

Story About The Flying Saucer Is Without Support

People In Forty States Are Said To Have Seen The Strange Missiles

Although persons in forty states claim to have seen the strange missile, commonly referred to as "flying saucers," no one has yet produced a specimen for inspection, according to available reports. During the meantime, the reports are being recognized as another American move toward the realm of hysteria, or a mere hoax to promote the sale of papers and hold radio listeners spell-bound.

Hero for a while was Vernon Baird, a pilot photographer, who dished out the story that he fought a sort of battle with a saucer over Montana's Tobacco Root mountains at 32,400 feet—and won.

"It was a pearl-gray clam-shaped airplane, with a plexiglass dome on top," averred Baird. "It was about 15 feet in diameter and about four feet thick. It got caught in the propwash of my P-38 and came apart like a clamshell. The pieces spiraled down someplace in the Madison range. There were seven others darting around like a batch of molecules doing the rumba."

"Don't believe a word of that yarn," continued Baird's boss, L. J. Archer, of the Fairchild Photogrammetric Engineers Co. "Three or four of us were sitting around the hangar gassing. We just made it up."

Copenhagen cabled there was no basis in fact whatever in reports published in the Stockholm-Aftonbladet that flying saucers were sighted over Copenhagen.

At Syracuse, N. Y., an unidentified resident said he met an inventor in 1931 who said he had invented a rotary motor which created its own power while flying and the inventor had written him from Montana saying the flying saucers were his creation.

The Rev. Joseph Brasky, of Grafton, Wis., reported a saucer grounded in his back yard but when dawn came it proved to be a circular saw blade stamped "high carbon 100 percent steel."

John Heathcote, 14, has the distinction of being the first to report seeing flying saucers in the New York metropolitan area. He saw his at Valley Stream, L. I., 17 miles out, and they looked like large aluminum plates moving west in V formation.

At Palmdale, Cal., Mrs. Amy Herdlika said she sighted a mother saucer followed by five smaller discs which seemed to fly away from and then return to the larger disc.

At Kingsport, Tenn., Charles T. Hamlet said it was all old stuff. He saw flying saucers two years ago but kept his mouth shut, figuring it had something to do with the secret war plant over at Oak Ridge.

Anyway, 1947 is the Year of the Flying Saucers.

At Dayton, O., Orville Wright, 75, co-inventor of the airplane, said the flying saucer craze was "propaganda dished up by the Government to support the current State Department campaign to get us into another war."

At Pittsburgh, Conrad Dunbar testified under oath that he saw

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Williamston's first traffic lights, one at the Watts and a second at the Haughton intersections with Main Street, were placed in operation last Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock when former Mayor John L. Hassell turned the control switches.

Following a three-day casual observance, officers stated that the authority vested in the lights was generally respected, that few motorists ran "through" them. Traffic got a little mixed up when the "U" turns were eliminated, but most of the motorists found their way around the block or went to the Biggs Street corner to make their "U" turns.

Welcomes State President



Shown above is Mayor Robert H. Cowen presenting the "Key to Williamston" to the North Carolina State President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, E. T. Ellis of Charlotte. This presentation was made recently when President Ellis visited the local organization as guest speaker for their installation and ladies' night program. (Photo by J-C Lawrence Lindsley.)

Youthful Robber Is Arrested Saturday

LICENSES

Effective this week, drivers of motor vehicles will apply for the new type licenses at the county courthouse each Wednesday and Thursday between the hours of 9:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., and at the Robersonville police station each Friday from 9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m., it was announced by Safety Examiner James Boyce. Licenses will also be issued in Plymouth each Monday and Tuesday from 9 to 5 and each Saturday from 9 to 1:00 o'clock.

James Boyce will issue the licenses in the Martin County courthouse and Examiner Harry L. Martin, Jamesville young man who was recently added to the staff, will issue the licenses in Robersonville.

