

Mrs. Geo. Leggett Died Today at Her Home in Hassells

Funeral Will Be Held In the Church There Wednesday Afternoon

Mrs. Maggie L. Leggett, one of Martin County's most highly esteemed citizens, died at her home in Hassell this morning at 4:45 o'clock following a long period of declining health. She had been confined to her bed since February and her condition had been critical for several weeks. During her illness she had received hospital treatment and underwent an operation last October.

The daughter of the late James B. Spruill of Tyrrell County and wife, Bettie Johnson Spruill of Martin County, Mrs. Leggett was born in Halifax County 62 years ago on February 24, 1886. She spent her early life there and was married to M. E. Starling, three children, Mrs. L. H. Harris of New York, H. L. Starling of Norfolk, and Professor R. B. Starling of Greenville, surviving that union. She moved with her children to Hassell about thirty years ago and was married to Mr. George H. Leggett on September 2, 1920.

Mrs. Leggett was postmistress in Hassell for more than a quarter of a century, faithfully serving the people of that community. She was a devoted mother and wife, and her walk through life was marked for its unselfishness and service advanced so freely and willingly in behalf of others, rich or poor, white or colored. She had endeared herself to the people of her adopted community and supported every good cause. She was a member of the Hassell Christian Church for many years. Surviving besides her three children and husband are one sister, Mrs. P. S. Belamy of Enfield; a brother, Victor Spruill of Baltimore, and a half-brother, J. U. Barden of Norfolk.

The body will be removed to the church in Hassell this evening at 6:00 o'clock where it will lie in state until Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock when Rev. R. A. Phillips, a former pastor of Kingston, will conduct the funeral service. He will be assisted by Rev. J. M. Perry of Robersonville, also

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Large Number To Appear In Event

Approximately 235 pupils, including goodly numbers from each grade from the first through the twelfth, will appear in the local public school music department's spring festival in the high school auditorium here Thursday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock, it was announced yesterday by the director, Mrs. Beecher Patterson.

Solos, duets, trios and small ensembles will be featured. Several groups will perform in special costumes. The elementary chorus; Junior High School chorus and High School Glee club of fifty voices each will also be heard. There will be no admission charge and the public is invited to attend and see what the school has been doing in public school music this year.

SHEEP KILLERS

A pack of three mongrel dogs attacked and killed thirty-five top lambs and sheep in the Roberson Slaughter House pastures near here early last Thursday night. Several other sheep were attacked and wounded. One of the dogs, belonging to Joe Everitt, colored railroad worker here, was killed along with a second one whose owner has not been determined.

Under an old law passed at the direction of the late Harry W. Stubbs in the State Legislature, the owner of the sheep can look to the county for the cost of the damage. Everitt has been directed to appear before the board of county commissioners at the next regular meeting.

For County Commissioner



Pictured above are Messrs. W. Tom Roberson (left) and W. M. Harrison (right), candidates for county commissioner from the Griffins-Bear Grass District. Mr. Harrison, of Bear Grass, is filling by appointment the position made vacant by the death of R. Lee Porfy. Mr. Roberson is a native resident of Griffins, and both candidates are well-known farmers in this county.

Open Contract Bids For School Projects

ROUND-UP

A little crime wave, topped by murder, was reported in this county over the weekend. Eleven persons were arrested and jailed, six of them having been booked for public drunkenness. Three were charged with assaults and one with non-support.

Two of the eleven were white and the ages were grouped ranged from 17 to 70 years.

Potency of Weed Killer Is Proved

Whatever doubt if any Farmer D. G. Matthews had about the killing power of 2-D-4 or weed killer has been dispelled.

About a year ago, the Hamilton farmer-business man, mixed some weedkiller in two barrels and sprayed weeds. The barrels were washed out and pushed aside until this spring when they were used to mix fermate in them for spraying tobacco plants in the bed. The fermate proved successful in combatting the blue mold and transplanting went forward on twenty acres of land. Then the plants, after thriving for several weeks, started dying. The trouble was traced to the weed killer in the barrels, but too late to save a costly task. The twenty acres were plowed again and new plants from other beds were transplanted.

Plans Completed For Big Benefit

Plans were announced complete to the last detail for the big barn dance to be held in the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse here Wednesday evening of this week from 9:00 until 1:00 o'clock.

An elaborate floor show will be staged as a special feature of the entertainment program. The drum majorettes are to perform and there'll be surprise and startling stunts and contests with valuable prizes going to the winners. Special musical numbers are included as added features. Soft drinks, sandwiches and other refreshments will be available at the booths.

