

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Thursday, June 5, 1952

ESTABLISHED 1899

Jamesville Man Critically Shot

Tuesday Evening

E. Gray Modlin In Hospital and Wm. Curry In The County Jail

Elmer Gray Modlin, 42-year-old Jamesville man and a veteran of World War II, was critically shot by William Thornton (Tony) Currie in Jamesville last Tuesday evening shortly after 8:00 o'clock. The attack was said to have climaxed a drinking party on the river.

His right arm fractured a few inches above the wrist by one bullet and his intestines punctured in at least six places by another bullet, Modlin was removed to a local hospital by Corporal M. C. Byrum who was patrolling the highways in that section when the attack was reported. The officer also picked up Currie and turned him over to Jailer Roy Peel.

Few details about the attack could be learned, Cpl. Byrum stating that Currie was too drunk to tell what actually happened. Currie and Modlin with "Red" Hassell had been on the river and walked up town. As they neared a Negro cafe on the old Main Street, John Henry Babarrus said he heard someone talking or arguing, that Modlin entered his cafe followed by Currie. Babarrus quoted Modlin as saying, "Don't let him shoot me."

According to Babarrus, Currie, using a short .32-caliber pistol, fired two shots into the man. Babarrus said he grabbed Currie and told him not to shoot Modlin again. Currie walked out, crossed the street and moved away. Modlin then walked out and moved along the street several hundred feet before he sat down.

Currie, arrested in a store nearby a short time later, was nochalantly drinking a soda pop when the patrol corporal reached there. Currie claimed that Modlin was about to cut him with a knife. Babarrus, the cafe operator, said he saw no knife, that Modlin held his hands out while pleading for protection from Currie.

The victim was given a blood transfusion soon after he was placed in the hospital, and underwent major surgery a short time later. It was reported that the intestines were badly torn in six places, that his condition continues

No hearing has been scheduled. During the meantime, Currie is being held in the county jail without the privilege of bond.

The victim is no immediate relatives of the recent candidate for the State Legislature from Jamesville.

Gardner Infant Dies In Hospital

Willie Horton, infant son of Willie Horton Gardner and Maggie Gardner, died in a Plymouth

Funeral services are being conducted at the graveside in the Modlin Cemetery near Jamesville this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by the Rev. W. B. Harrington. Mrs. Gardner was of near Williamston before locating in the Jamesville community.

Surviving besides his parents are his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Mayo Gardner and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams, and great-grandfather, Horton Modlin, of Jamesville.

DELEGATION

Numbering almost 100 and traveling in about twenty automobiles, a Griffins Township delegation moved out of here shortly before noon to plead before a meeting of the State Board of Education in Raleigh this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for the retention of the Farm Life High School.

The delegation includes the local committee, Principal Carlyle Cox, County Commissioner H. L. Roebuck, Education Board Member J. D. Woolard, Attorney Clarence Griffin, and A. Corey, nominee for the State House of Representatives from this county.

Report Increased Activities

Despite a drive by State undercover agents earlier in the year and a concerted drive by various police departments, sheriff's office and the ABC enforcement division, increased activities were reported on the illicit liquor front in this county last month, according to a report submitted a few days ago by J. H. Roebuck, chief of the ABC enforcement section.

Seventeen illicit liquor distilleries, including four equipped with copper kettles, were wrecked along with three partial plants. Most of the plants were equipped with oil drum stills and the materials were inferior.

Sixty-nine gallons of illicit liquor, including nineteen gallons

taken at one place, were poured out along with 3,620 gallons of "nasty" mash.

Nine persons were arrested during the period. At the end of the month, four persons had been tried and convicted. One was sent to the roads for a year, and another for six months. Fines, imposed in the county court amounted to \$60 in the liquor cases. Five persons were awaiting trial as of the first of this month.

Most of the activity by the enforcement units was centered on the manufacturing or wholesale end of the illicit business, reliable but unofficial reports declaring that business is booming on the retail side.

PEANUT MEETING

Fairly certain the newly proposed peanut marketing plan will not prove practical, a peanut group from several of the main producing counties and other interested parties are to meet in the Woman's Club here tomorrow morning at 11:00 o'clock and discuss the problem.

Details of the meeting have not been announced, but Mr. C. L. Daniel, president of the Martin County Farm Bureau, and Mr. Bart Fearing, prominent Bertie farmer just back from Washington, D. C., will be in attendance upon the meeting along with other Farm Bureau leaders and some of the cleaners, it was learned.

Will Hold Second Primary June 28

A second primary will be held by the Democrats on June 28 to settle at least one contest where no candidate received a majority. Judge William H. Bobbitt, of Charlotte, running Judge R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids a close race for associate justice of the State Supreme Court, is calling for a second vote. It is possible that Roy Rowe, runner-up in the race for lieutenant governor, will also enter the second contest.