Potato Council To Hold Meeting

Irish potato growers, forming an organization of their own, have met with success in advancing a price protection program. Recently the sweet potato growers in the Carolinas formed the Sweet Potato Council and the new organization is holding its first annual meeting in Florence, S. C., on Friday of this week. The meeting will attract prominent agriculturists from several states, including Dr. Julian Miller who is recognized as the country's outstanding research horticulturist and who is considered the leading authority in the world on sweet potato breeding and development.

Improved strains of sweet potatoes, marketing and potentials will be discussed at the meeting, it was announced by A. R. Howard, secretary of the organization.

No Additions Made To Police Force Here

Reports, stating that Larry Parker, retiring member of the Ahoskie police department, had been employed for the police department here, are apparently a bit premature. It was learned that Parker had been contacted, that something was said about making him a motorcycle cop in Williamston, but no official action has been taken on his application, as far as it could be learned today. Parker's resignation is effective today with the Ahoskie department, according to reports reaching here.

Alleged Hold-up Men Arrested By Officers Sunday

Deny Hold-up But Admit Running Away Without Paying Taxi Driver

Warren Griffin, Williams Gilliam and Sam Brooks, young Griffiths Township colored men, were arrested Sunday morning for allegedly holding up and robbing Dennis Whitaker, local taxi driver, of about \$35 in cash shortly after last Saturday midnight. Carried before Justice of the Peace Robert Cowen, the three men denied the hold-up charge but admitted they did not pay the taxi driver his fare.

Whitaker said at the hearing held in the county court room just ahead of Judge J. C. Smith Monday morning that he picked up the three men at a filling station on Washington Street at 11:55 o'clock Saturday night, that he drove them beyond Hardison's Mill. "One of the men got out, poked a gun at me while another one reached in my change purse and took between \$30 and \$35 in cash," Whitaker told the court. The men allegedly ran, Whitaker explaining that he turned around, drove back to town and reported to the sheriff.

Investigating the case early Sunday morning, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck went to the scene of the alleged hold-up learned that the three men went to a near-by home and soon established their identity. Griffin and Gilliam vigorously denied that they had rid-

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County Young Man Gets Editor's Job

Thomas Mayo Grimes, native of this county, was recently elected to the editorship of Ruritan National Magazine, it was announced this week by Tom Downing, national secretary for the organization.

Mr. Grimes who will have his editorial offices in Petersburg, Va., will make his home in Wakefield, Va., and is to enter upon his new duties the first of next month. He has been engaged in Ruritan work for the past four years, serving at present as governor of District E (Eastern North Carolina). A graduate of the University of North Carolina class of 1928, he was a member of the college newspaper and magazine editorial boards. He has taught school in eastern North Carolina for a number of years and has been active in Ruritan work for the past several years.

Slaughter House And Blue Star Cleaners Robbed

Another Robber Jailed For Breaking Into Roberson Slaughter House

A new wave of robberies was nipped in the bud here over the week-end when local and county officers arrested five persons, two for breaking and entering and robbery and three for allegedly holding up and robbing a taxi driver. Four of the five arrested were given preliminary hearings before Justice of the Peace Robert Cowen and booked for trial in the superior court next September. The fifth defendant is in the hands of Juvenile Judge L. B. Wynne and it is likely the 14-year-old lad will be placed in the superior court for trial.

The first in the series of arrests was made last Friday night when Matthew Williams, 33-year-old colored man, was taken into custody by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck for allegedly breaking into and robbing Roberson's Slaughter House on the night of June 28. Pleading guilty when arraigned before Justice Cowen yesterday morning, Williams is charged with stealing five stands of lard, a dozen hams, a quantity of fat back, pork loins, several pounds of butter and about twenty pounds of cheese. Williams hid most of the stolen property in some weeds beside the railroad where it was found before he could make arrangements to have it hauled away. Officers established a lead in the case several days later and Williams' arrest followed.

Following his arrest, Williams claimed that he was about half drunk when he broke into the slaughter house through a window. Sobering up the next morning he claimed that he realized he had done wrong and decided to leave the stolen goods where the owner could find them. Williams, a former employee of the slaughter house, was released under bond in the sum of \$300.

