

Two Charged With Hamilton Robbery At Local Hearing

Ben Biggs Goes To Court for Allegedly Receiving Stolen Goods

Other than the posting of a \$200 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party or parties entering the Hamilton post office last Monday morning, no developments have been reported in that robbery. However, another robbery in Hamilton was brought to light this week and at a formal hearing held before Justice John L. Hassell in the courthouse last evening David Mayo and Wheeler Boney were bound over to the superior court for trial. Charged with breaking into Slade-Rhodes' warehouse in Hamilton on or about August 4 and stealing two cases of gun shells, valued at \$100, the two men along with a youngster, Conry Williams, pleaded not guilty.

Probable cause was found against Mayo and Boney but the charges against the Williams boy were dismissed. Bond was required of the two defendants in the sum of \$500 each. Unable to arrange bonds, the two colored men were returned to jail.

Much conflicting evidence was offered at the hearing, and nothing was brought out to uncover the shells.

Questioned in connection with the post office and bank robbery, David Mayo said that he and Boney found the shells in some weeds near a pile of concrete blocks near Slade-Rhodes Store. Mayo said the shells were carried to Ralph Bond's home one night and the following Sunday he got Cleve Lawrence to carry him and the shells to Ben Biggs' home, that the shells were sold to Biggs for \$12, and that half the money was given to Boney.

Lawrence said he carried Mayo and one or two bags to the Biggs home, but that he did not know what was in the bags, until Boney told him.

Boney admitted helping Mayo load the shells in the Lawrence car and taking them and carrying them into the Biggs home, that he left the shells there. He said he heard Mayo ask if anyone had change for \$5, but said he did not hear any sales transactions.

Officer J. H. Roebuck told the court that he investigated the case all of Tuesday with Mr. R. F. Everett of Slade-Rhodes Company and Deputy Raymond Rawls. He said that David told him he (David) found the shells, that the Williams boy had nothing to do with it.

Biggs, charged with receiving stolen goods knowing them to have been stolen, pleaded not guilty.

Officer J. H. Roebuck, one of the witnesses called, said that he went to the Biggs home and continued to Hamilton when Biggs could not be found. In Hamilton he saw Biggs and when questioned, Biggs said that a boy tried to sell him some shells on a Saturday night, that he told him to bring them to his home Sunday. Biggs said that the shells were carried to his home, that he soon saw there were too many, that the sack was muddy, that he thought something was wrong and he would not take them.

Justice Hassell found probable cause, and recognized Biggs to appear in the county court next Monday for trial.

A report coming from the office of the sheriff this morning stated that some of the missing shells had been found, and that the evidence in the case is gradually being unraveled. One case of shells was found in a corn field back of Wheeler Boney's home in Hamilton. Three boxes of shells were found in the home of James Mayo, brother of David who continues in jail. James Mayo had not been arrested early this afternoon, but officers are planning to question him, it was learned from a reliable source.

A lead toward the missing shells was picked up by Mr. Frank Everett following the hearing last night.

A report on the finger prints at the post office in Hamilton has not been received.

Might Locate Post Office In County Center Shortly

A survey is being conducted with the possibility that a post office will be located in Bear Grass, according to an unofficial report heard here yesterday. Postmaster W. E. Dunn of the local office, stated that a request for office service had been requested there and that a survey of potential patronage is well under way.

A similar service was maintained in or near Bear Grass at a point known as "Transfer" some years ago. Three rural carriers met there and effected a distribution of the mail. At that time impassable roads most of the year made it impossible to reach the individuals at their respective homes and the mail was carried to a central location and the patrons would call for it at their convenience.

With a potential of more than

200 patrons, the proposed office could possibly be maintained in one of the stores similar to several other offices in the county and surrounding territory. If the office is established, it will be maintained on a fee basis, sell stamps, issue money orders and distribute the mails.

The survey, according to Postmaster Dunn, is centered in the territory of a mile radius. Patrons could have their mail delivered either to road-side boxes or to the office. Mail would be addressed to Bear Grass and dispatched from the office here.

Bear Grass was an incorporated town at one time, but its charter was surrendered some years ago. It continues as one of the main rural centers in the county, however.

WARNING

On the eve of the tobacco market opening, Acting Chief of Police John Roebuck warned all persons, especially those with money, to guard themselves against crooks, including the manipulators of the old pocketbook flim-flam game, pick pockets and others who are on the watch for unsuspecting victims.

In other market towns, the old games already have been played to the advantage of crooks and to the sorrow of victims.

James Earl Mobley Charged With An Attack On Driver

Taximan L. H. Vick Suffers Shock And Possibly Internal Injury

James Earl Mobley, bus station employe, was denied bond when he was carried before Justice R. T. Johnson here early last evening for allegedly assaulting L. N. Vick, taxi driver, shortly before then. Following the preliminary investigation, Justice Johnson said that he would consider a \$1,000 bond, but Mobley said he could not arrange it in that amount and he was placed in jail. A full-dress hearing is tentatively scheduled for this evening, but there is some doubt if the victim will be able to attend, according to one report.