Square and round dancing will occupy much of the program time during the evening. Special seats are being provided for spectators and an admission fee of 75 cents will be asked.

LARGE AUDIENCE HEARS JAMESVILLE PIANO RECITAL

A piano recital by the pupils of Mrs. Janie E. Holliday was well received in Jamesville last Friday evening by more than 300 persons, including Miss Annie Glasgow, a former music teacher in the school there.

Former Resident Died at Home In Virginia Sunday

Funeral Here This Afternoon for Chas. B. Herriott on Biggs Street

Charles Burton Herriott, retired business executive and former resident of Williamston, died suddenly at his home in Virginia Beach Sunday morning, the apparent victim of a heart attack. He had been in declining health for twelve years or more, but he was getting along as well as usual when he retired Saturday night. He was found dead about 8:45 o'clock when Mrs. Herriott went to his room, called him and received no answer. He died in his sleep possibly two hours previously.

Mr. Herriott was born in Des Moines, Iowa, forty years ago on June 19, 1908, the son of Mrs. Mary I. Herriott and the late Frank I. Herriott. He spent his early life in the Iowa city and came east about 1932, locating in Norfolk, and moving a short time later to Williamston where he managed the affairs of the Pure Oil Company in eastern North Carolina for a number of years. He was married to Miss Frances Williams here in 1936, and when he resigned his position with the oil firm on account of declining health he returned to Virginia about five years ago and made his home in Virginia Beach.

Mr. Herriott, possessing the qualities of a true gentleman, made many lasting friendships during his residence here, and news of his sudden death shocked relatives and friends in this section of the State. His congenial manner endeared him to old and young, and he valued and cherished the friendship of everyone, irrespective of race, color or standing.

Surviving are his widow of Virginia Beach and Williamston, his mother of Des Moines; two sisters, Roberta Herriott of Williamsburg, Va., and Mrs. Joseph Sargent of Washington, D. C.; and two brothers, Roger M. Herriott of Princeton, New Jersey, and Maxwell Herriott of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The funeral service will be conducted at the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Carrie Biggs Williams Morrison, on Biggs Street here this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Rev. John W. Hardy, Episcopal minister. Interment will be in the family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Local Library Benefit Dance

A report on the advance ticket sales indicates a large crowd is planning to attend the big barn dance and feature events in the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse here Wednesday evening of this week from 9:00 o'clock p. m. until 1:00 o'clock a. m. The event is being sponsored by the Williamston Woman's Club for the benefit of the local public library.

The program calls for modern and square dancing, floor show, radio quiz contest and other events. Prizes will be awarded the best jitters, cake walkers and others. Special booths will be operated for the sales of soft drinks, sandwiches, candies and peanuts.

The public is urged to attend and participate in the program.

Hurt In Accident Sunday Evening

Roosevelt Hyman, young colored man was painfully but believed not seriously hurt about the head and right shoulder about 8:30 o'clock Sunday evening when the car in which he was riding turned over.

Arthur Sherrill Hyman, white of Oak City, accompanied by the colored man, was driving from Hassell toward Highway 125 when the radius rod on the 1940 car pulled loose, causing the driver to lose control.

Damage to the car was estimated at \$350 by Patrolman R. P. Naron who made the investigation.

Percy Brown Held In Jail, Unable To Raise \$3,500 Bond

Defendant Pleads Not Guilty at Hearing Held Here Last Evening

Charged with first degree murder, Richard Percy Brown, colored janitor for the V. E. P. Company in its local offices, pleaded not guilty at a preliminary hearing held before Justice J. S. Ayers in the courthouse here last evening. The evidence supported the plea, but there being probable cause supporting a second degree murder or manslaughter charge, Justice Ayers required bond in the sum of \$3,500. Unable to arrange bond, Brown was returned to the county jail to await trial in the superior court during the week of June 14.

Apparently disturbed over the killing of William (Lus) Midgett, popular bellhop here, by Brown last Friday night, the colored population was represented at the hearing by one hundred or more of its citizens, and there was a goodly number of white persons present. The defense is represented by Attorney Elbert S. Peel and Attorney Hugh G. Horton has been employed by the dead man's relatives in Washington County to aid the prosecution.

