

Arrest Fire Bug Following Fire Monday Morning

Officers Not Certain How To Handle Case Against Young Man

Several mysterious fires in the Gold Point section were believed to have been solved with the arrest of Thomas Sutton, Jr., 20-year-old colored man, Monday afternoon. Sutton admitted trying to fire a tenant house on the John Williams farm that morning, but he could not remember anything about several other mysterious fires on the Williams and Harry Roberson farms.

Sutton, regarded as a fit subject for an asylum for the insane, went to the Williams farm about 11:00 o'clock and threw a lighted cigarette through a broken window of the house occupied by Columbus Salsbury and family. Members of the family, working in and around the yard, did not see Sutton enter the yard, but they saw him leave, walking to the road and then running to his home about one-quarter mile away. A few minutes later the family saw smoke in one of the bedrooms, and going there they found a mattress on fire, the cigarette thrown by Sutton having landed on the bed.

Very little damage was done by the fire other than to the mattress.

Investigating the case, Deputy Murray Holloman followed Sutton's track from the Salsbury home to the Sutton home where the young man admitted the act, explaining that he did it because he "felt good."

Sutton gave no sane answer to other questions, but officers are of the opinion that he started other fires in that section over a period of several months.

One night, several months ago, a tenant house was fired on the Williams farm. The fire was discovered and checked before it did much damage. Later the same night the same house was fired and it burned down. It was also learned that other buildings had been fired, including one belonging to Farmer Harry Roberson.

Officers are of the opinion that Sutton hardly knew what he was doing when he started the fire this week and they think he should be confined to an institution for the mentally ill. Knowing that it is next to impossible to have a patient entered in the state hospitals, they placed the man in jail, thinking, possibly the courts will order one of the institutions to receive the man.

It was later learned that the fire bug's name was not Sutton but Sessoms. It was also stated that he had admitted starting the earlier fires. Officers stated that the man whose property Sessoms had fired had befriended him on numerous occasions.

Prominent County Man Died Friday

John W. Perkins, prominent Martin County citizen and progressive farmer, died at his home near Gold Point last Friday evening. He was 67 years old and had been in declining health for some time.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Fannie Mae Perkins; a daughter, Mrs. Howell House of Robersonville; two sons, Jack Perkins of LaGrange, and Jarvis Perkins of the home; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Sunday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. J. M. Perry, and burial was in the Robersonville cemetery. The last rites were attended by an unusually large number of neighbors and other friends, attesting the high esteem in which he was held.

County Man Improving In Baltimore Hospital

Undergoing treatment in a Baltimore hospital, Mr. V. G. Taylor was reported much improved last night, and it is expected that he'll be able to return home within a few days, possibly this week-end.

Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Van Ralph Taylor returned home Thursday after a visit with him.

CITIZENS OF TOMORROW



The Enterprise takes much pleasure in presenting another in a picture series of this section's "citizens of tomorrow". So far none has figured prominently in public affairs, but it is as future citizens they have a tremendous assignment to handle in a muddled world. Certain they'll do a better job than has been done or is being done. The Enterprise presents the youngsters as the one great hope for the future.

Top row, left to right: Kenneth, one, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. W. Loudon, Williamston; Clifton, II, eight months, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ward, Williamston; Linda, twenty months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Jones, Williamston; Bottom row, Lewis, II, four months, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Davis, Jamesville; Larry, fifteen months, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Speller, Williamston; and Judy, five months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Letchworth, Williamston.

First Case Of Polio Reported In County

GOOD START

The annual Farm Bureau membership drive is off to a splendid start in this county, according to a report released yesterday by the secretary, Mayo Hardison. Four membership canvassers reported 217 new members enrolled up until last Friday, and reports from others were said to be very encouraging.

The membership committee will meet again on Friday, September 24, when it is believed the drive will have been much farther advanced.

Start Drive On Rats Next Week

By John W. Williams, County Health Officer

The Town of Williamston, with the cooperation of the State and County Health Departments, is going to put on a real rat control program beginning September 20th.

The State is going to furnish transportation and necessary technical supervision, certain types of poisons and equipment to distribute the poisons: 1080, cynogas, red squill, traps and other poisons, some of which have to have highly trained experts to use.

The town is spending \$1200.00 for this 26 weeks' program (time enough to kill four generations of rats). Sanitarian Gaylord and Superintendent of Streets Bob Manning will be responsible for its success. To be assured of such success, it is up to the citizens of the town to clean up before the work begins on the premises—therefore, from September 10 to September 20 is declared clean-up time. In this time, every household is expected to thoroughly clean the premise of all trash and to place all these discarded articles on street where a truck can haul it off. By doing this, rat burrows, runs, and nests can be more easily found.