Few details of the attack were brought out during the preliminary hearing last evening. The two men were said to have had some trouble last Monday afternoon, and Vick, reports state, received a few blows. Nothing was said or done about that attack. Last evening the trouble was renewed and Mobley is said to have directed a blow against Vick's lower right ribs, causing considerable pain but possibly no serious injury. He was also struck just under the right eye, Dr. Edward Williams, a local physician, said. The doctor also explained that the attack victim apparently was suffering more from shock at the time than from the physical injuries.

It was not officially brought out, but one report said that Mobley twisted Jacob Zemon's arm at the station last Monday, that the taxi driver tried to explain to Mr. Zemon what happened, and that the trouble between the two men (Mobley and Vick) had its origin there. It was also alleged that possibly there was some friction between the bus station employe and the taxi driver over the taxi parking plans near the bus station, and that the attacks were an outgrowth of that friction.

The victim, wearing a bad eye, is able to be up and out.

Announce Services In Corinth Church

Beginning Sunday evening, August 21, Rev. J. R. Davison will conduct a series of evangelistic services in the Corinth Church in Jamesville Township. The public is invited.

Benjamin Rogers Fatally Hurt In Bike-Truck Crash

Lives Only A Few Minutes After Accident Here This Morning

Benjamin S. Rogers, 32-year-old salesman, was fatally injured when the motor bike he was riding and an oil truck driven by Daniel Lilley crashed about 9:30 o'clock this morning on Highway 125 just outside Williamston's town limits. His head partly torn away and suffering other injuries, the young man died upon arrival at the local hospital in a Biggs ambulance.

Lilley, suffering much shock himself, stated that he was driving out of town to his home and was making a left turn into his driveway. Rogers, riding a new motorbike, was traveling into town, Lilley stating that he did not see him until a split second before the crash. The truck was hardly moving at the time, the bike striking the running board and throwing the rider into the right door of the truck. Lilley stated that a soft drink truck was following him out of town, that he gave a turn signal and had driven the front wheels of his truck off the hardsurface when the vehicles crashed. Rogers fell to the dirt, a few feet from the concrete.

Patrolman John T. Rowe investigated the accident but could not be reached immediately for a report.

A son of Mrs. Ida Rogers Edmondson of Griffins Township and the late John Thomas Rogers, he was born in Bear Grass Township and spent his early life on the farm there. After a residence in Williamston he entered the Civilian Conservation Corps for about two years and returned and lived in Williamston until he entered the service. Following his discharge he returned to the county and was making his home on the Mary Cherry farm near Williamston.

He was married to Miss Lula Mae Nicholson and she survives with six children, a brother, Charles Rogers of near Williamston.

Native Of County Died At Home Of Daughter Monday

Funeral Held Yesterday In Washington For Mrs. Rhoda Woolard

Mrs. Rhoda Russ Woolard, a native of this county and who until a short time ago made her home with a daughter, Mrs. J. Eason Lilley, near Williamston, for several years, died at the home of another daughter, Mrs. James T. McKeel, in Washington last Monday night at 11:15 o'clock. She had been in declining health for about one year and her condition was critical for several weeks.

Mrs. Woolard was born in this county on September 5, 1871, and moved to Beaufort in childhood, spending most of her life there. She was a daughter of the late William Charles and Nancy Warren Russ, and in early womanhood was married to John Wiley Woolard who died some years ago.

She was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist Church, holding membership at Hayes Swamp in Griffins Township. She made many friends in her adopted communities and was a thoughtful neighbor.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Lilley of near Williamston, Mrs. McKeel of Washington and Mrs. Wesley Peel of near Williamston; a brother, James R. Russ, and a sister, Mrs. Jesse R. Woolard, both of Washington; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held from the McKeel home, 410 East Main Street, in Washington yesterday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Elder A. B. Ayers of this county. Interment was in the old family home cemetery just across the boundary in Beaufort County, not far from Batts' Cross Roads.

T-5 Colon Perry Funeral Saturday Near Williamston

Young Man Was Killed In Action In France On July 11, 1944

Funeral services will be conducted in the Fairview Christian Church in Williams Township Saturday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for T-5 Colon G. Perry, young Martin County man who gave his life in the service of his country. He was a member of the church there and his pastor, Rev. P. E. Cayton of Edenton and Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister will conduct the last rites. Burial will be in the family cemetery near the home. The body, reaching here from Brooklyn late yesterday afternoon, will lie in state at the Biggs Funeral Home until an hour before the service.