Cornelius Jones, 14-year-old colored boy, was trapped at the cash register of the Blue Star Cleaners on Washington Street early last Saturday evening by one of the owners-operators, George Hatton Gurganus Jones, one of seven children who with their mother were deserted by their father some time ago, admitted breaking into the Blue

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Crops Damaged By Hail And Wind In County Last Week

Tobacco Crop Estimated At About 65 Percent Of Normal Figure

While the corn and peanut crops continue in unusually bright prospect tobacco is still taking a severe beating at the hands of the elements in this county. Conservative estimates point to a tobacco crop hardly 65 percent of normal in some sections of the county, and in others production is almost certain to fall considerably below that figure. Some individual farmers see no more than 25 percent of a crop.

The unfavorable outlook for tobacco was further aggravated in the Bear Grass section last Saturday and again on Sunday when a severe wind and hail storm struck. Centered over about a two-mile path, the storm swooped down along the Martin-Beaufort boundary and did considerable damage to tobacco from about Farmer J. D. Wynne's place to the Elder B. S. Cowin farm. It was estimated that an average of three leaves were ruined on each stalk, Farmer Zack Cowin explaining that in some instances entire hills were ruined by hail and wind. Following the Saturday afternoon storm another struck in part of the same territory on Sunday and again Monday evening. The Saturday storm did some damage to property on the Bill Bullock farm.

So far this month more than six inches of rain have fallen in this county, reports indicating that the precipitation was greater in some sections than in others. This immediate section had its largest rain of the year a week ago today while the lower part of the county reported an unusually heavy rain Sunday afternoon.

Tobacco is turning yellow fast and where the plant is large enough, farmers are pulling the lugs in an effort to save them. However, in those cases where the farmers were late in getting a

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ROUND-UP

Eleven persons were rounded-up and jailed here last week-end to face the courts for alleged violations of curfews. Two were charged with breaking and entering, four with being drunk and disorderly, two with assault and three with highway robbery. All of the defendants were colored and their ages range from a low of 14 to 39 years.

Martin County Tax Values

Recovering from a slight decrease reported in the 1946 listings, personal property values in Martin County for the current year pushed upward to approximate the record listings of the 1913-19 period. Tax Supervisor M. L. Peel recently stated that personal property values climbed from \$5,230,892 in 1946 to \$6,659,249 this year, a gain of \$1,428,357 or a percentage jump of 27.3.

While several townships reported losses in their personal property listings for 1946, every one of them came forward this year with a gain, ranging from about \$10,000 to almost half million dollars. A review of the listings for 1946 and 1947 follows with the increase and percentage gain, as follows by townships and races:

| PERSONAL | NO 1 | | Gain | Pct. |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| | 1946 | 1947 | | |
| Jamesville | \$1,000,569 | \$1,382,853 | \$ 382,284 | 38.2 |
| Williams | 107,569 | 117,851 | 10,282 | 9.5 |
| Griffins | 294,337 | 337,947 | 43,610 | 14.8 |
| Bear Grass | 250,848 | 279,061 | 28,213 | 11.2 |
| Williamston | 1,191,155 | 1,627,763 | 436,608 | 36.6 |
| Cross Roads | 207,464 | 288,351 | 80,887 | 29.3 |
| Robersonville | 883,173 | 1,196,397 | 313,224 | 35. |
| Poplar Point | 117,888 | 136,980 | 19,092 | 16.1 |
| Hamilton | 261,617 | 317,664 | 56,047 | 21.4 |
| Goose Nest | 357,469 | 380,341 | 22,872 | 6.3 |
| Totals | \$4,672,089 | \$6,045,208 | \$1,373,119 | 29. |
| | COLORED | | Gain | Pct. |
| | 1946 | 1947 | | |
| Jamesville | \$ 48,204 | \$ 53,945 | \$ 5,741 | 11.9 |
| Williams | 15,168 | 16,803 | 1,635 | 10.7 |
| Griffins | 19,560 | 19,430 | 30 | 0.4 |
| Bear Grass | 25,276 | 28,450 | 3,172 | 12.5 |
| Williamston | 93,121 | 102,484 | 9,363 | 10. |
| Cross Roads | 28,989 | 34,046 | 5,057 | 17.4 |
| Robersonville | 134,239 | 149,993 | 15,754 | 11.7 |
| Poplar Point | 12,553 | 12,554 | 1 | 0 |
| Hamilton | 70,351 | 81,192 | 10,841 | 15. |
| Goose Nest | 111,340 | 115,094 | 3,754 | 33.7 |
| Totals | \$ 558,803 | \$ 614,041 | \$ 55,238 | 9.8 |

Real-property listings will be compared in a future issue.