Wounded Officer Has Returned To His Home

Suffering a broken hip when attacked by a prisoner on August 1 of this year, Officer Edmond Early returned to his home in Oak City yesterday afternoon after receiving treatment in hospitals at Durham and Tarboro. Starting out on crutches Sunday, he was said to have handled himself very well, but was too weak to do much walking. There is some doubt if he'll be able to appear in court next week when his assailant, Willie James Dickens, is tentatively scheduled to face trial in the superior court.

Fourteen Hundred Register in County For Draft So Far

Draft Official Says Board To Act Against Those Failing To Register

The schedule period for handling registrations for the draft is rapidly drawing to a close with the possibility that the total will fall slightly below the estimated 2,088 names for the books. Fearing that some of the youths in this county are ignoring the registration call, draft board officials said yesterday that the "draft board will be forced to follow a 'get-tough' policy against those who deliberately fail to register." The official added that some youths are taking the registration and draft law as a joke, that some were under the impression that they could register anytime and it would be all right.

The registration period for the designated groups will continue through Saturday of this week in the American Legion Hut in Williamston. A registration schedule for the remainder of the week follows:

Today, all men born in 1928. Wednesday and Thursday, September 15 and 16, all men born in 1929.

Friday and Saturday, September 17 and 18, all men born in 1930, before September 19, 1930.

Eighteen-year-olds will register within five days after attaining that age.

Through Monday, 1,423 young men had registered in this county, including 541 World War II veterans, 275 married non-veterans, 516 single non-veterans, 65 eighteen-year-olds, and 26 transients. Of the 1,423 registered, 675 are white and 748 are colored.

Volunteers are still handling the registration in this county.

Minor Highway Wreck Sunday

No one was hurt but right much damage resulted when two cars figured in an accident near Williamston on Highway 17 last Sunday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock.

Louillai E. Powell, Jr., of Vanceboro, was driving his 1948 Studebaker north and Albert Riddick, operating a 1939 Chevrolet, was driving south, about two and one-half miles south of here.

Powell, according to Patrolman M. F. Powers who made the investigation, turned to his left when the line of traffic moving in his direction slowed down suddenly. Powell, who was said to have been driving about fifty miles an hour, said he either had to hit the rear of the car just ahead of him or turn out. The Riddick car struck and ripped away a part of the right side of the Studebaker, knocking its own right wheel out of place and damaging the running gear.

Damage to the Studebaker was estimated at \$200 and that to the Chevrolet at \$150.

Enjoy Picnic Dinner At Piney Grove Church

The membership of the Piney Grove Baptist Church, friends and special guests, numbering more than 1,000, enjoyed a picnic dinner on the grounds there Sunday. The food supply, equalling that fit for a king, was more than ample to serve twice the number present.

ROUND-UP

Law enforcement officers had another busy time last week-end when they rounded up and temporarily detained sixteen persons. The arrest count was the largest for any similar period in several months.

Two of the sixteen were detained for investigation, one of disorderly conduct, three for drunken driving, six for drunkenness, one for issuing a worthless check, two for assault and one for manslaughter.

Two of the group were white and the ages ranged from 21 to 79 years.

Highway Killer Returned To The County For Trial

Ran Down and Killed Colored Boy Nearly Two Years Ago

Charged with running down and killing McKinley Jones, colored boy, on Highway No. 125 back in November, 1946, Goodman Spruill, 48-year-old colored man, was returned to this county last Saturday to face trial.

The wheels of justice have turned slowly for Spruill, but the law overtook him in South Boston, Virginia, last week. Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation picked the man up, brought him out of Virginia and turned him over as a fugitive from justice to Deputy Sheriff Murray Holloman who met the agents in Oxford. Spruill admitted running over the child, claiming that he did not stop because he became excited and was afraid to stop. He waived preliminary hearing and is being booked for trial in the superior court next week.

Spruill, driving an old model car, was traveling from his home in Hobgood toward Oak City late in the afternoon of November 8, 1946, when he ran down the child, killing him almost instantly. He worked his way back to Hobgood a short time later and told his wife what had happened. His wife advised him to get away from this section of the country. He drove the old car out of the State and abandoned it. Continuing to Baltimore, he entered the employment of a contractor and worked there until a short time ago when he was transferred to Durham. He got into some trouble in Durham and was finger printed. Before his record could be checked by the FBI, Spruill skipped his bond, but the agents picked him up a few days later in the Virginia town.

Shortly after the child was killed, another child, accompanying Spruill at the time, started talking and officers learned Spruill's identity. However, Spruill covered his track very well and kept them covered until a short time ago.