The son of Joseph Perry and the late Irrabell Roberson Perry, he was born in Griffins Township on October 31, 1920. He remained with his father on the farm until he entered the service on December 7, 1942. After training at Fort Benning, Ga., and Camp Jackson, S. C., he went overseas on February 1, 1944, and was in the Normandy invasion forces when he was killed in action on July 11, 1944.

An industrious worker and a promising young man, he had many friends in his home community, and was highly regarded by fellow servicemen.

Surviving besides his father and step-mother, the former Miss Maggie Gardner, are two brothers, James Perry of the home, and Jasper Perry of Plymouth; and three half-sisters, Misses Lennie and Mary Perry of Williamston, and Margaret Perry of the home. His is one of thirty-two bodies of Martin County young men to have been returned from foreign cemeteries for burial in native soil.

Mrs. L. B. Godard Dies at Her Home Near Jamesville

Funeral For Aged Citizen Will Be Held At Home Friday Afternoon

Mrs. Lenora Hardison Godard, aged and respected citizen of Jamesville Township, died in her sleep there in the early hours of yesterday morning. In her usual health, Mrs. Godard worked in tobacco most of Tuesday, but complained of a terrible head pain for a few minutes during the day. Her work completed for the day, she went to the house, ate a hearty evening meal and retired shortly after 8:00 o'clock. She was very jovial at that time, and apparently in better spirits and health than in any recent time. She is believed to have suffered a stroke of paralysis and died almost immediately, members of the family stating they heard no sound in her room at any time after she retired. When she did not answer the call for breakfast, a grandson, Leslie Godard, went to the room and found her dead about 6:30 o'clock.

Mrs. Godard was born in Jamesville Township 83 years ago on July 19, 1866; the daughter of the late Durham and Margaret Waters Hardison. She lived there all her life and in early womanhood was married to Lewis B. Godard who died in 1934. She joined the church at Fairview, and was a devoted mother and a good neighbor, contributing in her humble way to the welfare and happiness of others.

Surviving are two sons, Walter H. and J. Samuel Godard, and a sister, Mrs. Eva V. Perry, all of Jamesville; thirteen grandchildren; and seventeen great-grandchildren.

The body is being returned from the Biggs Funeral Home late today to the old home near Jamesville where the last rites will be conducted Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister. Interment will be in the family cemetery on the old Stallings farm not far from the old home.

Record Opening For Market In Prospect

Quality Of Leaf Not Measuring Up To Expectations

Buyers and Market Personnel On Hand For Initial Sales Tomorrow

A record opening for Williamston's Tobacco Market was in prospect early today when capacity poundage of the golden leaf literally poured into the houses for the first sales tomorrow. It was conservatively estimated that between 350,000 and 400,000 pounds will have been sold by the close of sales tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Old judges of tobacco, coming from the farms, declared that the quality of the first offerings does not measure up to expectations. "There is some mighty good tobacco on the floors, but as a whole the quality is only medium," one farmer explained. It is fairly easy to pick out those sections where heavy rains resulted in heavy growth and in those areas where climatic conditions were nearly perfect. The crop is spotted, and some farmers advanced the opinion that the quality of the break is hardly as good as it was on opening day last year.

Tobacco buyers and all market personnel are on hand today for the opening tomorrow, and there is considerable activity in "tobacco town" at this time, but that is nothing compared with what is expected tomorrow and on the following days.

Present indications point to a major marketing rush, some predicting that the markets will have to close within a matter of weeks for the companies to work off the rush. Marketing activities here are proceeding very orderly under the booking system. The market isn't glutted, but just about all space is being booked. "If the farmers will cooperate and book ample but not more space than they need, the booking system will work to a great advantage," an observer said this morning, explaining that the grower does not have to place his leaf on the floors days ahead of a sale.

On the eve of the opening of the markets in eastern North Carolina reports are coming in from the Border stating that prices were weakening there this week. While the declines were mostly from \$1 to \$3 per hundred from quotations released earlier in the week, the reductions ranged from \$4 to \$6 for the medium and lower quality grades. The report added that the best quality leaf continued to command about the same prices. General market averages ranged around \$50 per hundred pounds.

Georgia, completing the season for the most part today, reported a weaker market yesterday with the average falling well under \$40 per hundred pounds.

Warehousesmen and tobacco dealers, in general, are still betting on a general average of \$50 per hundred for the local market on opening day.

Factors, as a whole, do not appear to be as optimistic as they were on the eve of the market opening a year ago.

County Youths In Raleigh Meeting

Martin County youths figured prominently in the annual meeting of the North Carolina Association of Future Farmers of America held in Raleigh this week. Howard Gardner of the Jamesville FFA Chapter was awarded the association's highest honor—the Carolina Farmer Degree. The young man was one of 133 out of the nearly 17,000 state members of FFA chapters to get the high honor. The Oak City chapter representatives copied a \$25 second prize in the district dairy judging contest during the convention.