County Favors Leaf Program 2,080 To 2

Record-Size Vote Reported In This State for Program

To Collect Ten Cents Per Acre During Coming Three Seasons

Martin County farmers along with those in the other tobacco sections of this State and South Carolina went all out in support of a program designed to promote the export of flue-cured tobacco by overwhelmingly voting to tax themselves at the rate of ten cents per acre for each of the next three years. The money raised by the special assessment will be used to finance Tobacco Associates, Incorporated, reports from the Raleigh office stating that J. B. Hutson, the nominal head of the organization, is in Europe at the present time working for improved markets for flue-cured tobacco. Mr. Hutson, it was further stated, is expected to return from England early next month and will report to the organization at a special meeting tentatively scheduled to be held soon after his return.

Only two votes were cast in opposition to the plan in this county, one in Goose Nest and one in Jamesville. The vote was unusually large; in fact, it was almost twice as large as was expected both in this county and in the State. The affirmative vote follows, by precincts, in this county:

Jamesville, 154; Williams, 106; Griffins, 214; Bear Grass, 202; Williamston-Poplar Point, 350; Cross Roads, 186; Robersonville, 407; Hamilton, 106; Goose Nest, 288, and Hassell, 67—Total, 2,080.

Incomplete returns from the State show that 105,545 votes were cast in favor of the measure and that 1,036 were in opposition to the plan. South Carolina tobacco farmers voted 14,065 for and 122 against the proposal. Official returns will be tabulated at a meeting of the organization's officials in Raleigh on Friday of this week.

It has been pointed out that no candidate or proposal ever polled a vote of 100 to 1 as the proposal did last Saturday.

In the face of uncertain conditions existing on the world front, tobacco exports are certain to enlarge.

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New Oil Company Starts Business

Recently organized here, the Wholesale Oil Company opened for business last week-end with W. Tom Crawford as manager and John Roebuck as salesman.

The company completed its storage plant on Highway 64 between West End and the county home last week and the first Conoco products were delivered Thursday. Handling the Continental Oil Company's products, including Conoco gasoline, kerosene, oils and greases, the new firm is now making truck deliveries to consumers and is completing preparations for supplying oil for tobacco curing to farmers in this section.

Locating their bulk plant outside town upon the recommendation of the parent company, the new firm will be supplied with oil products by large transports operating out of Norfolk where the Continental Company supplies its large storage center by tankers. Refined near the fields in Oklahoma, the products are piped to seaports and loaded on tankers for distribution to eastern centers.

"The Continental company formerly supplied other companies, but now it is expanding its own sales outlets and we are assured an ample supply of products," Manager Tom Crawford said. The manager of the new local firm has had about fifteen years of experience in the oil business excepting a few years spent in the Navy as a chief petty officer. The firm's salesman, Mr. Roebuck, was a member of the local police force for about twelve years.

Rites Tomorrow In Hamilton For Mrs. Ray Bunting

Popular Young Woman Died Monday In Hospital At Durham



Mayo Grimes, Martin County young man and a brother of S. Hareum Grimes of Williamston, was recently elected editor of Ruritan National Magazine with editorial offices in Petersburg, Va.

Jaycees Planning Contest and Dance

The local Junior Chamber of Commerce will sponsor their second annual beauty pageant here the evening of July 30th, at which time a "Miss Williamston" will be chosen to represent the town in the state beauty pageant being held at Wrightsville Beach next month.

According to Co-chairman Ernest Mears, the plans for the event are being formulated similar to those used last July, when the first annual contest was held, and which proved to be a definite success, both from the participants and sponsors standpoints.