Warning Against Game Violations

According to a ruling handed down by the office of the Attorney General for North Carolina, it is unlawful to "lap" or take raccoons from a boat with the aid of a light.

It was also explained that it is lawful to shoot squirrel from a boat when there is no motor attached to the boat. It's hardly more than a hair-line difference, but a hunter may have an outboard motor detached from the boat and lying in the boat and shoot squirrel.

The season for taking game in this county does not open until October 15 when it will be lawful to take bear, deer, opossum and raccoon by trapping or dog, and squirrel.

A few violations have already been noted, but so the game laws have been very well observed, according to County Warden Cecil Bullock.

Local Men Hurt In Road Wreck

Several local men were painfully but not seriously hurt in a highway accident a few miles beyond the Martin - Beaufort boundary line on U. S. 17 last Saturday night about 10:30 o'clock.

Raymond Heath suffered two broken ribs and cuts on left leg. Asa Moore was cut about the head. Harry Ayers suffered a knee injury and Asa Rogerson suffered a broken arm and other body injuries. The young men were treated in local doctor's offices and the hospital here and later discharged.

The four were riding two motorcycles and were injured when they swerved their machines hurriedly to keep from crashing into a car that came to a stop suddenly before them.

Launch Children's Crusade In This County This Week

A house-to-house canvass will be made here on Friday of this week, marking the beginning of a county-wide drive to raise \$2,500 as this county's share in the humane task of saving millions of unfortunate little children in foreign lands from starving to death this winter, it was announced this morning by Drive Chairman Robert Cowen. A general appeal has been issued in most of the pulpits and in some of the schools, urging all the people to support the Crusade for Children.

Mrs. N. C. Green is serving as treasurer of the drive and she'll accept direct contributions. It will be next to impossible for the canvassers to solicit every person for donations, and those who would share in the worthwhile and urgent drive and who are not

contacted directly by the solicitors are asked to forward their contributions to the treasurer.

Plans for the canvass in Williamston were made last evening when a special committee composed of Mesdames Wheeler Martin, Jr., president of the Woman's Club, M. M. Levin, P. B. Cone, Neil Ripley and Chas. I. Harris met and discussed the campaign with the chairman. The committee divided the town into sections for the drive, and it is planned to carry the appeal into every home and business establishment that day. Professor E. J. Hayes and Supervisor Mary Gray will handle the drive among the colored citizens. It is sincerely hoped that the people will respond to the appeal, remembering that the solicitors are giving of their time to handle the task.

Leaf Sales Nearing Five - Million Mark

Monday's Average Price The Highest Since August 25th

Downward Price Trend Being Reported by Markets In Other Belts

Continuing to gain following a slump that lasted for a week or more, tobacco prices on the Williamston market yesterday reached their highest peak since August 25, an official report stating that 324,792 pounds were sold for \$153,713.63 or an average of \$47.33. While the average is still considerably below expectations, it is much better than the \$40.82 figure recorded for Friday, September 3.

Through yesterday, the market had sold 4,655,494 pounds for \$2,133,129.03, and it is certain that the sales today will push the total right to five million pounds. The average to date is \$45.68. During the first seventeen selling days of the 1947 season, 4,082,758 pounds were sold here for an average price right at \$40 per hundred pounds.

The quality of the offerings is possibly some better than it was a week ago, the better types displacing the heavy offerings of inferior quality tips.

Farmers with good tobacco are doing all right, but those with inferior types are encountering real price problems. But even with good quality grades predominating, the average price is still on the low side.

Early today the market started working off a 200,000-pound block, but it was hard to tell at that time if the block could be cleared.

After holding to much higher levels than those reported for this belt, tobacco prices in other areas are weakening, according to reports reaching here.

In the Middle Belt, prices dropped \$2.62 a hundred last week below the average reported for the first two sales days, the 15,784.

(Continued on page eight)

Forced Out Of Hospital By Fire Early Monday

Recovering from a major operation, W. K. Parker, local man, was forced out of Park View hospital, Rocky Mount, along with all other patients, yesterday morning when fire threatened the structure. The fire was confined to the operating room, but water was several inches deep on the second floor and smoke filled most of the hospital. His room was located just across the hall from the operating room, and he was rolled out and placed in an ambulance, a report reaching here stating that he had a beautiful nurse in attendance and that he was getting along all right.

Some patients were removed to other hospitals, but many of them were returned to the hospital after the smoke was cleared.

Sixteen Divorce Cases For Trial In Superior Court

All But One Based On Two Year Separation; One Contested

Sixteen divorce cases have been placed on the calendar for trial during the two-week term of Martin County Superior Court convening next Monday. The divorce issues are tentatively scheduled to be aired in open court on Monday, September 27.

