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Man Admits Killing Wife In The County

Rosa Parker Shot In Robersonville Township Sunday

Marvin Parker Changes His Story, Declaring He Shot In Self-defense

Rosa Parker, 39-year-old colored woman, was shot and instantly killed by her husband, Marvin Parker, 37, at their home on the Roberson farm near Robersonville about 3:00 o'clock Sunday morning. After maintaining that his wife killed herself, Parker now admits he shot her, declaring he acted in self defense. He is being held in the county jail on a charge of murder. Following his admission ,a jury, summoned by Coroner W. W. Biggs, was dismissed. A hearing in the case is to be held in the courthouse this evening at 7:30 o'clock, Sheriff Holloman said today.

The attack is shrouded in mystery and officers are doubtful if all the true facts will ever be brought to light.

The woman was shot with a load of No. 6 shot from a distance of only a few feet, the jury decided after examining the body in Everett's Funeral Home in Williamston, the finding virtually ruling out Parker's first claim that she committed suicide.

An examination of the body revealed two distinct cuts, one about two inches long and the other possibly more than three inches, both running outward from the gun shot wound. Coroner Biggs is of the opinion that the woman was stabbed before she was shot.

Officers stated that the load of shot tore a sizable hole in the woman's chest, ripping away the great part of the left breast and puncturing the heart after breaking several ribs in two. The officers also stated that bits of flesh were scattered all over the room, including the walls and the heater.

An eight-inch blade butcher knife, greasy and bloody, was found near the victim's head. There was some blood on the victim's left hand, and the body was found in a pool of blood.

Parker, arrested by Robersonville police, admitted he got home late and that he had been drinking. According to his story, his wife accused him of running around with other women and an argument followed. He first said that he started to leave, got as

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First Herrings Caught In River

The first 1952 model herrings have been taken from the Roanoke, meaning that spring can't be too far behind.

Jamesville was busy with politics and Fisherman Joe Smith of Williamston stole the march when he dipped two sizable roe herrings from the river just across from the old wharf early last Thursday evening. The first catch made a tasty dish, he declared, sharing it with Francis Leggett. Smith used a dip net.

Henry Girvin went into action last Friday and took three fish from the river at Jamesville. He used a drift net to make his catches.

Owners of the Jamesville fishery are making preparations for another season. The large seine is being repaired and tarred, it was learned. Commercial fishing on a large scale will hardly get under way, however, before sometime in March.

ROUND-UP

Thirteen persons, their ages ranging from 17 to 51 years, were arrested and detained temporarily at least in the county jail last week-end.

Three were booked for drunken driving, three for investigation, one for murder and two each for assault, larceny and public drunkenness. One of the thirteen was white.

STRAY SHOT

The careless handling of a bullet rifle sent a "hunk" of lead through a window of the R. H. Clayton home here on Grace Street last Saturday. The bullet tore a hole through a screen and glass pane of the new home. No one was there at the time, and the damage was not discovered until the following day.

Notified Sunday, local police sent out a warning to parents to supervise the use of firearms in the hands of their children. It is believed the bullet traveled quite a distance before piercing the window.

Jury Has Quick Murder Verdict

A jury composed of eleven Martin County men and one from Beaufort, including three colored citizens from this county, was not long in reaching a decision in the murder case brought against Lafayette Miller, 23-year-old colored man, in Beaufort County Superior Court, last Friday evening.

Miller was found guilty of the murder of Harvey Boyd, young Beaufort County man, near Chocowinity on last Thanksgiving eve. No recommendation for mercy was offered by the jury, and Judge Clawson Williams, presiding, sentenced Miller to die in the gas chamber on March 7. An appeal was noted by the defense.

According to one of the jurors, a unanimous decision was reached against the defendant on the first ballot which was taken in about two minutes. "We smoked a cigarette, talked a minute or two and returned to the courtroom about ten minutes later," one of the jurors was quoted as saying.

The Martin County jurors apparently impressed the court, for Judge Clawson Williams, talking directly to them for about ten minutes, expressed his appreciation for their services.

The eleven men from this county on the jury reported along with nearly 100 other Martin citizens for duty in the case last Wednesday morning.

Funeral Tuesday For Mrs. Pearce

Mrs. Effie Bailey Pearce, 69, widow of Wm. I. Pearce and mother of Miss Lissie Pearce, supervisor of the elementary schools in this county, died at her home in Princeton Monday morning following a long illness.

