

## Child Loses Leg In Tragedy Near Dardens Sunday

### Sheriff's Office Investigating Shooting To Determine If Criminal

Sheriff Buck Holloman and his aides were still investigating today a tragedy in the Piney Woods section near Dardens which on Sunday afternoon cost a 13-month-old child its left leg and its father the little finger and a portion of his left hand. The officers are seeking to determine what part of the tragedy was criminal and what part of it was accident. All parties to the incident are colored.

The child which its mother, Mary Moore, 22 listed as Marjorie Brooks, daughter of Urbin Brooks, 25, had its left leg virtually blown to bits when its mother claims she aimed an unloaded gun at its father while he was holding the child next to his left breast. The father was wounded by the same charge.

According to the story told the investigating officers, Mary and Urbin, without benefit legal marriage, were living in the home of Warren Brooks who is about 75 years of age. Sunday afternoon just before night they, said they were without food and Mary handed a .12 gauge shotgun to Urbin with instructions to go shoot some rabbits for supper. Both were drinking heavily and, although they were short of food, Mary told officers she had had three bottles of beer during the afternoon preceding the shooting.

Urbin took the gun but said he thought it needed cleaning and worked on it for some time. Finally, he gave it back to Mary telling her it was too late to go hunting. Mary said she started to put it up but then aimed at Urbin as he came into the bedroom door, saying, "I am going to shoot you." She pulled the trigger on the gun which according to her story should not have had a shell in it. The full charge hit the baby and scattered bits of its flesh and particles of bone as big as a man's thumb about the room. The left leg from above the knee was badly mangled and amputation was necessary when the child was finally carried to the hospital at Plymouth some forty minutes or more after the shooting which took place about 6:30 p. m.

The father lost the little finger of his left hand and a portion of the hand just back of the little finger and both victims of the shooting sustained powder burns which indicated that they were fired upon at close range. The mother indicated she was about five feet from them when she pulled the trigger.

Doctors at the hospital in Plymouth reported that the man vomited quite a quantity of alcohol after he reached the hospital emergency room and from information pieced together by officers as well as their own statements, it appears that both the man and woman were probably under the influence of intoxicants when the shooting occurred.

There are a number of points which the officers wish to clear up. They are handicapped in the work by the fact that neighbors live some 500 yards away but none of them heard the report of the gun and no one apparently knows what happened except the three involved in the tragedy. The mother claims it was all a mistake. Officers cannot understand how a shell could be in the gun by accident if the man cleaned

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There will be a Pack Meeting of the Cub Scouts, old and new, at 8 o'clock Friday night at the Grammar school. Any boy between the ages of eight and ten who is interested in becoming a Cub Scout is invited, accompanied by one or both parents. A registration fee of 50 cents is to be paid and this applies to present Cubs as well as new boys.

Rev. T. L. Hastings is calling the meeting and hopes to have a large attendance.

## Deny Motion To Abolish Segregation In The Schools

A motion advanced by Charles V. Bell, Negro attorney, to abolish segregation in the Washington County schools was denied by Judge Donnell Gilliam in federal court at Washington last week. The motion was made during the trial of the Washington County school suit before Judge Gilliam. Washington County proposed to build a \$203,124 consolidated school for Negroes at Roper, and a suit was brought to block the action.

Opposing the Bell motion to abolish segregation, North Carolina's attorney general, Harry McMillan argued to the court that the motion was "frivolous," in that the court had no jurisdiction but that it would require a three-judge federal court to hear it, since the motion involved a constitutional question.

During the meantime, a petition, filed by a Raleigh Negro lawyer and signed by twenty-one Martin County Negro men and women and asking that segregation be abolished in Martin County, is being aired by Negro papers. The facts, while quite clear and understandable to most everyone, are being distorted, blocking a true picture of the situation and helping no one. The petition has been openly discussed and without feeling or excitement. A cooperative spirit still exists among leaders of both races in this county.

### WOODEN TOYS

Santa Claus, like everyone else, is feeling the pinch of metal shortages. His bag will be packed with more wooden toys this Christmas and playthings generally will be priced slightly higher.

That was the word today from government officials charged with keeping a close eye on materials and prices. They said they based their predictions on information from the toy industry.

These officials said that, in anticipation of metal shortages, more toy makers than had been expected already have shifted to wood. Many will increase their use of plastic. Wood will be used for toys on an even wider scale in 1952.

## Band Fund Drive To Reach Clamix With Sale of Tags

### Young Musicians To Be Up Town For An Hour This Morning

The Williamston High School Green Wave Band is marching up the street this morning while the members of the Williamston Band Parents Club offer special tags for sale as a climax to the annual band fund drive which started on Tuesday of last week and is reported to be progressing rapidly.

