evidenced in the registration last Saturday. Over three hundred additional names were placed on the books, the registrar, J. E. Pope, stating that the people lined up to await their turns. Most of those registering are newcomers, or persons who moved here within the past five or six years. Quite a few visited the registrar's office to make certain their names had been placed on the books, some found them there and some did not.

## Youth Freed From Cast After Five Long Months

J. D. Hines, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Hines, shed his plaster cast last Friday in a Durham hospital after holding to the forced position for five months. Extending from his waist almost to his toes, the cast was used to correct a hip injury received while playing ball in the schools here.

He was carried to Durham in a Biggs ambulance Friday for the shedding. His legs held a part by a cross bow for five months, the youngster is already able to touch his toes together, and plans to get about on crutches shortly.

## Native Of County Dies In Hospital Friday Afternoon

Funeral Service Held Sunday For Jos. E. Manning in Norfolk

Funeral services were conducted in the Derry Funeral Chapel in Norfolk Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock for Joseph Edwin Manning, native of this county, who died in a hospital there Friday evening at 6:00 o'clock. Rev. Chas. Richardson and the Rev. Dr. Carroll of Norfolk conducted the service, and the body was brought late that afternoon to the Biggs Funeral Home here where it lay in state until yesterday afternoon when it was removed to the old family cemetery in Griffins Township for burial at 2:15 o'clock. Revs. W. B. Harrington and Daniel Harrison and Elder P. E. Getsinger conducted the graveside service.

Mr. Manning had been in declining health since he suffered a heart attack about two years ago, and his condition had been critical for about ten days.

The youngest son of the late John Wiggins Manning and Sarah Margaret Daniel Manning, he was born in Griffins Township on November 3, 1872. After attending school in his home community, he studied at a military school in Scotland Neck and later at Shenandoah Normal College in Virginia and the University of North Carolina. A recognized language scholar, he taught in the Beaufort County schools several terms with his brother, the late A. J. Manning. He also taught in this county for several years.

He was married to Miss Victoria Louise (Brint) Harrison of Jamesville in 1907 and located a short time later in Norfolk to engage in the insurance business. Three children, Joseph T. Manning of Puento Gorda, Florida, Edwin Manning of Norfolk, and Mrs. DeWitt Wright of Hillsboro, survive the union.

Mrs. Manning died in 1922 and he was married in 1932 to Mrs. Laura Mordica who survives.

Mr. Manning was a member of the Maple Grove church in his community for a long number of years and of the Wesleyan Bible Class, Epworth Methodist Church, near his adopted home, for a long period. He is well remembered here and made many friends during his stay in Norfolk.

## Hits Parked Car Sunday Morning

Speeding and driving recklessly, Isaac Battle, Windsor colored man, ran into J. E. King's Buick car on East Main Street about 3:30 o'clock last Sunday morning. One report said that the Buick was wrecked beyond repair, that Battle possibly damaged his Chevrolet car to the extent of \$300 or \$400. Battle was driving east on the street and the car was parked on his left. He knocked the Buick around and onto the sidewalk.

Battle, placed in jail, was released later and appeared in the county court where he pleaded guilty of reckless driving and speeding yesterday morning. It was pointed out that he had accepted the damages and the court fined him \$20 and the costs.

Pronouncing sentence in the case, Judge J. C. Smith warned about the new law expected to be ratified in the State Legislature this week and calling for "stiff" fines the revocation of licenses in reckless and drunken driving cases.

### HOLIDAY

According to a report released yesterday by a circulator of a petition, most of the business houses here will observe Easter Monday, April 7, as a holiday. No definite announcement has been made to that effect, however.

Public officers will not observe the day as a holiday since it is the first Monday in the month and meetings are scheduled by the various county and town boards. All schools in the county are closing for the day, it was learned.