Funeral services are being conducted in the Princeton Baptist Church this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock, and interment will be in the cemetery there.

Surviving besides her daughter in Williamston, are three daughters, Mrs. Herman Massengill of the home, Mrs. Durward Creech and Mrs. W. Marion Holland of Smithfield; one son, David E. Pearce of Princeton; one sister, Mrs. H. J. Whitley, Sr., of RFD 2, Smithfield, and seven grandchildren.

Fire Threatens Large Oil Tank

Fire, believed to have been started by trespassers, destroyed a building about eight by ten feet and burned the paint off a section of a 20,000-gallon oil tank at the Lindsley Ice Company plant here at 2:30 o'clock last Saturday morning.

When discovered, the fire was blazing through the top of the small building. Volunteer firemen reached there in time to beat the fire back and head off what could have been a serious explosion. All the town's fire-fighting equipment was carried to the scene, and while only one unit was placed in operation the other was held in readiness.

Charge Minister With Seriously Attacking Wife

Victim Without Medical Attention For Almost Two Weeks

James Perkins, although holding the position of pastor of a Negro Primitive Baptist Church went back to the Dark Ages and employed cave man tactics when he brutally attacked his 34-year-old wife, Ada Pearl, at their home in Williams Township on January 5.

The inhuman attack came to light only a few days ago when those of seven children large enough to attend school, failed to report for class work. An investigation was launched and Sheriff M. W. Holloman and Justice Chas. R. Mobley visited the home. Shocked by what they found, the two called immediately for County Health Officer John W. Williams and the victim was moved to a local hospital for treatment.

Said to have used a piece of stove wood, Perkins knocked a small hole in his wife's head, and beat her horribly on the arms and legs. Last reports said the victim was still unable to walk, but that her condition was much improved. Her legs and arms were badly cut and swollen, doctors said.

Attacked on January 5, the victim received no medical treatment and little attention of any kind until she was moved to the hospital last Friday.

Perkins, who has made no statement, was arrested last Thursday and was held in the county jail without bond until Saturday when hospital doctors advanced the opinion that the attack victim would live. He was released under bond in the sum of $500, and is to appear for trial the first Monday in February.

During the meantime, the victim's mother is here from Detroit, looking after the seven small children.

Perkins is said to have been charged some time ago with an assault. The victim in July, 1950, was in the courts for allegedly abandoning minor children, but was found not guilty.

Hog Hunters Are Caught In County

Employing tactics similar to those in vogue for hunting wild game, two young colored men, Charlie Brown, 17, and Robert Lee Jones, 20, were arrested by Deputies Raymond Rawls and Roy Peel last week-end and booked for larceny of a hog belonging to Farmer Clarence Tyson near Oak City.

Working with a mule and cart, the two men skirted the field near the Tyson home and shot and killed one hog with a bullet rifle. The 200-pound porker was picked up and carried to George Lee Jone's home and dressed for the market in Tarboro. George Lee Jones is booked for aiding and abetting larceny and disposing of property known to have been stolen.

At least two other hogs were shot, but they moved out of reach of the thieves.

After denying the theft charge, Brown and Robert Lee Jones admitted it and were given a hearing Monday night in the courthouse by Justice J. S. Ayers.

All three defendants were bound over to the county court for trial next Monday, each under bond in the sum of $200. Unable to arrange bond, the three men were returned to jail.

One or more of the men are believed to have been involved in other hog thefts in that section during recent weeks.

District Recruiting Officers To Meet Here

Commanding Officer Maj. Moxley and the personnel of the Eastern North Carolina Recruiting District for the US Army and US Air Force have accepted the invitation of the Williamston Boosters to hold their February business meeting in Williamston as guests of the Boosters.

The exact date has not been set as yet, but it will be held sometime in February.

TB Survey In County Not Coming Up to Expectations

A gradual decrease in the number of FREE chest X-rays taken each day has prompted the X-ray Survey Committee to extend its call to Martin Citizens for action. To date, 5490 Chest X-rays have been made out of a possible 18,000. This showing doesn't indicate the true cooperation of Martin County people. Get your FREE chest X-ray at either of the four mobile units and take your neighbors—too.

All civic organizations are asked to continue announcing the opreation of the mobile X-ray units and ministers are encouraged to remind their various congregations. We, the general public, need to be remined. Suggest an X-ray for someone today. Remember—no home is safe unless all homes are safe from tuberculosis.