Comparatively little evidence was offered at the preliminary hearing, and Brown, while there is some damaging evidence, offered what was considered an airtight defense. The first witness for the state, Officer Chas. R. Moore, told the court that he was on duty in Griffin Street, about 100 yards away when Brown shot Midgett. Moving to the scene, the officer, getting his time a bit mixed up at first, said he saw Brown walking up and down in front of the house. Brown was quoted as saying, "Mr. Moore, Lord have mercy. I would have killed him for anything in the world. I saw somebody 'duck' behind a bush. I told him to stop, but he came on and I shot him." Brown also declared to the officer that one Bill Brown had been after him.

The officer stated that Midgett was not dead when he reached him, and went on to say that he asked someone to turn on the porch light. The officer, on cross examination, said that Brown had been to the police department seeking protection from Bill Brown. The officer also said that Brown was apparently frightened and worried. Brown also maintained to the officer that Bill Brown had a shot gun and a pistol, that he had chased him (Percy Brown). The officer described how the load of gun shot was fired through the screen door and the position of the dying man when he found him. Brown asked him to call a doctor. It was also pointed out that there were bushes on either side of the walkway and that Midgett was not armed.

Chief W. E. Saunders, the next witness, stated he reached the scene of the killing about 9:00 o'clock, that Brown admitted the attack. The officer said that the load of shot tore a hole about the size of a 25-cent piece in the screen door, that there were powder burns. On cross examination, the officer said that Percy Brown had reported to him earlier in the week, possibly on Wednesday, that Bill Brown was after him, that he (Bill Brown) carried a shot gun in his truck and a pistol

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Local Girl Named As Nurses' Queen At Duke

Miss Mary Trulah Peel, daughter of Mrs. John R. Peel and the late Mr. Peel of Williamston, was recently named Nurses' Queen at Duke University where she is a senior student nurse.

She was crowned as Nursing Queen last Saturday night. The coronation was held as a part of the annual May Day Dance, sponsored by the student nurse's magazine at Duke, "Special Chart." She was chosen queen from among nine contestants, three elected from each class in the School of Nursing.

Wm. Midgett Killed Here Friday Evening

Fatal Assault Was Second Reported Here In A Week

Killer Declares Killing Was A Case of Mistaken Identity

William (Lus) Midgett, bellhop for a local hotel for ten or twelve years, was shot and almost instantly killed by Percy Brown, also colored at Brown's home on Jamesville Street here shortly before 9:00 o'clock last Friday evening. The victim of alleged mistaken identity, Midgett died in Brown's yard before medical aid could reach him. Struck by the full load of very large shot from a single barrel gun, he keeled over backwards out of the porch, his feet resting on the door steps and his head lying in the yard. The load took effect in the chest, several of the shot piercing the heart.

Immediately after the shooting, Brown was said to have jumped up and down on his porch shouting he had killed the wrong man. He then ran to a filling station and asked that a doctor be called. Officers Chas. R. Moore and John Roebuck, investigating a complaint, were only a few hundred feet away on Griffin Street when they heard the gun fire. They moved over to the Brown home and Brown surrendered.

While Brown maintains that it was a case of mistaken identity, the case has its complications, some voicing the belief that Brown actually got the right man. Others point out that the two were the best of friends, that Midgett, a good-natured person and one who admittedly had moved away from trouble rather than toward it, had started to see Brown on a friendly visit.

According to Brown's story, the killing is the climax of trouble brewing over a period of months. Brown declares that William Brown attempted to break up his (Percy's) home, that he ordered him to stay away. Bill Brown, questioned after the shooting, stated that Percy Brown had warned him about twelve months ago to stay away, and that he had obeyed the warning, denying Percy Brown's allegations. Earlier in the week Percy Brown, on two occasions, visited the police station and declared that Bill Brown was carrying a gun for him, and it was agreed, upon the suggestion of Percy Brown, that the officers would search the man for a pistol on Saturday, that he would very likely carry the gun at that time.

Trouble in the Brown family moved toward a climax about ten days or two weeks ago when he forced his wife to leave home, the wife, Lucy, declaring that her husband's accusations associating her with Bill Brown were unfounded. She intimated that her husband wanted to get rid of her, that he was involved with another woman. Officers are investigating the second woman angle on the theory that Midgett was tramping on Brown's illicit love

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Motor Vehicle Inspection Lane

A lane for the inspection of motor vehicles in accordance with State law was opened on Warren Street in Williamston for the second time last week and will be maintained each day this week from 9:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m. except Saturday when it will close at noon.