No details as to how near the \$2,000 goal the drive has approached were available early in the morning but it is understood that there has been a fine response in most quarters. The band has purchased many instruments during the past several years in an effort to provide help for those who are unable to buy expensive horns but wish to play in the band and have talent for the job. One of the instruments which the band has needed badly for some time has been purchased and is in use but funds from the current drive will be needed to pay for it.

A display in the window of Bulluck's store gives the public a fair idea of the things it takes to keep a first-class high school band going and some of those

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## County Farmers Digging Peanuts

The peanut digging season was officially opened in this county Monday afternoon when farmers Dave Gurganus and Robert Grimes dug their peanut crops. Mr. Gurganus operates the C. B. Clark farm between Williamston and Everetts. Mr. Grimes farms only a short distance from Mr. Gurganus.

Others may have dug or may be digging but this is the first report of such operations reaching here this season.

The crop was said by Messrs. Gurganus and Grimes to be only fair. Peanuts found on the vines were said to be of good quality but the small crop was attributed to the extremely dry weather that has prevailed here for several weeks.

## Officers Wrecked Twelve Stills In County In August

### Seven Persons Arrested And Carried Into Court During Period

In the absence of Chief Enforcement Officer Jos. H. Roebuck who is on sick leave but who has been helping direct activities from his bedside, Assistant ABC Officer Cecil Bullock and Deputies Raymond R. Rawls and Roy Peel have been carrying on a relentless drive against the illicit liquor traffic in this county.

Blows were struck at both the manufacturing and the outlet ends, Officer Bullock said in his report to the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board for the month of August.

Twelve illicit manufacturing plants were wrecked in addition to several partial units during the month. The officers poured 3,775 gallons of beer or mash and confiscated twenty-three gallons and a quart of illegal liquor during their raids.

Seven persons were arrested for alleged liquor law violations. Four were given road sentences, ranging from six to nine months, and fines imposed in the county court amounted to \$445.

There was a marked increase in the illicit liquor traffic in the county last month as compared with activities reported in July. The business was almost doubled last month, the operators, wholesalers and retailers apparently taking advantage of the opening of the markets and the increased flow of cash.

The drive against the traffic is being continued this month, Officers Bullock, Rawls and Peel said. (Continued on Page Seven)

## Minor Accidents On County Roads

Two minor accidents were reported by highway patrolmen in Martin County last Saturday afternoon. Damage totaled \$150.00 and no one was injured.

The first occurred at 1:45 Saturday afternoon when Corporal Robert Milton Johnson of Cherry Point ran his car into a ditch on the River Road near Hamilton in what he reported was an effort to avoid hitting a child which ran into the road. About \$50.00 damage was done to the 1940 Chevrolet, Patrolman R. P. Naron, the investigating officer, said.

About 5:30 Saturday afternoon King David Rogers, 19-year-old white youth of Bear Grass, turned over his father's 1950 Ford pickup truck near the J. T. Harris residence on the Corey Crossroads-Bear Grass highway, doing about \$100 damage. The truck was going west when it crossed to the left side of the road and overturned. Cpl. R. H. Chadwick of the State Highway Patrol was the investigating officer.

Arrest Three At  
Big Liquor Still

Three Williamston men, Chas. Whoward, Reuben Rogers and Jesse Gardner, were arrested last week at an illicit liquor still in the Lake Phelps area of Tyrrell County by Washington County and federal officers, according to information reaching here. Given a hearing before U. S. Commissioner Mary Wright in Elizabeth City, the three men were placed under \$300 bonds and are slated to face trial in the federal courts next month.

The officers confiscated a 500-gallon copper kettle, eleven five-gallon jugs, twenty cases of half-gallon fruit jars and a 1942 Chevrolet pickup truck. They poured out 460 gallons of mash and 40 gallons of liquor.

The operators were at work at the still when the revenue agents moved in. One of them jumped into the canal nearby trying to escape, but swam back to shore when he found that the water was more than head deep.

Participating in the raid and arrests were ATU Agents Jack Gaskill, Mose Harshaw and ABC Officers A. D. Baum and B. V. Halstead.

## Home Destroyed Sunday Morning

Fire of undetermined origin wrecked the four-room home of Jesse (Duke) Walston on Milburn Street and burned all the contents shortly after 3:00 o'clock Sunday morning. Volunteer firemen were out more than an hour battling the fire.

No one was at home and the fire was not discovered until Dr. J. T. Llewellyn, returning home from a late call, saw the light as he traveled down Smithwick Street. He drove to the scene back of Woodlawn Cemetery, sounded an alarm and threw bricks against the burning house in an effort to wake the occupants before he learned no one was there. About that time, members of the police department saw the fire as they traveled out North Haughton Street and they radioed a call for the fire department.