The following business establishments have reported "Employees X-rayed 100 percent" to the local health department and displayed their card in a prominent place: Leder Brothers, Firestone, Bullocks, Ward's Market, Margolis Brothers, Darden's Department Store, Colonial Stores, and McClee's Grocery.

Many other firms may have accomplished this attainment. If so, call the local health department and join the growing list of "Employees X-rayed 100 percent." Let your patrons know your employees are OK.

No official report is available just now, but it is fairly certain that quite a few traces of tuberculosis have been found in this county, starting the first day of the survey. Unless all persons, 15 years and older, are X-rayed, it is very likely that a number will never know they are troubled with the dreaded disease until it is too late. Those who missed the units when they were in their communities are asked to have their chests X-rayed at some other place where the mobile units are still operating.

CALL MINISTER

Williamston's Memorial Baptist Church Sunday voted unanimously to extend a call to the Rev. E. G. Conklin of Wakefield, Virginia, to take over its pastoral duties, it was publicly announced yesterday. He succeeds the Rev. Stewart B. Simms who resigned to take over a pastorate in Richmond.

Mr. Conklin, a native of Maryland, is expected to enter upon his new duties in early April. The minister visited the church here December 9.

Award Plaque To Man Of The Year

A 30-year-old lawyer is Williamston's "Outstanding Young Man of 1951."

Attorney Edgar J. Gurganus, active in civic and professional activities, received this honor Friday night at the Junior Chamber of Commerce's annual Distinguish Service Award Banquet held in the Methodist Church dinning room. The selection was made by a secret committee composed of prominent local citizens. Seventeen men were considered.

The presentation was made by Mayor Robert Cowen on behalf of the Williamston Jaycees who annually co-sponsor this award with the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Cowen pointed out that this award is presented each year to the man, between the ages 21 and 35, who rendered the most outstanding community service during the calendar year, whether he be a member of the Jaycees or not.

The young attorney has served as Chairman of the Martin County Tuberculosis Committee and the Martin County Recreation Committee, has been an active member of both the Junior Chamber of Commerce, where he served as President and Secretary, and the Rotary Club, of which he is Vice-President, and has taken an active part in many projects for community betterment.

President Bernard Harrison presided over the meeting and Pete Austin provided the entertainment for some 60 Jaycees and their ladies who met to honor "The Man of the Year."

Returns To Post In Massachusetts

Pfc. Mamie Bland, one of the few Martin County young women in the armed forces, returned to her station at Falmouth, Massachusetts, Sunday after spending a several-day furlough with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bland, in Griffins Township.

Doing secretarial work at the jet fighter base, Pvt. Bland says she likes her work and that it's just wonderful to be in the service. Completing her basic training at Lackland down in Texas, Pvt. Bland went to Falmouth about a month ago.

Several Wrecks On County Roads During Week-end

No One Badly Hurt, Damage Limited; Car Found Burned Sunday

Several motor vehicle accidents were reported on the highways in this county during the past week-end, but Patrolmen R. P. Narron and B. W. Parker said that no one was badly hurt and property damage was limited.

Stolen in Norfolk County last Saturday evening about 5:00 o'clock, a 1947 Ford was mysteriously burned on Williamston's trash dump near Sweet Water Creek Sunday morning about daybreak. The thief drove the car out on the trash dump about as fas as he could and apparently set it on fire. Patrolmen are investigating, but have established no lead in the case. The car belonged to George T. Harris of St. Brides, Virginia.

Driving on the Bear Grass Road leading off Highway 17 about six miles from Williamston at 2:00 o'clock Sunday morning, Jimmy Wayne, young white man of RFD 2, Williamston, lost control of his 1937 Chevrolet and ran it into a ditch and an embankment near the John W. Green home. Wynne said he was blinded by the lights of an approaching car, causing him to run off the hardsurface and to lose control of his own. Investigating the accident, Patrolman R. P. Narron estimated the damage at about $75.