In addition to the State-wide run-off, it is fairly certain that district contests will be held in various parts of the State to decide the nominees for seats in the National House of Representatives.

Fees And Fines In The County

Fines and forfeitures in the county court and fees collected in the various offices added up to \$4,201.49 last month, according to a report filed with the board of county commissioners a few days ago.

The county court accounted for \$3,508.50, the amount including \$2,130 in court fines and \$1,378.50 in court costs.

The register of deeds reported fees in the sum of \$482.05. The income there includes \$460.05 for recording various papers, \$10 for the issuance of delayed birth certificates, \$6 for birth certificates, \$4 for copies of deeds, \$1.50 for marriage certificates, and 50 cents for a death certificate.

The sheriff's office reported fees in the amount of \$210.94.

Summer School Starts June 12th

Summer school for high school students will open in Williamston high school Thursday, June 12, at 8:00 a. m. under the direction of Professor Carlyle Cox it was announced yesterday.

Those wishing to make up some of their school work can contact Mr. Cox by telephoning 2952-8 between the hours of 9 and 12 a. m.

CONDUCTING CLASSES

Professor Mayhue Edwards is planning to hold several classes in commercial subjects here during the summer, it was announced this week.

Forest Warden Submits Report

In his annual report, filed a few days ago with the board of commissioners, County Forest Warden Marvin Leggett reviewed a hectic year for the service.

There were eighteen woods fires, the most damaging ones coming in the early spring when thousands of acres of timberlands were burned over and in many cases destroying the growth. The warden estimated that 21,023 acres were burned over, including several thousand between Williamston and Everetts and an extensive area in Jamesville Township. The damage to the timber was conservatively estimated at \$66,715.00.

Nearly 7,000 man hours were spent fighting the forest fires and promoting fire prevention, it was pointed out.

In his plea for better prevention against forest fires, the warden made 42 visits to various schools and made 261 personal contacts with land owners and others interested in preserving the timberlands in the county.

Law enforcement was resorted to in five of the eighteen fires.

Oil Firm Installs Two-Way Radio

The Harrison Oil Company, abreast of the times and enhancing its service to the Texaco dealer-

modern two-way radio system. Continuous contact will be maintained between the office headquarters and the company's fleet of trucks, making it possible to speed up deliveries and meet the needs of its customers promptly.

While the Harrison firm is the only oil company in this section of the State to install the two-way radio, the system is being employed satisfactorily by law enforcement officers, the power company and Brown's Community Hospital.

Williamston native and a resident of Washington, is reported quite ill in a Rocky Mount Hospital, following an operation there yesterday.

Twenty Marriage Licenses Issued In

County In May

Issuance Second Largest For Any One Month So Far This Year

Twenty marriage licenses were issued in this county last month, the issuance being the second largest for any one month so far in 1952. The number of licenses issued to colored couples was larger than the number issued to white couples for the fourth time out of five months. The issuance last month was the largest since January of this year. Licenses were issued, eight to white and twelve to colored couples as follows:

White

Abner Bland of Hassell and Susan Mizelle Lynch of Hamilton. John Richard Roach of Elizabeth City and Letha Bunch of Williamston.

W. C. Haislip of Wilson and Virginia Smith of Robersonville. Edmund Richards McCombs of Plymouth and Patsy Deloris Gurnin of Jamesville.

Grayson Earl Harris of Newport News and Lula Mae Whitley of Robersonville.

Thomas Franklin Ray and Becky Whitaker, both of RFD 4, Windsor.

Sam T. Brady of Newport News and Kathleen Nelson of Robersonville.

William Cortez Hopkins of Everetts and Velma Mizelle of Williamston.

Colored

James Mabel and Reva Mae Smith, both of Robersonville.

Ernest Bryant and Addie Williams, both of Palmyra.

Elijah Coston and Annie Bell Roberson, both of Robersonville.

John J. Wilkins and Inell Doggett, both of Robersonville.

Robert Louis Johnson and Ora Dempsey, both of Williamston.

Peter Collins and Dorothy Mae Green, both of Hamilton.

Henry Biggs, Jr., and Rosetta Cordon, both of Windsor.

James Hudson of Robersonville and Dorothy Mae Smith of Hamilton.

Ernest Wiggins and Jean Albert Thompson, both of Williamston.

Wiley W. Lanier of Williamston and Bettie B. Smallwood of Windsor.

Booker T. Smithwick and Essie Boston, both of Williamston.

Essie Jones and Daisy Rogers, both of Williamston.