Those vehicles rejected at the last lane several weeks ago should be returned for a final check. While owners have one year to have their vehicles inspected, it is advisable to have it done now while the lane is not crowded. Delay is certain to congest the lanes in later months.

The inspector states that farm trailers as well as the regular motor vehicles are to be inspected. There is no charge for trailer inspection, the lane manager explaining that the trailers will be checked for connections, wheel alignment, axles and tires. The inspection fee for regular motor vehicles is \$1.

Operetta Here Is Well Received

"On Midsummer's Day," an operetta, presented by the Williamston Elementary School under the direction of Mrs. Beecher Patterson was well received at both performances last Thursday, Miss Grace Talton served as accompanist.

Other teachers serving on various committees included: Business Managers, Miss Ruth Manning, Mrs. R. E. Kimball, Miss Frances Jenkins; Publicity, Mrs. W. H. Coburn, Miss Mamie Modlin; Costumes, Mrs. Mary Carstaphen, Mrs. E. R. Froneberger, Miss Erma Benson; Scenery, Miss Marion Rogerson, Mrs. W. R. Bullock, Miss Polly Bailey, Mrs. T. L. Fussell and Miss Laina Baker directed the dances.

County Democrats Hold Uneventful Meeting Saturday

Perfect Organization And Invite Good Democrats To Attend Pow-Wow

Meeting in biennial session in the Martin County courthouse last Saturday afternoon, a few faithful Democrats from seven of the thirteen precincts perfected an organization pretty much along old lines and with about the same personnel for another two years. There were no speeches and no issues were advanced, and, strangely enough, politics were not mentioned.

No individual delegates to the State Democratic Pow-Wow in Raleigh on Thursday of this week were named, but all good Democrats in good standing are invited to attend the convention, meaning that possibly one or two persons will represent the county's thirty-man delegation.

While some of the county convention voiced open opposition to Mr. Truman's candidacy for the party's nomination next month in Philadelphia, the little group of Democrats gathered in this county remained quiet on the subject, but individually there was opposition to the nomination.

While there were no radical changes in the make-up of the organization in this county, new committee members were named to fill positions made vacant by the deaths of Mr. J. S. Ayers of Cross Roads and Miss Effie Waldo of Hamilton and to give the women greater representation. However, the fair sex was not represented at the Saturday meeting.

Precinct officials were certified to the convention or chosen by the body assembled, two precincts, Robersonville and Gold Point, having chosen their leaders at meetings a week previously and another, Jamesville, selecting its district officials at a "conference."

The County's official Democratic organization is now made up of the following:

Albert S. Peel, chairman of the executive committee; C. B. Martin, vice chairman; and F. M. Manning, secretary and treasurer. The precinct line-ups follow, the first named being the chairman, the second holding the place of vice chairman or secretary-treasurer with the three last named being regular members of the precinct organizations:

Jamesville: A. Corey, Miss Melba Martin, Mrs. Carl Griffin, C. C. Martin and P. M. Holliday.

Williams: Floyd Moore, Mrs. R. J. Hardison, Charlie L. Daniel, Joe Lawrence Coltrain, Walter Gardner.

Griffin: Pleny Peel, Mrs. J. Easton Lilley, W. T. Roberson, B. F. Lilley and George C. Griffin.

Bear Grass: J. D. Wynne, Gormer Harrison, LeRoy Harrison, T. L. Roberson and Leon Hall Rawls.

Williamston No. 1: C. H. Godwin, Sr., Sam Getsinger, C. B. Roebuck, M. L. Peel and W. O. Griffin.

Williamston No. 2: H. G. Horton, Mrs. S. R. Biggs, Mrs. S. H. Grimes, B. D. Courtney and J. C. Manning.

Cross Roads: H. M. (Buck) Ayers, Mrs. V. G. Taylor, Frank Bailey, Willie Ausbon and Herbert Roebuck.

Robersonville: Paul D. Roberson, J. H. Gray, Sr., Mrs. C. R. Griffin.

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REDUCTION

Delinquent tax accounts, holding to a fairly low point for a number of years in the town of Williamston were further reduced this year from the count of a year ago.

In 1947 there were 14 white and 98 colored delinquent accounts, amounting to \$1,017.82 —\$242.86 for the white and \$774.96 for the colored. This year there are two white and 43 colored delinquent accounts, amounting to only \$376.70—\$30.80 for the white and \$295.90 for the colored.

Advertised today, the delinquent accounts will be offered for sale at the courthouse the second Monday in June.