The loss, including furniture, will possibly exceed \$3,500 with between \$2,500 and \$3,000 insurance in effect.

## Thirteen Divorce Cases On Calendar In Superior Court

### Most of the Actions Are Based On Two-Year Separation Grounds

Thirteen divorce cases have been placed on the calendar and are tentatively scheduled for trial in the Martin County Superior Court during the second week of the term opening on Monday, the 17th. The cases are on the Monday, September 24, calendar, and for the most part are based on grounds of two years of separation.

Suing James Hudgins for divorce, Edna Hudgins says they were married in January, 1947, and were separated five months later in May, and no children were born of the union.

In the case of Verble Henry Cherry against Irene Cherry, the plaintiff says they were married January 1, 1933, and were separated in May, 1938, that the defendant is now living in Detroit. Four children of the union are with the plaintiff.

Howard Roebuck, suing Betty Jean Roebuck for divorce, says in his complaint that they were married February 6, 1948, and were separated July 26, 1948, that no children were born of the union.

Suing John Frazier for divorce, Estelle C. Frazier says they were married May 31, 1932, and were separated May 31, 1948. She is asking custody of the two children born of the union.

Moses Wilson is suing Mildred House Wilson for a divorce, explaining that they were married October 6, 1947, and separated May 28, 1948. The plaintiff says that the one child born of the union is living with the mother but is being supported by the father.

In the case of James E. Godard against Barbara Godard, the plaintiff says they were married December 24, 1948, and separated August 3, 1949, that no children were born of the union.

In addition to two-year separation grounds, James Biggs in his case against Mary Lee Biggs, alleged adultery. He says they were married seven years ago last May and were separated in March, 1949. As a second cause of action, the plaintiff alleges the plaintiff committed adultery with one Charlie Speller and others, that since their separation one child was born and that the defendant is now in a family way. The court action was filed as of July 7, 1951.

John L. Alstin is suing Lucy May Alstin for divorce. They were married March 4, 1940 and separated in March, 1946. Two children born of the union are now in custody of the defendant.

In the divorce action of Hilda Griffin Warren against William Franklin Warren, the plaintiff says they were married December 18, 1938, and separated in October, 1948, that the three children, aged, 11, 6 and 3 years, born of the union are in the custody of and supported by the plaintiff.

In the case of Elouise Brown against Randolph Brown, the plaintiff says they were married in March, 1946, and separated in May, 1949. Two children, now 4 and 3 years old were born of the union, but no mention was made about their present custody or support.

Smith Edward Dolberry is suing Dolberry for divorce. They were married in Edenton in October, 1945, and separated in September, 1947. No children were born of the union, and the addresses of the defendant is unknown.

Stating they were married May (Continued on page seven)

## FARM BUREAU

The annual Farm Bureau membership drive is off to a good start in this county, according to a report submitted at a meeting of the membership canvassers in the courthouse last Friday night.

Approximately twenty percent, or 400 of the 2,000 membership goal, has been added to the list since the 1951-52 drive started two weeks ago.

## Draftees And Volunteers Enter The Armed Service

Seven Martin County young men, all colored, including four volunteers left today to enter the armed service at Fort Bragg. The call is the third answered in this county since May, and holds to a fairly low figure.

Those called to make the trip by regular bus, include: Wiley Lee Jones, William I. Price and William Stokes, Jr., all of RFD 3, Williamston; Fred Samuel Brown of RFD 2, Williamston; Marvin Rudolph Williams of Williamston, Leodius Whitehurst, RFD 1, Jamesville, and Robert Bonner of Everetts.

Ten men are being called to report for pre-induction examinations on September 25. The call is the first for pre-induction received in this county since April 23 when 75 men reported for the first for preliminary tests. The examinations, good at one time for only ninety days, are now recognized for a year.

During the past twelve months, including the September group, 163 Martin County men have been called by the draft. During the same period, 225 were called for pre-induction examinations.

## Tobacco Sales Pass Four Million Mark

### Monday Average Is Second Highest For This Season

Only 10 Cents Per Hundred Below Price Paid Third Day After Opening

Prices on the Williamston market yesterday pushed up again despite the heavy influx of tobacco and at the close of sales for the day had reached \$51.29 per hundred, only 10 cents per hundred below the highest average of the season which was paid on the third day's sale this year.

The market will pass the four million mark today as it has another capacity sale. Monday's sales totaled 329,426 pounds for which \$168,961.49 was paid, an average of \$51.29 for the day.

