

Former Local Boy Moving Up In The Scientific World

Pursues Hobby In Korea Despite War and All Other Obstacles

A former Williamston boy, "Buster" Old, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Old of Norfolk, is moving right on up in the scientific world despite the war and other obstacles, according to a story appearing in a recent issue of Time Magazine.

While others were chasing good times, Buster, while in school here, was chasing butterflies, collecting insects and studying marine life, reptiles and so on. He maintained a miniature zoo in his home, and had the characteristics and interest of a natural-born ichthyologist and herpetologist or scientists who study fish and reptiles.

The story in the magazine reads:

Bivouacked in the piney hills near the Han early last week, the 25th Division had its hands full digging in for the expected Chinese assault. But for the buddies of Corporal William Old even the din of Communist whistles and bugles was hardly more terrifying than his tales of poisonous mollusks, leopards, bears and 1,500-lb Manchu tigers roaming the Korean countryside. The fascinated G. I. had good reason to believe that babyfaced "Buster" Old knew what he was talking about.

Youngest member of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Buster Old, a 23-year-old photo-lab technician in the Army's Signal Corps, has been an amateur zoologist since childhood, is now a highly respected, unofficial investigator for the Smithsonian Institution. Ever since August, the Smithsonian's moluskmen have been expectantly watching the mails for the tobacco tins, metal film containers and glass medicine bottles in which he has sent them nearly 500 specimens of Korean frogs lizards, snakes, crayfish and snails.

On the way out to Korea, Old sent a few sample shipments during stopovers in Hawaii and Japan. But his snail searches really paid off when he began exploring the zoological possibilities of the battle zone. ("Hunting for snails and so forth is a wonderful thing for guys like that," explains one Smithsonian curator. "Gets their minds off the bullets whizzing around.")

Some freshwater snails that Old sent back are the first received by

(Continued on page eight)

New Furniture For Lunchroom

New furniture for the lunchroom at the Williamston Elementary School has been purchased at a cost of \$1569.00, it was learned yesterday from Miss Ruth Manning. The purchase was financed from a fund built up over a period of years by profits from ice cream sales at the school.

Through April, the lunchroom spent \$17,000 this year and had a net loss of just 17c, it was stated. Ice cream is not sold as a part of the lunch nor sold at any time when it might interfere with a child's desire for the mid-day meal.

It was also stated that plans are being made for a central library in the grammar grade building as soon as room can be found. This space is expected to be available when the fifth grade moves to the high school building.

THURSDAY

Weather and circumstances permitting, the Williamston High School Green Wave Baseball squad will travel to Hertford Thursday afternoon to play the second game in their series for the Albemarle Conference baseball title.

Hertford won the first tilt of the two of three series but Coach Maynard is determined that the Indians shall have to play for the trophy. Raymond Davis or John Rogers will start for Williamston and Rogerson or White for Hertford.

Special Medal Awarded To County Boy Posthumously

With the Third Army in Korea, May 16.—The Bronze Medal for heroism in combat has been awarded posthumously to Private Harry P. Roberson, a Martin County serviceman from Everetts, N. C.

Private Roberson's mother, Mrs. A. R. Roberson, lives in Everetts, N. C. He was a member of the second battalion of the 7th Infantry Regiment.

The action in which Private Roberson was fatally wounded occurred February 14, 1951, near Chamang-ni, Korea. The citation read:

"Private Roberson was a member of a hastily organized, volunteer group which moved to a ridge near the battalion command post

(rear) and took up positions against an infiltrating enemy attack.

"When a numerically superior enemy force attacked the position, Private Roberson, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety, deliberately moved into the open to place more accurate fire upon the enemy. Despite the heavy enemy fire, he stayed at his post firing round after round at the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties.

"Receiving a mortal wound, he refused evacuation and medical attention until the enemy was forced to withdraw. Private Roberson's heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service."

HOLIDAY

In addition to the regular afternoon closing by local business houses, all federal offices, including the post office, and also the power company offices will observe Wednesday of this week as a full-day holiday in observance of National Memorial Day. There'll be no banking service and no mail deliveries.