Sunday morning about 10:00 o'clock, Charlie Cherry of Norfolk, was driving a 1940 Buick on Highway 125 toward Hamilton and lost control of the machine. Cherry said he ran over a bump in the highway at the Abbitt mill bridge, causing him to lose control of the car. Swerving to the left side of the highway, the car struck a tree and turned partly around, coming to a stop with the front part facing the highway and the rear end in the water. Cherry and his three companions were not hurt, but Patrolman R. P. Narron, investigating officer, said,

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PEPPER PRICES

In recent years the price of pepper has been nothing to sneeze at. In fact, it has been higher than at any time since Peter Piper picked his peck of pickled peppers. In fact, had he picked them off the shelves of a super market at the going price, he probably would have picked a speck instead of a peck.

But prices have begun to tumble at last. In the New York market black pepper now wholesales for $1.27 a pound as compared to $1.90 a year ago. Housewives still sigh, though, when they recall that in 1939 the wholesale price of this piperaceous plant was as little as 3 cents a pound.

Reviews Tobacco Diseases-Culture In Martin County

Growers Facing Most Critical Period As Far As Production Is Concerned

While the price outlook is considered favorable for 1942, production prospects are the most critical in history, S. N. Hawks, tobacco specialist from the State College Extension Service, Raleigh, told two hundred tobacco farmers in the Martin County courthouse Monday evening. The specialist, proving time and again he knew what he was talking about, predicted a slight increase in the support price for 1952, and then went on to tackle diseases and culture of the big money crop.

"I am not here to tell farmers how to grow tobacco, but to show the results of various experiments and point out practices which individual farmers think will fit into their individual cases," Mr. Hawks said.

The specialist, talking rapidly for about one and one-half hours and receiving close attention from the large audience, frankly stated that farmers must turn to different or disease-resistant varieties of tobacco and that more attention will have to be given to crop rotation.

According to the specialist, the farmer, to be certain of tobacco production, weather conditions being favorable, must make his land free of root knot or nimetodes, plant varieties resistant to Granville wilt and black shank, fertilize and cure his tobacco properly.

Talking about nimetodes or root knot, Hawks said the disease slips up on the crop and cuts down the yield without the farmer knowing what's the matter. He expressed the belief that most farms in this county and section have root knot. He suggested that tobacco stalks be examined at the end of the season and where the disease is detected farmers should cut the stalks immediately and turn the roots up to the sun. Crop rotation helps control, the specialist advising against following Austrian winter peas or sweet potatoes with tobacco. It is preferrable to follow corn, small grain, peanuts and cotton with tobacco, he said, adding that fescue is worth considering.

Soil fumigation offers fairly certain protection against root knot, and he explained the cost and methods of using chemicals to treat the soil.

Turning to black shank, Hawks urged the farmers not to underestimate the disease. It spreads easily and it is not enough to use resistant varieties. He declared that rotation must be followed to make the resistant type effective, plus root knot control. He also warned against fertilizer burn, explaining that wire worms could weaken the plant and lessen the power of the resistant varieties.

Discussing Dixie Bright 101, the most common of the resistant types used in this county, Mr. Hawks admitted it was not perfect. It is brittle, it grows tall and suckers come even before the stalk is topped. However, the suckers are not too bad after it is topped. The mineral oil method for controlling suckers was not recommended. "But, if you must try the plan, use the oil as an emulsion," he advised.

Pointing out that Dixie Bright 101 is a yellow-growing tobacco, he advised to go slow with the harvest, to wait until it is thoroughly ripe. When harvested too early, the leaf cures out white, the specialist declaring that it had been found the quality was better when the crop was harvested a bit late than it was when pulled too green.

The Dixie Bright 102, according to Hawks, is more resistant but the yield is lower. It cures faster, is not so brittle, and the quality is possibly better than 101.

After making thorough tests, the tobacco companies have found 101 all right, he declared.

Discussing brown spot, the Extension man said that control is indirect, that root knot and a lack of potash make it worse.

He warned against over-fertilization, explaining that tests show that 1,000 pounds of fertilizer produced a crop worh $682 a acre,

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Building And Loan Has Successful Year

FILE PROTEST

Other than that a protest had been filed, little could be learned from the Jamesville municipal election front today.

Losers in the January 14 election are said to have filed the protest with the clerk, Mrs. Mae Waters, but no answer has been received, as far as it could be learned here.

The county board of elections dumped the hot issue back into the Jamesville election officials' hands, declaring it had no jurisdiction in the matter.

College Alumni Meet January 31

Graduates and former students of Atlantic Christian College will meet in Williamston, Thursday night, January 31, to form the first county chapter of the Atlantic Christian College Alumni association.

