

Believed to Have Lost Mind, Negro Roams Swamps

Disappeared From Home In the Cross Roads Section Week Ago

Leaving his home presumably to go squirrel hunting last Tuesday afternoon about 2:00 o'clock, Andrew Roberson, 40-year-old Negro farmer, is now believed to have lost his mind, late reports stating that he ran from a searching party on two occasions, once Sunday morning and again Sunday evening just before a heavy electrical storm struck. No direct report has been received from the man since that time, and neighbors believe something has happened to him.

Roberson, a respected tenant farmer, a thoughtful husband and father and a good provider for his family, settled up for his tobacco crop with his landlord, W. K. Roebuck, on Monday of last week. The money was turned over to Roberson's wife and just before he went hunting Tuesday afternoon he left his pocketbook with his wife, explaining that he might lose it in the woods.

Last Tuesday morning, the family went to the sweet potato patch and started digging potatoes. When lunch time came, he suggested that they finish the task before stopping to eat, explaining that it might rain and he wanted to get the potatoes harvested. The job was completed shortly before 2:00 o'clock and the family went home for dinner. Roberson killed a chicken and started a fire in the cook stove, and told his wife that he thought he would go to the nearby woods and kill a squirrel while she was preparing dinner. He did not return and a search was started the next day after the wife reported him missing.

Searching parties combed the comparatively small but thick woods in the section, a section well known to Roberson since he was born and reared there. No trace of the man could be found after the searchers tracked him to a shallow canal and lost his tracks. The search was continued each day, and Sunday morning possibly 100 persons, white and colored, went into the woods. James Everett, wading in water through a thick reed patch, heard some one and he called to him. A mumbled answer was heard, but Everett could not see the man who soon rushed away. The search was centered in that area from then on, but no trace of the man was established until just before the storm when he was seen entering the county road hardly 75 yards from the house. When friends called to him, he turned and ran back into the woods. Nothing more has been heard from him, according to last reports reaching here.

It is possible that Roberson became lost in the woods that Tuesday afternoon, that he spent a night there and lost his reasoning after fighting swarms of mosquitoes and suffering exposure.

New Local Managers For Town's Theaters

Resigning as local manager of the Watts and Marco theaters since they were leased to the Stewart-Everett Company, Wallace C. Hamilton left last week for his home in Beaufort.

Mr. Hamilton is being succeeded by Wallace McLean who will manage the Watts, and by Noah Hardison, local man, as manager of the Marco. Mr. McLean, a native of Dunn, was transferred here from Dunn. Mr. Hardison has been with the theaters here for a number of years.

STREET PROJECT

An improvement project, calling for the resurfacing of the approximately one mile of black-top streets and the surfacing of several short streets, was launched last week here. Weather permitting, the contractor, Brown Paving Company, will start "shooting" the streets on Thursday of this week, preparatory to placing and packing the sand asphalt on them. Only a few days will be required to complete the work.

House Agriculture Hearing In Rocky Mount On Friday

Searching the grass roots for the facts, members of the House Agriculture Committee were said to have been greatly impressed by the evidence offered by a number of farmers at a hearing held in Rocky Mount last Friday.

Reporting on the hearing at a meeting of the Martin County Farm Bureau in the courthouse last Saturday night, Farm Bureau President Chas. L. Daniel stated that strong evidence was offered in support of a four-year farm program. Farm owners, landlords, tenants, sharecroppers and others pleaded for a continuation of the parity formula and control for the major crops. Headed by the Farm Bureau organization, the approximately sixty witnesses offered some strong evidence in support

of the program. The witnesses told how they had been able to clear away debts and operate at a profit under the administration program.

There was little evidence of any politics, and it is fairly certain that the Republicans will ponder the problem a long time before they desert the program, it was declared by those who attended the meeting. The farmers have expressed their wishes, and now it is up to them to support farm organizations to carry the fight to Washington.

The hearing, one of twelve being held in the entire nation, was attended by congressmen, farmers and farm organization officials from all parts of this State and from one or two adjoining states.

ROUND-UP

Fourteen persons were arrested and placed in the county jail here last week-end, the number of arrests running slightly above the average reported for a several-week period.

Nine of those placed in the "cooler" were charged with public drunkenness, two with drunken driving, one for non-support, one for breaking and entering and one for failing to appear in court in accordance with a summons. Six of the fourteen were white and ages of the group ranged from 20 to 54 years.

Work Started On New Homes Here

Construction work was started last week or is getting under way on several new homes here this week, not to mention work well advanced on a new theater. No contracts were let for the homes, as far as it could be learned.