Williamston Native Quite Ill In Hospital

Mr. James H. Robertson, Williamston native and a resident of Washington, is reported quite ill in a Rocky Mount Hospital, following an operation there yesterday.

Jamesville Goes

The Cancer Drive

Mrs. Clarence Stallings Reports \$38.19 In Excess Of \$150 Quota

Asked to raise \$150, Jamesville Township, under the chairmanship of Mrs. F. Clarence Stallings, went right on over its quota and reported \$188.19 for the current cancer fund. It was the seventh district in the county to exceed the quota, and helped push the drive almost to completion in the county.

Contributions are acknowledged as follows:

The following is a list of the names and donations: Paul Allen, \$1; James Stalls, \$1; Rosea Fagan, \$1; David Scott, \$1; Herman Riddick, \$1; Herbert Gaylord, \$1; Louis Barber, 50c; Floyd Simpson, \$1; Bert Lee Roberson, \$1; Elmer Modlin, \$1; Marvin Jones, \$1; Will Jackson, \$1; Julian Fagan, \$1; Dan Fagan, \$1; Stephen Davis, \$1; S. R. Coburn, 50c.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Martin, \$1; Henderson Mizelle, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Hardison, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Hair, \$1.50; Mr. and Mrs. George Baker, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Frost Martin, \$1; Mrs. Myrtle Grivin, 80c; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Sexton, \$1; Effie B. Holliday, 50c; Miss Pearl Lamm, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Williams, \$1; Mrs. Alice Manning, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Hamilton, \$1; A. Corey, 50c.

Raleigh Ange, \$1; Mrs. Blanche Blount, 25c; Mrs. P. O. Blount, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ellis, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Gaines, \$3; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lilley, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gaylord, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brown, Sr., \$1; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Askew, \$3; Mr. Bob Davenport, 50c; James Long, 50c; James Long, 50c; Mrs. M. C. Kirkman, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Brown, \$1.

Mrs. Dare Mae Modlin, 75c; Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Mobley, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Grady Modlin, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Church Mobley, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mobley, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Modlin, 25c; (Continued on Page Six)

Hold Funeral For Former Resident

The Hollomon-Brown Funeral

home yesterday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. Daisy Gurganus Stalls who was fatally injured in an automobile accident in the Virginia city late Monday night. The Rev. Junius E. Foster, Jr., pastor of Norview Baptist Church, conducted the rights and interment was in Norfolk's Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Stalls, wife of Leon Stalls, made her home in Williamston for several years before locating in Norfolk.

Lion's Little Leaguers Now In Second Place



Although their picture is appearing last in the series of teams in the Little League, the representatives of the Lions Club are not on the bottom of the heap by any means. They are in second place with a 2-2 record. Their picture appears last largely because of a delay in getting the list of names of the boys in the picture above. Bottom row, left to right, Frankie McKee, Joe Griffin, Jr., Sydney Harrington, William Griffin and Irving Rogerson. Middle row, Gerald Stalls, Gordon Cowan, Tony Martin, Kenneth Gurganus, and William Bunting. Top row, Lucian Peel, Jimmy Byrum, Donnie Howard, Joel Muse and Billy Biggs. Joseph Hester has now moved in to replace William Griffin who goes back to the minors for more seasoning and to await another call.

Complaints Filed In

Twenty-five Cases

Grant Extension Of Time To File Answer In Case

Plaintiffs Seek Cash And Lay No Stress On The Segregation Issue

A fifteen-page complaint has been served on school officials in this county and State by a group of nineteen Negro men and women, seeking \$600,000 in compensatory and punitive damages allegedly resulting from reported discrimination in school facilities.

The plaintiffs, including Henrietta Keele, Bessie Little, Eula R. Bellamy, Marjorie Marrow, Sylvester Williams, Elisha Crandall, Magnolia Coffield, Eva Roberson, Lillie B. Council, Annie Moore, James Wallace, Johnny Mizelle, Harvey Briley, Annie B. Roberson, Bert Moore, Blossie Perkins, Lonnie Roberson and Raymond Lloyd, are not stressing the segregation issue.

An extension of time has been granted the defendants in preparing and filing an answer in the case, and the defendants are to meet in Raleigh week after next to study the case. The case has not been calendared for trial, but it was filed in federal court at Washington, N. C.

The complaint reads, in part: The plaintiffs, complaining of the defendants, respectfully allege:

- (a) That the jurisdiction of the court is invoked under Section 1331 of the Judicial Code, 1948 Revisal (28 U. S. C. A., Sec. 1331), this being a suit which arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States, where in the matter in controversy exceeds, exclusive of interest and costs, the sum of three thousand dollars.