All but one of the actions are based on two-year separation grounds, the sixteenth one being based on adultery. Only one of the actions is being contested, and in that one the defendant appeals to the court not to allow the divorce, if granted, to impair her right to alimony.

Several war-time marriages are included in the list, and in quite a few instances the litigants lived together only a few days.

The divorce case of Beattie Andrews against Mattie Lee Andrews is back on the calendar, the plaintiff pointing out that they were married in 1940, that they were separated in 1944 and that no children were born to the union.

In her case against Bill Wilson, the plaintiff, Margaret Wilson says they were married on October 16, 1937, that they separated in January, 1938, and that no children were born to the union.

Asking a divorce, Roy Harrell in his case against Irma Allen Harrell, says they were married on July 10, 1922, and separated in April, 1944, that all children born to the union are grown and self-supporting.

In his case against Ada Long, John Long states in the complaint that they were married prior to May, 1937, that they separated some time about May 6, 1937, and that no children were born to that union.

In her case against Joseph Martin Northcutt, Ella Mae Northcutt charges the defendant with having committed adultery with various women, that he was living with a woman as man and wife. They were married in October, 1929 and separated in August, 1947. Three children were born to the union.

In her complaint, Beatrice Ellis Rackley says she was married in Duplin County in November, 1939, to Raymond Rackley, that they separated in February, 1946, and that no children were born to the union.

Abram Jones, in his case against Lizzie Jones, stated they were married thirteen years ago, that they separated in September, 1944, and that they had no children.

Ben Frank Roberson is suing Annie Lee Roberson for a divorce, stating that they separated two weeks after they were married in 1941, that one child, Lewis T. Roberson, was born to the union.

Samuel Clark, in his divorce action against Ruby Clements Clark, says they were married in Emporia, Va., on September 25, 1937, that they were separated in February, 1946, and that no children were born to the union.

James D. Bishop, suing Bessie Coffield Bishop, for a divorce, says they were married on March 3, 1946 and separated on May 6, 1946, that no children were born to the union. Contesting the action, the defendant points out that a consent judgment had been entered in the courts whereby she was to receive \$30 a month alimony. That was in June, 1946. He is alleged to have discontinued the payments in December, 1946, and he was back in the courts in June, 1947, when he was sentenced to serve 90 days on the roads. The road term was suspended upon the condition that he make the payments. Now the defendant is asking that any divorce decree allowed shall not impair her right to alimony.

W. C. Chance, Jr., is suing Louise Chance for divorce, stating they were married December 25, 1941, and separated in May, 1946, and that they had no children.

In her case against James Edward Bryant, Elsie Bryant says they were married in Elizabeth City in 1937 and separated in July, 1947.

(Continued on page eight)

APPROVED

Tentative plans for the harvest festival to be held here on October 14, 15 and 16, were approved at a meeting of directors of the Williamston Boosters last Friday evening in the courthouse. A steering committee, composed of Lynn Taylor, chairman, Ernest Mears and Mr. Shanns, was appointed to execute the plans for the festival.

Merchants' prizes are to be awarded during the remainder of the marketing season to the farmers selling tobacco for the highest and next highest price each day.

VEP Plans to Build Dam On Roanoke

The Virginia Electric and Power Company will apply within the next few days for a Federal license to construct an \$18,000,000 dam and hydroelectric plant on the Roanoke River, according to announcement by President J. G. Holtzclaw of Richmond. The project is estimated to be capable of increasing Vepeco's generating capacity by more than 60 percent.

An application for a permit to build the dam has been prepared and will be filed with the Federal Power Commission.

The dam would be located about one and one-half miles upstream from Roanoke Rapids, N. C., Holtzclaw said. It would form a reservoir covering nearly eight square miles, and would utilize the Roanoke River to turn out up to 65,000 kilowatts in additional power for the expanding Vepeco system.

The hydroelectric development would come as one of five major power plant projects now in prospect in the Vepeco system. Together, the five plants will cost more than \$53,000,000.

If authorized, construction of the Roanoke River dam would begin early next year and would be complete by 1952, Holtzclaw said. The dam would come as the last for completion in the project series, as far as can be seen at present.

The Roanoke River Basin Association and the Roanoke Flood Control group regards the new project of VEP as helpful to the government project at Buggs Island which will be some 43 miles above the VEP dam site.

To Clean Up Tice Community Cemetery

Plans are being made this week to clean up the Tice Community Cemetery, and plot owners, their neighbors and friends are being asked to report there on Saturday morning of this week at 7:00 o'clock with necessary equipment to handle the job.

The cemetery is one of the best kept rural burial grounds in this section of the State.