Regular business such as stores, county and town offices will not observe the day as a full holiday, but they will be closed as usual on Wednesday afternoon.

District Director Installs Officers

Mrs. Selma B. Harrell, director of District Nine of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, addressed a very small number of parents and teacher in session at the Elementary School auditorium last evening and installed officers for the 1951-1952 scholastic year.

Mrs. Harrell stressed that there is no end to the work of the P-T. A. as it is a continuing operation with new problems and tasks to face from year to year. She urged the officers to maintain the prestige of the P-T. A. and promote its work as diligently as possible.

Calling attention to the theme of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers for this year: "The Citizen-Child in a Changing World," Mrs. Harrell declared the child of today may be little different from the child of yesterday but his surroundings are vastly different and his problems more complicated.

Officers installed were: Lee Reynolds as president, Mrs. John L. Goff as vice-president, and Mrs. Asa Crawford, secretary. Mrs. Hoke Roberson will be the new treasurer but was not present for the installation last night.

The president reviewed briefly the programs of the past year and expressed pride in the fact that all of them had been on a high level. The program committee, Mrs. E. R. Fronberger, chairman, the publications committee, Mrs. J. L. Harris, chairman, and the membership committee, Mrs. Urbin Rogers, chairman, were especially complimented for their efforts during the past year. An appeal was made to those present and to others to join in the work of the P-T. A. next year—"because if you work for and with

(Continued on page three)

Personnel Change At The Post Office

Personnel changes have been fairly numerous at the local post office in the wake of calls to active service in the armed forces.

Two men, Pete Fowden and Jack Mobley, went with the National Guard unit to Georgia early this month, and Reuben Williams, a member of the Naval Reserve, was called last week for active duty.

W. E. Duná, Jr., of Oak City, and H. H. Cowen and LeRoy Godard, both of Williamston, have joined the post office force.

Hold Funeral For Mrs. Barfield In Church At Hassell

Native Of County Died In Edgecombe County Late Sunday Night

Mrs. Bettie Brown Barfield, native of this county and a highly respected citizen, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. A. Knox, in Edgecombe County near Tarboro at 11:45 o'clock Sunday night. She had been in declining health for some time.

The daughter of the late James and Mary Molly Everett Brown, she was born in the upper part of this county 90 years ago in 1861. Before going to Edgecombe County to make her home with her daughter four years ago, she had lived in the Hassell Community most of her life.

She was first married to James Weaver. One son, A. F. Weaver of Hassells survives that union. Her second marriage to J. B. Barfield, well-known county citizen, who died about eight years ago. Only one child, Mrs. Knox, survives that union. There are eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mrs. Barfield was a member of the Hassell Christian Church for many years, and is remembered in her native and adopted communities as a splendid Christian woman.

Funeral services will be conducted in the church at Hassell Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. Olin G. Fox. Interment will be in the family plot in the Oak City

(Continued on Page Eight)

Man's Body Found In Roanoke Today

The body of Aaron Biggs, 66-year-old Dardens colored man, was found in Roanoke River one-quarter mile below Jamesville early this morning by Douglas Currie, Jamesville fisherman.

Biggs, said to have been drinking heavily for possibly three weeks, was the river last Thursday morning. No special attention was given him at the time, and it was thought he would straighten himself out and return home.

Visiting the sheriff's office earlier that day, Biggs said that his neighbors were causing him trouble, that it looked as if he would have to leave the Dardens section.

He is survived by his widow and thirteen children.

ROUND-UP

Six persons were arrested and temporarily held in the county jail last week-end, the group including a young white woman who was charged with public drunkenness. One was arrested for breaking and entering, another for drunken driving, another for drunkenness, another for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and still another for investigation.

Three of the six were white and the ages of the group ranged from 25 to 48 years.