(b) The jurisdiction of this court is also invoked under Section 1343(3) of the Judicial Code, 1948 Revisal (28 U. S. C. A., Sec. 1343(3)), this being a suit authorized by the law to be brought to redress the deprivation under color of law, statutes, regulation, custom and usage by a State of rights, privileges and immunities secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States, providing for equal rights of citizens of the United States, and of all other persons within the jurisdiction of the United States.

2. That the jurisdiction of this Court is further invoked under Section 2201 of the Judicial Code, 1948 Revisal (28 U. S. C. A., Sec. 2201), this being a proceeding for a declaratory judgment and injunction, for the purpose of determining a question in actual controversy between the parties, to wit, the question of whether the custom and practice of the defendants is to segregate white and other Negro children similarly situated, residing in Martin County, North Carolina, solely and wholly on account of race or color, educational training and family background.

Charlie Rascoe, occupying the hut with his family, lighted the stove about 5:00 o'clock and went out of the kitchen. When discovered a few minutes later, the fire was spreading to other parts of the house. By the time fire-fighting equipment reached there, the small structure had almost burned down.

Little or nothing was saved from the house, and there was no insurance to cover the family's estimated \$300 loss. No insurance was carried on the structure.

New Manager For Leder Bros. Store

Tom Davis, former State College football star and a native of Goldsboro, is taking over the management of the local Leder Brothers' store, succeeding Mr. Ernest Carraway who is resigning to enter the insurance business. Mr. Davis has been with the firm for six years, serving much of that time as assistant to the manager of the large store in Goldsboro where he was active as a member of the Jaycees and other civic undertakings, including recreational programs.

He will move his family—wife and three-year-old daughter, here just as soon as he can find a home or an apartment.

Mr. Carraway, leaving after a stay of eighteen years with the Leder firm, will maintain his headquarters in Williamston.

Twenty-five Cases

In The Recorder's Court On Monday

Unable To Pay Fine, Young Serviceman Takes Time On The Roads

Twenty-five cases were handled in the Martin County Recorder's Court during a session lasting until 4:00 o'clock Monday. Fines were imposed in the sum of \$1,110, but one will not be settled in cash, it was learned.

Unable to raise \$125 plus the costs, a young serviceman, Hubert Lee Baysden of Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D. C., is taking a 4-month stay on the roads. Charged with drunken driving and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Baysden, 24, pleaded not guilty when carried before Judge R. T. Johnson. The evidence was against him, and his record put a clincher on the road sentence. Arrested last March 31, Baysden was placed under bond and he skipped out, and during the nearly two months he was at liberty he made no effort to prepare for a visit to the court or return for trial. He was arrested in Washington and returned to the county by officers.

The drunken driving case against Cecil E. Williams, pending since last February, was not pressed but is subject to be reopened again.

Charged with temporary larceny, Burman Rodgers repeatedly failed to appear for trial and his \$100 bond was forfeited and the case not pressed with leave.

Pleading not guilty, W. E. Cannon was adjudged guilty and was fined, \$25, plus costs.

Charged with drunken driving, James H. Wiggins was adjudged guilty and was fined \$100, plus costs. He appealed and bond was fixed in the sum of \$200.

The speeding case against Tort Spruill was not pressed. It had been pending trial since last February.

Murray G. Norman was fined \$10, plus costs for violating the liquor laws.

The bastardy case against Booker T. Smithwick was not pressed. Pleading guilty of reckless driving, Henry Price was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with drunken driving, W. H. Bland entered a plea of guilty and was fined \$100, plus costs. He loses his operator's license for a year.

Charlie D. Brown, charged with drunken driving, failed to sustain his plea of innocent, and was fined \$100 and taxed with the costs, losing his operator's license for a year.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and carrying a concealed weapon, Geo. Outlaw, Jr. was fined \$50, plus costs. His pistol was ordered confiscated and sold.

Pleading not guilty of drunken driving, Jos. W. Whitehurst was adjudged guilty and was fined \$100, plus costs. He loses his operator's license for a year.

In the case in which Mrs. John James was charged along with her two sons, John Lee and John Wesley, with violating the liquor laws, the mother apparently took the rap for her two sons. She pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for twelve months. Execution of the sentence (Continued on Page Six)

Minor Accident On County Roads

No one was injured and only minor damage resulted in an automobile accident on the Williamston-Bear Grass Road near Eli Bowen's store last Monday evening at 8:30 o'clock, according to a report filed by Patrolman B. W. Parker yesterday.

Delbert M. Whitaker backed his 1941 Buick into the highway and started to drive away when the motor choked down and the vehicle rolled backwards and slightly across the center of the highway. Jerry George Savage, driving a 1951 Chevrolet, struck the Buick, doing about \$50 damage to his own car and about \$25 damage to the Buick, Patrolman Parker said.