Work was started recently on a new home for Cpl. and Mrs. T. W. Fearing on Franklin Street just back of the Meyer Levins. The foundation is prepared for a home for Mr. and Mrs. Henry Griffin next to the T. B. Brandons on Grace Street. Work is slated to get underway this week on an eight-room frame house for Mr. and Mrs. James Staton Ayers on Franklin Street.

The old Farmers and Merchants Bank building has been cleared from the lot between Woolard's Furniture Store and the old Dennis Simmons Lumber Company office on Main Street, and brick work was started yesterday for the town's fourth picture house.

Work is well advanced on a \$5,000 bugalow for Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Curtis on Ray Street near the Biggs home in New Town, and on a \$3,500 home for Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sharpe just off North Watts Street.

Former Local Man Hurt In Accident

Struck by a taxi on a Winston-Salem street last Friday evening, Mr. Ben Crawford, Williamston native, was critically hurt, reports reaching here stating that he suffered fractures of an arm and a leg and a concussion. Removed to a hospital there, he was unconscious for hours, but his condition late yesterday was said to have shown some improvement. He talked with the doctors and relatives at times, but continued for the most part in a semi-conscious condition.

His sister, Miss Anna Crawford, and nephew, Asa Crawford, and Mrs. Pat Crawford returned home last night after spending two days with him.

Youths Wreck Truck On Lumber Yard Here

Taking the driver's seat in a Williamston Lumber Company truck on the mill yard last Sunday afternoon, James Earl Felton, 14, and Fred Brown, 11, cranked up the machine but they had not driven far before crashing into a lumber shed, tearing down a post and crashing a head light.

Several Slightly Hurt In Highway Wrecks Recently

Fifth Wreck In Past Few Days Charged Against Left-hand Drivers

Several persons were hurt, none badly, in a series of automobile accidents reported on the highways in this county during the week-end. A flare-up in the number of wrecks and drunken drivers kept three patrolmen busy.

The fifth wreck in just a few days chargeable to motorists making left turns just as traffic started to pass, was reported during the week-end.

The first in the recent wreck series was reported by Patrolman W. B. Parker at Everetts last Thursday night about 9:00 o'clock. James D. Keel, driving Jimmy Bailey's 1937 Ford, started to make a left turn into a street near the school building there just as J. B. Sullivan started to pass in his 1947 Ford. No one was hurt and damage to both cars will hardly exceed \$75 or \$100, Patrolman Parker estimated.

Last Saturday night about 9:25 o'clock, Eddie Golphin, colored, was driving into town on Washington Street when Joseph C. Woolard, of Newport News and Washington, plowed into him head on near the Carver theater, blocking traffic for a short time. Golphin's 4-year-old son, James, was thrown from the back to the front seat and knocked out for a short while. He appeared to be all right the following day. Woolard was accompanied by his wife and three children and the owner of the car. One of the Woolard children was slightly hurt. Woolard, charged with drunken driving, left his side of the street and plowed into the Golphin car which was well on its side of the road. "I saw him coming on my side and I pulled to the right and stopped," Golphin said, adding that he was frightened badly as he looked at the car heading directly toward him. Woolard was held in default of \$300 bond along with the owner of the car who was charged with public drunkenness. Other members of the Woolard family were carried to Washington by Herman Crawford. Investigating the accident, local officers estimated the damage to both cars at \$250.

Sunday evening at 6:00 o'clock, Lonnie Blake of Parmele, driving east on Highway 64, started to make a left turn near Parmele just as Roy McClees, Williamston groceryman, started to pass him. No one was hurt and damage to the cars was estimated at about \$200 by Patrolman W. E. Saunders who made the investigation.

Going to the Williams home on Pearl Street about 1:00 o'clock Sunday morning, the fiend cut the goat's throat and ran. George Williams heard the goat bleating, but did not pay too much attention to it at the time. Getting up at 5:00 o'clock Sunday morning, he saw the goat lying dead in the yard.

Goat Is Made The Goat of Mad Rage

Individuals have been made the "goat" in countless numbers of transactions, schemes and deals, but Billy Goat was made the "goat" of a cruel and fatal attack here early last Sunday morning, the first complaints alleging that Harry Roberson, young colored man, took the spite out on the goat when he got mad with his girl friend.

George Williams, respected colored citizen, bought the goat for his grandson ten years ago. The goat and the grandson grew up together and the lad and other members of the family became firmly attached to the pet.

Roberson is alleged to have had some words with Lue Pearl Williams and her brother, and they charged him with killing the goat. In Mayor Robt. Cowen's court last evening, the evidence apparently did not support the charge and the defendant was released.