Agronomist Talks At Farm Forum In County On Friday

Thirty-Four Years Of Patient Struggling Finally Rewarded

Speaking at the first of a series of Farm Bureau forums planned in this county, Dr. E. R. Collins, State Extension Service agronomist, last Friday night in the courthouse declared that progress is being made in experiments with peanut production.

It was readily admitted that the peanut possibly is one of the most complicated crops, but the scientist declared that as a result of careful experiments something about the peanut has been learned.

Dr. Collins said that it is possible to overlime the soil, that it would possibly cause more damage than underliming.

The reaction of fertilizers is difficult to determine in the production of peanuts. It has been found that the goober will not react to commercial fertilizer under certain conditions, and that only close checks can determine the type of fertilizer needed. It has been found that to produce peanuts in quantity the soil fertility must be built up. Dr. Collins said that peanuts had been found to do exceptionally well when planted after corn and crotalaria.

In the open forum, Dr. Collins answered numerous questions. It has been found that landplaster is more effective when applied in early July, that it is advisable to scatter the landplaster over all the vine. The researcher said that the peanut feeds through the shell and not necessarily through the vine or stem, that unless landplaster gets to the peanut itself its food value will not reach it through the vine.

(Continued on page eight)

Falls Out And Blocks Traffic

Falling out when he suffered an epileptic attack on the corner of Main and Smithwick Streets here last Thursday evening, John Henry (Private) Stoenk, John colored man, caused some excitement and temporarily blocked traffic.

Someone, thinking he had been struck by a vehicle, called an ambulance. Tommy Bland sirened his way down the street and picked up the man. Having no home of his own, White was carried to a relatives on Sycamore Street. "We don't want him here," the cousin said, and Bland realized he had the man on his hands. Bland, unable to find a bed for his passenger, pulled up to the police station and insisted that the officers take over. While the officers and ambulance man debated the problem, White raised himself up, a perfect blank.

He crawled out of the machine, took a 35-cent handout, laughed and stalked off into the night. Happy as a lark, he admitted he was not certain whether he would buy food or drink. White had just been released from the road gang after serving time for public drunkenness.

Registration For Vacation Bible School Here Friday

The Daily Vacation Bible School will conduct registration at 4 o'clock this Friday afternoon at the Baptist Church. Any boy or girl between the ages of 4 and 16 is invited to attend the school this year. The school opens Monday, June 4 and closes Friday, June 15.

The faculty this year consists of: Directors, Rev. J. D. Skinner and Rev. T. L. Hastings; Beginners' Department: Mrs. J. H. Saunders, Jr., Superintendent, assisted by Mesdames D. W. Manning, Homer Barnhill, James Bullock, J. C. Cooke, H. P. Mobley, and Miss Elizabeth Griffin, Betty Helen Mobley, and Jane King. Primary Department: Miss Emily Wagner, Supt., assisted by Peggy Savage, Carolyn Bullock, Jo

Lindsay Warren Rated A Faithful Public Servant

Labor Paper Says Warren Saved Taxpayers Many Millions Of Dollars

The following story, praising Lindsay Warren, former congressman from this district, appeared in Labor, a national weekly newspaper published in Washington, D. C.:

Labor is delighted to praise an able and faithful public servant. There are many of them in Washington, despite the impression the public sometimes gets from headline-hunting "probers."

An outstanding example of the kind of man we mean is Lindsay C. Warren. As Comptroller General, he has a job of which most people never hear, but which is one of the most important in the government. We have pointed him out in the past, and we have a most unusual reason for mentioning him now.

A huge new building for Warren's General Accounting Office is almost completed. He looked around it and found that, by economical use of space for members of his staff, he could make two whole floors available for other government use in crowded Washington.

Some said: "Let's spread out and use the space ourselves. Why give it up to somebody else?" But Warren answered: "No, we can get along without it, and save the people's money by turning it back to Uncle Sam." So that's what he did.

In other words, Warren is not one of those who merely "talk economy." He both talks about it and does something about it. That's his full-time job. As Comptroller General, Warren acts as the "watchdog" for Congress over the billions of dollars appropriated for the administrative agencies. The Senate and House depend upon him for reports on whether the billions are honestly and efficiently spent, and for recovery of sums paid out through fraud and error.