Present plans call for each contestant to be sponsored by a local business firm, and any firm interested in sponsoring should contact Mr. Mears. There is considerable publicity attached to a sponsorship, and those firms that sponsored last year will be given preference this year.

In addition to the beauty contest, in which the contestants will be judged while wearing bathing suits and evening dresses, the Jaycees plan to have a dance following. Arrangements are pending with an out-of-state orchestra to furnish music for the occasion.

Former Resident Passes Suddenly

Stanley Burt Sessoms, former Williamston resident, died suddenly of a heart attack while attending a baseball game in Suffolk last Thursday night. A native of Colerain, Mr. Sessoms was employed by Harrison Brothers and Company here for several years. He was 52 years old and a veteran of World War I.

After leaving Williamston he was married to Miss Maude McLean of Raeford, and she with two children, Jean and Martha Sessoms, survives. He also leaves three brothers and one sister. Funeral services were held in Suffolk last Saturday morning, and interment was in the Raeford cemetery.

Doctor Looking For A Location

According to unofficial but reliable information received here, Dr. E. C. Jenkins of Pinehurst is contemplating locating in this section. The young doctor, a member of the American College of Surgeons, was here last Saturday afternoon surveying the field, but he could not be reached for an interview, and it could not be learned if he reached a decision or whether he will give this section further consideration. A World War II veteran, the surgeon is a native of Ohio, it was learned.

Popular Young Woman Died Monday In Hospital At Durham

Funeral services will be held at the home in Hamilton at 3:30 o'clock for Mrs. Myrtle Everett Bunting who died in Duke Hospital, Durham, Monday morning at 11:55 o'clock. Burial will be in the Hamilton Cemetery.

Mrs. Bunting had been in ill health for several weeks, spending much of that time in hospitals receiving treatment. Before she was removed to the Durham hospital she was unusually bright and cheerful, her many friends little realizing her condition was so critical.

The daughter of Mrs. Clara Johnson Everett and the late Jesse Everett, Mrs. Bunting was born in Hamilton on June 13, 1908. Completing the schools in Hamilton, she attended the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and later studied at East Carolina Teachers College in Greenville, December 26, 1933, she was married to Ray Bunting who died in 1934.

Devoted to her mother and all members of her family, Mrs. Bunting spent most of her time at home until the early part of the last war when she accepted a position with the rationing board in Williamston where by her untiring patience and understanding she endeared herself to so many people. Few could have served in the trying position with more thoughtfulness and consideration of others than she did during those hectic days when demands were great and supplies were extremely limited. Hers was a work well done, and she seemed to get much consolation out of it, knowing that she was doing her bit on the home front while loved ones were carrying on in actual battle. More recently she was employed by the Ayers Electric Company here, and during her stay there she made more friends, all the while appearing to be getting so much enjoyment out of life.

Mrs. Bunting was a member of the Hamilton Missionary Baptist Church since girlhood, remaining faithful in its service and support until the end. Surviving are her mother, one daughter, Myrtle Everett, and a sister, Miss Mildred Everett, and a nephew.

Jamesville Boys Win Big Honors

Competing on a state-wide basis, three Jamesville youths, Billy Brewer, Billy Martin and James Herbert Perry, walked away with great honors at a livestock judging contest held in Raleigh last week. Representing the Jamesville Chapter of the Future Farmers of America, the three young men won top place in the contest and they are to receive a free trip to Missouri next October.

In addition to the judging contest, Jamesville was well represented in an oratorical contest by Perlie Modlin, Jr., who won fourth place with an essay on wildlife conservation. Modlin was also elected an officer of the state organization for the coming year. The young men were accompanied to Raleigh by Professor Hair.

SURPLUS SALES

Surplus property costing the government \$17,867,165, 000 has been disposed of since 1944, according to last reports. Although the government paid nearly eighteen billion dollars for it, the property brought only \$3,534,833,000, or a recovery rate of 34.3 percent. At one time the War Assets Administration was disposing of property at the rate of one billion dollars a month. However, very little of the property has reached individual hands at one-third the original cost.