The primary issue of this meeting was to decide if the P. T. A. would sponsor the lunch room program. This motion was voted upon and carried. A special committee from the association was elected to work cooperatively with the school and the lunch-room supervisor.

It was decided by the meeting that the school would give a Halloween carnival, Friday, October 30, to help raise funds for lunch-room.

Mr. W. B. Sugg, principal of the school, stressed the importance of a P. T. A. and the part it could play in the school.

Other minor problems were discussed. The meeting was adjourned with the hope that the next meeting could be closed with an "open-house tea" in the lunch-room.

County Church To Hold Association

The annual association of the Smithwick's Creek Primitive Baptist Church will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 25 and 26th. Services will begin promptly at 10 o'clock both Saturday and Sunday mornings, and on Saturday night a service will be held at 7 o'clock.

Several ministers, many of whom will come from out of the state, will preach during the two-day meeting. Dinner will be served on the grounds Sunday.

Intruder Turned Back With Knife

Forcing his way into the humble shanty abode of Jethro McGuarian on the Williamston Lumber Company premises here early last Sunday morning, Jesse Gibbs was turned back with a pocket knife in McGuarian's hands.

Local officers stated that Gibbs went to the shanty and wanted to play cards. McGuarian, retired for the night, told Gibbs he did not care to play. Gibbs insisted and when he forced his way into the shanty, McGuarian opened with his knife, slashing the intruder across the face several times. The victim was sewed up in the hospital here.

Warehouse Case Goes To Courts

Petitioning for the partition of the Roanoke Tobacco Warehouse Company, incorporated, minority stockholders were recognized by Resequent Judge J. Walter Bone at a formal hearing held in Nashville last Saturday.

The temporary receivership with Attorney Wheeler Martin as receiver was continued, and the case is slated for trial in the county's superior court where it will be decided whether the property will be offered for sale at public auction or handled in some other manner.

Hold Funeral For Mrs. John H. Bell Sunday Afternoon

Respected Citizen Died At Her Home In Gold Point Thursday Evening

Funeral services were conducted in the Gold Point Christian Church Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. John H. Bell, highly respected county citizen, who died at her home there last Thursday evening at 6:00 o'clock. Her pastor, Rev. A. E. Purvis conducted the last rites and interment was in the Roebuck Cemetery, near Gold Point.

A daughter of the late Robert and Emma Eliza Swain Roebuck, she was born in the Cross Roads Community of this county 68 years ago on August 24, 1879. She spent her early life there and was married to Mr. Bell on November 7, 1900. She lived in Martin County all her life and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She had been a member of the church since girlhood, remaining faithful to its teachings and loyal in its support down through the years.

Mrs. Bell had been in declining health for almost two years and her condition had been serious for some time.

Surviving besides her husband are four children; two daughters, Mrs. John Cullipher of Scotland Neck, and Miss Clara Louise Bell of the home; two sons, Linton Casper Bell of Greenville, and Leonidas Bell of the home.

Patrick Speaks To Jaycees Here

The local Junior Chamber of Commerce had its regular dinner meeting at the George Reynolds Hotel Friday night, with a record crowd of Jaycees attending. The invocation was given by Dillon Cobb, and with no further business at that time the local business men lost no time with their turkey dinners.

After the meal President Wheeler Manning opened the floor for nominations for the election of a member to the Library Board. Jaycee T. F. Davenport was elected to fill this office.

Following the election, President Manning introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Ben Patrick, field director of the North Carolina Social Hygiene Society. Mr. Patrick made an interesting talk pointing out that this newly formed society is to work with other health organizations in the State in furtherance of the Good Health program. He stated that the main purpose of this Society is to "educate the public to the eradication of venereal diseases." "North Carolina," he said, "ranks third highest in the nation with venereal disease cases, a record not to be proud of." Stating that the Junior Chamber of Commerce was the first state-wide organization to endorse his program, he urged and hoped that the local Jaycees would support this program in Martin County.

Jamesville Juniors Will Present Play

The Junior Class of Jamesville High School will present a three-act comedy, "For Pete's Sake" on Friday night, October 24, at 7:45 in the grammar school auditorium.

The cast is: Aunt Sarah Pepperdine, Venetia Stallings; Jasmine Jackson, Aunt Sarah's darky cook, June Modlin; Civero Murglethorpe, Marvin Perry; Peter Pepperdine, always in hot water, Dorpman Gaines; Bill Bradshaw, Peter's pal, Thomas Gardner; Thornydyke Murglethorpe, (Muggsy), a college grad, Billy Brewer; Mrs. Georgiana Clarkston, a social climber, Violet Rogers; Nadine Clarkston, Peter's sweetheart, Gertrude Daniels; Peggy Clarkston, Bill's sweetheart, Geraldine Ange; Malvina Potts, Muggsy's goddess, Dorothy Ellis; John Boliver, a wealthy banker, Raymond Lawrence Modlin; Ruppert Darby, the poet of Elwood college, Billy Gaylord.