Depending on Warren is nothing new for Congress. For 16 years, this North Carolina Democrat was highly respected member of the House. His colleagues recognized his ability and integrity, and accorded to him a position of rare influence.

That's why, in 1940, President Roosevelt wisely picked Warren for Comptroller General, a post which is unique in many respects.

The President, "with advice and consent of the Senate," appoints the Comptroller General, for one

(Continued on page eight)

MEETING

Scheduled to meet in special session this evening at 8:00 o'clock, the local town board of commissioners will discuss preliminary budget figures, and consider applications for an extension of the town's western limits.

A special meeting was tentatively scheduled about two weeks ago but a delay was ordered.

Approve Contract for Road Projects In This County

After a delay of several weeks, a contract for surfacing several roads in this county was approved a few days ago, according to reliable but unofficial information gained this week.

The Brown Paving Company, submitting the low bid, is completing projects in the Hassell area this week and will move its asphalt plant to the Popular Point loop road within the next few days, it was learned. The company recently completed road projects from a point on the Hamilton-Palmyra road, not so far from Palmyra, via Concho Church, and then from Oak City to Gold Point via Hassell, and from Spring

Green to Everetts. A half-mile strip on the Hassell-Butler Bridge Road was surfaced along with a road from Highway 125 to the Hassell-Oak City Road and street paving in Hassell.

The new projects include the long Popular Point loop beginning at Nicolson's Store on Highway 125 and running back to 125 at the Sherrod farm, and from a point near Everetts through Bear Grass to Highway 17 at Corey's Cross Roads, and a short strip in Robersonville Township.

It is understood that materials will be handled for all three projects from the plant to be constructed on the Popular Point loop road.

Road Program Pays Off For County Man

Best Farmland In County Opened Up By New Highway

Dr. E. R. Collins Declares Progress Made In Peanut Crop Experiments

"Buggs Island Dan, is a great thing, but it does not mean near as much to me as our little project over there," Farmer Frank Barber said last Friday noon when he gave a sumptuous picnic dinner at his home to mark the opening of a road leading to the Moore Islands of Williams Township.

It was a great day for Mr. Barber and his family for at that time hundreds of acres of the finest farmland in this section of the State really became a part of Martin County and the outside world. Heretofore, the family and others had been virtually isolated months out of each year by high water. There were times when the family could move out only on foot, then to a dugout and back to their feet. There were weeks when the children could not get away from their water-locked home and attend school. By airline, the families on the island are just four or five miles from Williamston, but there were times when the family would be cut off from the outside world for days at a time.

The picture has changed now with the construction of a land fill and bridges, and things are looking up for residents of that area.

But the change was a long time coming. Thirty-four years ago, Mr. Barber and his then little family moved into their island home. It was a struggle from the start, but Barber and his sixteen children, in turn, developed the farm into one of the best in the county. During the meantime, he was working for means of egress and ingress. Governor Cameron Morrison's road program came along a few years later, but that was designed as a hook-up between county seats. Possibly a little work was done, but it was largely through their own efforts that members of the family maintained a path through the swamp for vehicular traffic in dry periods and boat traffic in wet periods.

In the thirties, the WPA did a little work on the road, but the struggle continued.

(Continued from Page One)

Officer Continues Ill In The Hospital

Taken suddenly ill while on duty last Wednesday, Officer Bill Haislip of the local police force continues ill in a local hospital. Reports received this morning stated his condition was showing some improvement, but that he continues "a sick man".

The officer was on special assignment about 11:00 o'clock last Wednesday and radioed for help when he was taken suddenly ill. He was carried immediately to the hospital.

Minor Accidents Reported In The County Recently

No One Injured And Damage Held To Low Figure, Officers Report

The wave of motor vehicle accidents sweeping this county during the past several weeks subsided a bit last week, according to reports coming from members of the highway patrol and local police departments. There were at least four accidents reported on Martin County highways and streets during the past several days, but all of them were minor and property loss was held to a low figure.