This will be the first meeting of the Martin County chapter of ACC students.

Main speaker for the Dutch supper meeting which will be held at the Williamston Woman's club at 7 o'clock that night will be Arthur D. Wenger, assistant to the president of Atlantic Christian College.

Wenger is one of the outstanding speakers that the state of North Carolina now possesses. During the last year he has traveled all over the south outlining the plans for future development of ACC.

He also is director and moderator of the Atlantic Christian College School of the air which presents weekly radio programs about the Wilson college over radio stations WGTM and WVOT.

Wenger will be presented at the meeting by James E. Fulghum of Wilson, president of the Atlantic Christian College Alumni Association.

County Boy Gets Army Promotion

Fort Jackson, S. C.—Archibald E. Manning, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Manning, of Jamesville, N. C., recently was promoted to the rank of sergeant while serving with the Eighth Infantry Division at Fort Jackson, S. C. He is assigned as a battalion chief clerk in the Specialist Training Regiment here.

Sgt. Manning was graduated from Farm Life High School in Martin County in 1945. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from East Carolina College in Greenville in 1950.

Before entering the service in December, 1950, he was a school teacher in Hopewell, Va. He is a member of the Virginia Education Association and the Alumni Association of East Carolina College .

No Armory Soon For Williamston

Contrary to reports, there'll be no new armories built in North Carolina right away, according to a report released this week by State Adjutant General John Hall Manning.

A site for an armory in Williamston was donated to the State nearly a year ago, and the construction of a motor storage was planned. Those plans were halted when the National Guard unit was ordered into active service. Since that time nothing has been done toward having an armory built here, but Guardsmen and those who donated the site on the Jamesville Road are hopeful housing quarters will be provided and made ready for the guard unit when it completes its tour of duty.

Some money has been appropriated, but hardly enough to construct one big building.

Financed Cost Of Thirty-eight New Homes Last Year

Nearly 14,000 Shares Stock Now In Force In The Association

Holding their annual meeting in the offices of Attorney Wheeler Martin here yesterday morning, stockholders of the Martin County Building and Loan Association were advised that their organization had its most successful year in 1951, that even though the building industry was confronted with some uncertainty the outlook for the new year is fairly bright.

The secretary reported that thirty-eight new homes were financed by the association last year, the projects representing $192,638 in loans. In addition to financing the new construction, the association helped twenty-seven families buy homes that has already been built. Other advances boosted the total loans for the year to $340,218.89.

At the present time, the association has 1,044 stockholders who hold 13,180 shares of stock. While most of the stockholders are centered in this immediate area, a few live as far away as New York State, sending in their regular installments by mail or making payment on their stock while on visits back home.

The association now has assets valued at $1,457,336.41, represented mainly in first mortgages valued at $1,193,523.36. In Addition to that amount, the organization has $118,760.78 in cash and $122,400 in varied investments, $76,000 in a reserve fund, and $15,602.82 in undivided profits.

The stockholders re-elected the old board of directors, including C. D. Carstarphen, K. B. Crawford, N. C. Green, W. C. Manning, F. J. Margolis, Wheeler Martin, J. E. King, Herbert Whitley, Jesse Whitley and Mrs. Vella A. Wynne. No successor was named for Mr. Claude B. Clark, Sr., who died in December after faithfully serving the association as a director-appraiser during the greater part of a quarter century. Director Herbet Whitley is on leave of absence as a director during his stay in the armed services.

The board of directors will hold a meeting shortly to elect officers for the new year, it was announced following the stockholders' meeting.

Commenting on the business outlook for the association this year, officers explained that approximately $100,000 had already been committed, that construction work is already under way or will get under way shortly on possibly fifteen or eighteen new homes. However, with Federal building

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Local Native In Court For Rape

Albert Wilson, 32-year-old native of Williamston, is being tried in the Virginia courts for alleged rape, according to information reaching the office of Sheriff M. W. Holloman here last week-end.

No details of the alleged attack could be had immediately. Virginia authorities made an investigation of the man's record.

The case was docketed in Corporation Court, Part Two, Norfolk, Sheriff Holloman said.

DELAY ACTION

The proposed purchase of a $5,769 combination tractor, ditch digger and air compressor by the town officials is to be given additional study, it was decided in a meeting of the town board held yesterday morning.

A study of the machine is to be made along with an investigation of other types of machines designed to handle similar work.