Tobacco Sales Pass Ten Million Pounds

Sell Million And Half Pounds Last Week for \$630,000

Sales Several Thousand Pounds Ahead of Those For Last Season

After handling a million and one-half pounds last week, the local tobacco market today boosted its sales for the season to date to over ten million pounds with prices holding fairly firm, but hardly up to the peak level reported week before last. Last week was one of the best as far as pounds are concerned for the season, the approximately million and a half pounds selling for right at \$630,000.

The ten million pounds sold so far are averaging right at \$42 per hundred pounds.

After blocking nearly every day last week, the market this week definitely faces smaller sales for the remainder of the season. Observers are of the opinion that there'll be no more block sales, that while the poundage will hold up for another week or two, the most of the tobacco in this immediate section is gone. Quite a few farmers completed the marketing of their crops last Friday, and most of those with tobacco on hand have hardly as much as a barn each. However, a few farmers have sold no more than sixty or seventy percent of their crops.

A review of tobacco markets as a whole in this belt, follows: After steady to rising prices by grades since the season opened for Eastern North Carolina flue-cured tobacco, averages turned downward during the eighth week of sales. According to the United States and North Carolina Departments of Agriculture prices this week ranged from 25c to \$6.00 below those of the previous week. Most losses were between \$1.00 and \$3.00 per hundred. Declines were heaviest for leaf grades, especially those on the heavier side. Better offerings were steady to \$1.00 and \$2.00 cheaper. A small number of grades were \$1.00 to \$3.00 stronger. While some letup in demand was noticed the weaker market can also be attributed to the soft and wet condition of an unusually large part of the offerings.

Volume of sales last week was (Continued on page eight)

Man Found Dead On The Highway

Julius Batts, 41-year-old colored man, was found dead on the Oak City-Tarboro Highway about two miles from Oak City early last Thursday morning, the apparent victim of a heart attack.

Batts left his home on the Ross farm about 6:45 o'clock that morning and was found about three-quarters of an hour later by several school children. When Batts did not report for work, his employer, Herman Manning, sent a truck for him and the school children told the truck driver that the man was lying beside the road. Coroner S. R. Biggs was called and a preliminary examination revealed that he had not been a victim of foul play.

Batts had walked hardly one hundred yards from his home when he was stricken. The coroner saw signs in the grass where the man had staggered from the hardsurface to the road machine ditch, indicating that he was trying to get there and sit down. He fell just about the time he reached the ditch and was found lying on his side, the feet toward the highway.

The body was removed to a Scotland Neck funeral home where Patrolman W. E. Saunders made an investigation to support the coroner's findings. There were no bruises on the body.

Batts, father of several children, lived alone. He moved to this county some time ago from Hobgood and was working in the logwoods.

FARM BUREAU

Meeting in the county courthouse last Saturday evening, members of the Martin County Farm Bureau made plans to renew interest in the current membership drive and carry it over the top during the next two weeks. After hearing a report on the House Agriculture Committee meeting in Rocky Mount the day before, the group was told that the county unit had signed approximately 800 members to date, that the drive was about 1,500 short of its goal.

The canvassers pledged their best efforts in pushing the count to 1,500 by Friday evening of this week when another meeting will be held in the courthouse.

War II Dead Now On The Way Home

With the first ships carrying World War II dead from cemeteries overseas to this country for final burial expected to arrive at U. S. ports in October, it was announced recently that the Army has dispatched letters of inquiry to next-of-kin of service and civilian personnel buried in the following cemeteries:

Henri Chapelle, Belgium; Cambridge, England; Hawaii (other than Schofield); Casablanca, North Africa; Tunis, Tunisia; Gafsa, Tunisia; Nettuno, Italy; Foss-vogur, Iceland; Ft. Pepperell, Newfoundland; Solers, France; Vairois, France; St. Andre, France; St. Juan, France; Fedala, French Morocco; Schofield Barracks Mausoleum, Hawaii; Hadjeb-El Aioun; Villeneuve, France; Mt. Soprano, Italy; Gela, Sicily; Champigneulle, France; Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands; 27th Division, Saipan, Marianas; Guam No. 1, Marianas; Guam No. 2, Marianas; El Alia, Algeria; Beja, Tunisia.