A town truck, driven by Carl Highsmith, and a soft drink truck, driven by Jacob Chas. Whitford, III, of Greenville crashed at the intersection of Haughton and Main Street here last Tuesday. Damage to the Greenville truck was estimated at \$75 by Chas. R. Moore of the local police department.

Andrew Ernest Purvis, driving a 1949 Chevrolet, crashed into the Evan Willard 1949 Plymouth parked in front of the Jos. Pender home on West Main Street at noon last Thursday, causing about \$35 damage to the Willard car.

A 1940 Ford driven by Frederick James and a 1949 Buick, driven by Homer Holliday crashed on the Piney Woods Road near Dardens last Wednesday evening, hurting no one and causing about \$50 damage to each car, according to Patrolman M. F. Powers who made the investigation.

When his lights went out about 10:00 o'clock Saturday night, Ira Peel, Jr., stopped his car, a 1936 Ford, about three miles south of Farm Life on Highway 171, and William H. Wooden plowed into it with his 1940 Ford, causing about \$50 damage to each car, Patrolman M. F. Powers said after making the investigation.

Seniors Hear Annual Sermon

Williamston's high school graduating class, parents and friends filled the auditorium Sunday evening for the commencement sermon, the first in the series of scheduled events in the finals program in the school here.

The Rev. Stewart Simms, pastor of the Memorial Baptist church cardinal virtues and warned the fifty members of the senior class Church here pointed out the against robbery. Basing his talk on the Good Samaritan story found in the tenth chapter of Luke, the minister pleaded with the seniors to guard themselves against those who would rob them of their idealism and character, declaring that those possessions were more valuable than material wealth.

This evening, the seniors are holding their class exercises, and tomorrow evening the Hon. Robert Lee Humber of Greenville will deliver the graduating address.

Announces Change In Registered Nurses' Fees

Mrs. A. H. Thompson, president of the 20th district of the North Carolina Nurses' Association has announced an increase of \$1 in the fees of registered nurses. The 20th district, the last to announce the increase, has a rate of \$9 for eight hours' duty, Mrs. Thompson whose headquarters is in Rocky Mount, announced today.

SEPARATION

Steps have been taken to separate the sheriff's office in this county from the alcoholic beverages control board's enforcement division, according to unofficial information gained this week.

Chief Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck and his assistant, Cecil Bullock, have tendered their resignation as deputy sheriffs, it was learned. They will work independently of the sheriff's office. Offices have not been located, as far as it could be learned.

PHI BETA KAPPA



Lee A. Clark, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Clark of Everetts, was recently initiated into Phi Beta Kappa in ceremonies held in Gerrard Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The fraternity limits its membership to students who have averaged not less than 92.5 in all courses during their first three years in college. The young man is majoring in chemistry.

Robbery Series Believed Solved

A series of minor robberies reported here last week was believed to have been solved with the arrest of Eugene Slaughters, 18-year-old colored boy, by local police last Friday morning.

A native of New York and stepson of Robert Staton of Jamesville the boy broke into the Cristal Grill on Washington Street early last Friday and stole about \$14 in cash. Slaughters admitted the robbery and showed officers where he had concealed the money.

He is believed to have been connected with the robbery of the barbershop near the colored school and Plum Williams' store on Washington Street earlier in the week.

County Youths Get Promotions

Volunteering last March 29 for service in the Air Force, three Martin County youths have been promoted to ranks of soldiers first class at Sheppard Field down in Texas. The promotions, climaxing weeks of hard work and diligent response to duty, came before the boys completed their basic training. A report says the boys are completing their basic shortly and looking forward to furloughs home.

The boys, now holding the private, first class rating, are: Garland Hardison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Belmer Hardison of Hamilton, Jack W. Wayne, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Wynne of RFD 3, Williamston, and Kip Etheridge, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. B. Etheridge of RFD 1, Oak City.