Total sales through yesterday were 3,683,426 pounds for \$1,825,109, an average of \$49.54 for the season to date.

Slow deliveries to the warehouses which caused sales in the early part of the season to be very light appear to be a thing of the past now. In fact, it appears that a further shortening of selling time may be in order so that the redrying plants can catch up with the heavy flood of tobacco. In this immediate section some of the farmers may be turning to the digging of peanuts with a consequent lightening of the tobacco deliveries but in some sections marketing will be pushed as rapidly as possible.

While it took the local market nine days to pass its second million-pound mark, sales are now running close to a third of a million pounds per day. Although prices usually fall with heavy deliveries of tobacco, Monday's sales proved a reverse of that form. It was the fourth biggest day in pounds sold but only the second from the top in total money paid out for tobacco, indicating that all of the heavy deliveries are not the poorer grades.

Average prices for heavier-bodied grades on Eastern North Carolina's flue-cured tobacco markets the third week of sales eased slightly lower than last week. On the other hand, better cigarette tobaccos were some stronger. Volume of offerings was heavy with the general quality slightly lower.

The Federal State Market News Service reports most leaf and smoking leaf grades dropped \$1.00 and \$2.00 per hundred. Common quality red grades lost \$3.00 and \$4.00. Low lugs also declined \$1.00 to \$3.00. The losses were more prevalent in lower quality offerings. Fair to fine lugs, cutters and primings were steady to \$2.00 higher. Non-descript was steady to slightly higher in most instances.

During the four-day week ending September 7 gross sales amounted to 49,343,225 pounds and averaged \$49.65 per hundred. This average was only 21 cents below the previous week but off \$1.40 from opening week. Season gross sales were brought to 116,967,456 pounds for an average of \$50.05. Season sales are running well below the comparable period

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## Issue Twenty-One Licenses To Wed In Martin County

### Issuance Second Largest In The County So Far This Year

Twenty-one marriage licenses were issued in this county last month by the office of the register of deeds. The issuance, the second largest for any month this year, is slightly above the average for the month of August, but falls one unit below the issuance for August of last year.

Licenses were issued to eleven white and ten colored couples last month, as follows:

White  
George D. Reason, Jr., RFD 2, Williamston and Mary Alice Hopkins of Oak City.

William L. Cowan of Wilson and Janie Ball of Williamston.  
Hugh Millard Martin and Celia Myra Gardner, both of Jamesville.

Daniel M. Bowen of Williamston and Violet Elizabeth Rogers of Jamesville.

Joseph Raymond Woodard of Halifax and Ellen Joyce Clark of Everetts.

Phillip Ray Tetterton of Plymouth and Sarah Margaret Davis of Jamesville.

Delmar Gray Manning and Josephine Hardison, both of Williamston.

Gene Forrest McCombs of Plymouth and Janice Ray Bailey of Jamesville.

James Darrell Wynne of Williamston and Sarah Elizabeth Leggett of Robersonville.

William T. Ely of Benton, Ky., and Louise Wilson of Robersonville.

Luther Robinson Finch of Spring Hope and Ruby J. Trahey of Williamston.

Colored  
Johnnie Edwards and Everette Peele, both of Williamston.

Benjamin Wiggins of Williamston and Minnie Bess Draughn of Stokes.

Charles Francis Whitehead and Sadie Bell Perry, both of Oak City.

Sylvester Spruill and Vurneda Stokes, both of Robersonville.

Robert James Riddick and Evelyn Chance, both of Williamston.

Russell Ivan Matthewson of Robersonville and Annie Spruill of Everetts.

Genis Lee Rogers of Boykins, Va., and Ollie Marie Land of Williamston.

James Curtis Roberson of Richmond and Lattie Louise Maye of Stokes.

Jesse J. Outerbridge and Daisel Jones, both of Williamston.

Joseph Little and Clara Mitchell, both of Williamston.

## Former Resident Dies In Norfolk

Friends here were notified last week of the death of Mr. J. H. Dixon of Norfolk, former resident of Williamston, who died of a heart attack Wednesday in a Norfolk hospital.

Funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon at three o'clock at the Norview Methodist Church there and interment was in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Mr. Dixon made Williamston his home for a number of years and was connected with the Durham Life Insurance Company. While here he was an active member in the local Methodist Church.

## PMA Purchase Orders Issued

Purchase orders are being issued at the P. M. A. office in the Agriculture building for all participating farmers of Martin County.

The purchase orders are issued for all pasture seeds, fertilizers and winter cover crops. Yesterday \$2,500.00 in purchase orders were issued to Martin County farmers.

There are a number of merchants in the county who specialize in handling these orders and stock the seeds and materials required by the conditions under which the orders are issued to the farmers.