Ft. McAndrews, Newfoundland; Malmö, Sweden; Schofield Barracks Cemetery, Hawaii; St. Laurent, France; Ipswich, Australia; Brookwood, England; Lisabreeny, Ireland; Oran, Africa; Rookwood, Australia; Bari, Italy; Epinal, France; Limey, France; St. James, France; St. Corneille, France; Barrackpore, India; Kalakunda, India; II Corps, Africa; Andilly, France; Hamm, Luxembourg; Finchhafen No. 1, New Guinea; Finchhafen Nos. 2 and 3, New Guinea; Carano, Italy; Lacambe, France; Maranzello, Italy; Ft. Bell, Bermuda.

Latest information from the Office of the Quartermaster General in Washington, D. C., states that if no reply to a Letter of Inquiry is received within 30 days, a follow-up letter will be sent to the next of kin concerned. In any case, the Army expects a reply from the next-of-kin within 45 days of the original letter of inquiry, and, if no such reply is received within that period, the Army will proceed on the assumption that the next of kin does not desire the return of the remains to the homeland for permanent burial.

Painfully Hurt By Falling Log Here

George H. Manning, Jr., of Oak City, was painfully but believed not badly hurt by a falling log at the Wells-Oates Lumber Company mill here yesterday afternoon about 4:00 o'clock. He was removed in a Biggs ambulance to the local hospital for treatment.

Delivering a load of logs to the mill, the young man loosened the draw chain and a small log rolled from the top of the pile, striking him on the head and shoulder and causing severe bruises. The log carried him to the ground and pinned his head under a few inches of water. Mill workers happened to look his way and saw him struggling. They rushed there and removed the log and prevented him from drowning.

Local Mercantile Firms Victimized By Check Flasher

Two Young White Men Taken In Greenville By SBI Agents Last Week

Charged with forging checks on victims a greater part of the way across North Carolina, including several merchants in Williamston, Carl C. Croom, 20, and Crawford E. Mulder, 26, both of Greenville, were arrested by State Bureau of Investigation officers and Greenville police late last Thursday, Elizabeth City, where the two men allegedly forged checks in the sum of \$210 on a Shiloh merchant, presented the first claim for the two men and they were returned there by officers a short time after the arrests were made. Local police immediately clamped a detainer with the Elizabeth City police, and Croom and Mulder will be returned here for trial.

Operating here week before last the two men jumped with both feet on W. O. Abbutt's checking account, striking it for \$144.65 before the forged signature was detected. Ranging in amount from \$25 to \$32.50, the forged checks, made payable to Billy Williams, were unloaded on five local merchants, including two furniture stores, a mercantile store, a grocery and a drug store. The checks, dated October 8, cleared the bank.

According to reports reaching here the men are also wanted for forging checks in Burlington, Durham and Raleigh. Apparently starting in the Burlington area, the men moved a good way across North Carolina before a lead was uncovered here and in Elizabeth City, resulting in their arrest in Greenville.

Local police are looking for one W. D. Patterson who allegedly issued a worthless check in the amount of \$15 to a local mercantile firm last month. The check was returned, marked "no account" by a Smithfield bank. Patterson listed his address as RFD 1, Smithfield. Carrying their investigation there, the officers were advised that Patterson had departed, leaving no forwarding address.

In a hearing before Judge L. S. Blades, Jr., in the Pasquotank Recorder's Court yesterday, the two men were ordered held in \$2,000 bond each when probable

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Thousands Get S. S. Benefits

North Carolina is fifteenth among the States in the Nation in number of beneficiaries receiving monthly Social Security payments, according to a statement made today by Marshall H. Barney, manager of the Rocky Mount Social Security Office.

As of September 9, 39,585 people in North Carolina were finding that check from Uncle Sam in their mail boxes every month. In the Southeast, only Florida led in number on the rolls, and she was ahead by less than 500. Virginia, on one side of the Tar Heel state, was close with 30,041, but to the south, South Carolina had only 15,974 recipients.

To people all over the United States, 1,832,285 checks were sent for monthly claims, while during the last 12 months, 241,064 lump-sum payments were made. One out of every 76 people in the country was drawing the Federal Insurance last month, while in North Carolina, one in every 116 people drew. This difference was caused by the high proportion of agricultural workers in North Carolina, Mr. Barney explained.

CLUB MEETING

Meeting in regular session this evening at 8:00 o'clock, the Woman's Club will have some important business placed before it for consideration, Miss Elizabeth Parker, reporter, said yesterday. No program for the meeting was announced, but the president, Mrs. Wheeler Martin, Jr., is back from Indiana and she will preside.