Seventeen Cases In County Court Monday Morning

Fines Imposed During Three-Hour Session Exceed \$300

Seventeen cases were called in the Martin County Recorder's Court during a three-hour session last Monday morning. One or two road sentences were imposed and fines amounted to \$305.

Proceedings: Pleading guilty of assaulting a female, Oscar Walker was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with breaking jail, Sid Harris was found not guilty. The case offered a puzzle which the evidence would not solve. The defendant, placed in jail by a warrant signed by Clarence Purvis, said that another inmate of the Oak City jail broke out, that he left, too, and that Purvis gave him \$15, took him to Hobgood and instructed him to go to Norfolk and change his name. Purvis, charged with aiding and abetting a jail break, was found not guilty.

In the case charging Eddie Johnson with drunken driving and violating the liquor laws, a nol proes was ordered as to the drunken driving charge. Pleading guilty of violating the liquor laws, Johnson was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with larceny, LeRoy Coffield waived preliminary examination and he was bound over for trial in the superior court. He is charged with breaking into the home of Joseph Slade on August 4 and stealing a watch, bracelet, locket and flash light.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Columbus Sheppard was sentenced to the roads for sixty days. The court suspended the road term upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs.

Arthur Daniels pleaded guilty of driving a motor vehicle without an operator's license and was fined \$25, plus costs.

Charged with non-support, Gary Bunting pleaded not guilty. He was found guilty only of not supporting his two children and drew a three-month road sentence which was suspended upon the payment of the costs and \$6 a week for the support of his children during the next two years.

Tebo Whitaker and Jesse T. White, pleading guilty of speeding, were each fined \$15 and taxed with the costs.

Roosevelt Clark, found guilty of larceny and receiving, was sentenced to the roads for six months.

Charged with hit-and-run and drunken driving, Herbert G. Legg (Continued on page eight)

Business Is Now Moving Upward

New York.—The slow but disconcerting constriction in business activity which has been going on since autumn finally was halted in July. This is clearly indicated by the early statistical reports.

Construction volume rose conspicuously. Scrap prices firmed, employment rose to a new high for 1949—at 59,720,000 jobs—and for the first time this year volume buying by wholesalers was noted in some fields. Among other favorable reports was a Commerce Department announcement that the normal seasonal decline in manufacturers' sales was reversed by a gain of \$400 million between May and June, and a Federal Reserve Board statement that commercial bank loans to business reversed a 27-week down trend in the final week of July.

All of which last week led one of the country's most qualified observers of the economic scene, who is in close touch with banking and business throughout the country, to talk off-the-record about a "significant and beneficial change" he has seen lately in the attitude of business men. Part of the healthier attitude, he suggested, may be the realization that it now must go out and sell goods in a competitive market instead of sitting back and watching the orders pile in as has happened during the last nine years.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

With one exception, motorists traveled the highways in this county last week without accident. No one was hurt and property damage was not "too" large.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

32nd Week			
Accidents In'd	Killed	Dam'ge	
1949	1	0	\$ 400
1948	2	0	1,200
Comparisons To Date			
1949	71	27	\$15,190
1948	82	41	18,025

Ten Cases Heard In Justice Court In Past Few Days

Several Defendants Are Sent To Higher Courts For Trial

Justice R. T. Johnson and John L. Hassell handled ten cases in their courts here during the past few days. Several of the defendants were bound over to the higher courts for trial.

Proceedings in Justice Johnson's court: Charged in three different warrants with issuing worthless checks, William Lanier was sentenced to the roads for thirty days in each case.

The case charging Robert Raynor with drunken driving was sent to the county court for trial next Monday.

R. H. Sutton, publicly drunk, was fined \$10 and required to pay \$5.85 costs. Charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper equipment, Perlie W. Ore was fined \$5, plus \$5.85 costs.

The case, charging Geames C. Hawkins with drunken driving, was sent to the county court for trial. Bond was required in the sum of \$150. It was said that the defendant did not appear in the county court.

Justice Hassell reported the following cases: J. C. Brown, charged with disorderly conduct, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days; the court suspending the road term upon the payment of \$7.50 costs.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly, Lucille Roberson was sentenced to jail for thirty days, the court suspending the jail term upon the payment of \$7.50 costs and on the further condition that she leave town.

Joe Bullock was taxed with \$6 costs for being disorderly.

Charged with disorderly conduct, L. O. Buchanan was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the term upon the payment of \$10.50 costs.

J. see Brown, charged with disorderly conduct, was fined \$5 and required to pay \$8.50 costs.

County Young Man Earns Promotion

William S. Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Johnson, of 2nd street, Robersonville, North Carolina, has been promoted to airman radioman by the Commanding Officer of Navy Patrol Squadron Fifty One, Naval Air Auxiliary Station, Miramar, San Diego, California, to which he is attached.