

'Conjure Doctor' Up For False Pretense

Number Of County People Believed Victims Of Negro

Johnny Simmons Charged With "Taking" \$800 From One Family

Having a few old roots and herbs and a small quantity of lamp black for his stock-in-trade, Johnny Simmons, alias Johnny Williams, is in the Martin County jail charged with false pretense. Two warrants have been served on him, one alleging he fleeced Leander Purvis out of \$800 over a period of about four months last year, and the other charging him with fleecing Jobie and Rosa Parker out of about \$300.

All the details surrounding the 50-year-old Negro man's activities in this county could not be learned immediately. It is thought that he has two teen-age girls under his "spell", one report maintaining they are in Wilmington and will not return home. It was claimed that the girls did not want to return, but the parents believe they are afraid to leave the Wilmington house at 822 South Eighth Street.

There is a possibility that the "conjure doctor" has fleeced forty or fifty persons in this county. He operated in this area about eight years ago and barely escaped prosecution in the courts at that time. During the past year, he has been operating in the county again. Claiming the power to treat humans for various ailments, Simmons gets his victims in his clutches and apparently held them there. Officers are of the opinion that a full investigation will involve the man in other rackets.

Following the man's arrest last Saturday, several persons have said something about being victimized by Simmons, and that they are employing counsel today to press charges against the defendant.

Simmons went to the Parker home on the Norman farm near Robersonville last Saturday. No one was at home at the time, but when the Parkers returned, Simmons left hurriedly. The Parkers notified Sheriff Murray Holloman and the officer trailed the man to Bethel, where vehicles were changed. An alarm was put on the radio, and Simmons was arrested in New Bern about 7:30 o'clock Saturday evening.

Pending the hearing which will be held possibly later this week, Simmons continues in the county jail in default of a \$1,500 bond.

Attempts To End His Life In Jail

Booked for alleged drunken driving, Robert H. Dowdy, 48, attempted to end his life in the Martin County jail last Saturday night. Using a razor blade, the Coast Guardsman whose home was given as Morehead City, slashed his wrist and lost considerable blood.

Making an inspection about midnight, Jailer Roy Peel found the man in a weakened condition but not unconscious. A doctor was called and the wound was sewed up.

Dowdy had told a fellow prisoner that he would never be tried on the drunken driving charge. The man was arrested and jailed by Williamston police and members of the State Highway Patrol.

Occupational Aptitude Tests For The Seniors

The manager of the local Employment Service requests that all high school seniors wishing to complete the occupational aptitude test begun last spring in the Williamston High School report to his office Wednesday, June 11. This test will enable the interviewers to counsel young people regarding their plans for future employment.

FOOD POISONING

Food poisoning claimed between thirty and forty victims in Oak City last Friday evening when alumni of the high school gathered there for their annual banquet. Several of the group were said to have been critically ill after eating a cold chicken salad plate. Last reports indicated that all the victims had recovered, but not until at least one had had his stomach pumped out twice.

The victims were treated in various doctors' offices in several towns, it was learned.

Mrs. Edmondson Died Yesterday At Niece's Home

Funeral Service Being Conducted In Hamilton Church Today

Mrs. Mallie Powell Edmondson, a resident of this county for many years, died at the home of her niece, Mrs. Margaret Cozzens Rowe, in Washington Monday morning at 1:25 o'clock following a several weeks' illness. Making her home in Hamilton for a long time, Mrs. Edmondson went to visit relatives in Washington about nine weeks ago and was taken ill there.

The daughter of the late F. J. Powell and wife, she was born in Beaufort County 78 years ago on July 1, 1873. Following her marriage to Joseph Marion Edmondson, she made her home in the Everetts community, later locating in Hamilton where she was active in the religious program of the Baptist church and where she played the role of a helpful citizen to the sick and needy.

Surviving are a foster son, William Edmondson, of Jacksonville, N. C.; a niece, Mrs. Margaret Cozzens Rowe of Washington; and a nephew, Irving Powell, of Bayview.

Following a brief service in the home of her niece in Washington at 1:00 o'clock this afternoon, the body will be moved to the Hamilton Baptist Church where the Rev. E. R. Stewart, a former pastor now of Hickory, Virginia, and the pastor, the Rev. C. L. Gatling, will conduct the rites at 3:00 o'clock. Interment will be in the Hamilton cemetery.

Regular Meeting Held By Jaycees

A regular meeting of the Williamston Jaycees was held at the Methodist Church Recreational Hall last Friday night with the following guests present: Lewis Yeatts, Leslie Coltrin, Leonard Herb, and Tom Davis. Jack Sullivan was installed as a new member by Exum Ward.

It was announced the beauty pageant and dance will be held in the Williamston High School and gymnasium June 18.

During the regular business session the club voted to sponsor and sell license tags for the purpose of publicizing Williamston as a tobacco and peanut center.

It was announced by President Blue Manning, that the Williamston Jaycees were invited to attend as a group any home games of the Tarboro Ball Club.

A very enjoyable program was presented by Hack Gaylord with a movie "Dare, The Birth Place of America."

Open Special Classes In School Here Tonight

Professor Mayhue Edwards is opening classes in typing and shorthand in the high school building here this evening at 7:30 o'clock. Interested parties are asked to contact him at phone 2545, or attend class tonight for full information.

County Young Man Tells About Duty In Foreign Lands

Wm. K. Lilley, Jr., Talks To Kiwanians At Last Thursday Meeting

William K. Lilley, Jr., Martin County young man, talking to the regular meeting of the local Kiwanis Club last Thursday evening reviewed briefly his duties while in foreign service as a member of the diplomatic corps.

His talk follows: Mr. President, Officers and Members of the Kiwanis Club—"Tis indeed a pleasure and a privilege for me to be here with such a distinguished group tonight. The many familiar faces which I see before me and the pleasant and familiar background of Williamston and vicinity gives me, an illiterate farm boy, the courage to appear here, tonight before this, my first real American audience.

Before I begin chattering, I would like to apologize to each and every one of you for having lost my North Carolina accent. I would also like to state that mine is not a British, as so many people think, but rather, if there is such a thing as international accent. In any event, I sincerely hope that you will not find it too difficult to understand the few words which I shall utter and that you will display tolerance and patience toward both my accent and my views.

As some of you may know, I have, for the past ten years, been employed by our Federal Government. Eight of those ten years were spent as a Foreign Service employee on the Continents of Europe and South America. Having spent a considerable number of my years in the Foreign Service of the United States and having served with the Department of State at the American Embassy in London, England, Paris, France, Oslo, Norway, Copenhagen, Denmark, Stockholm, Sweden, and the American Consulate at Georgetown, British Guiana, South America, I should like to discuss briefly the activities and objectives of one or two governmental departments to which I have devoted several years of my life. I should also like to give my own personal, and definitely unofficial, impressions of certain things which I have encountered in my limited travels abroad and to outline some of the weird ideas and impressions about this government and the American people which I, in both an official and unofficial capacity, found harbored in the minds of a shockingly large number of Europeans.

Since most of my career was spent in what is now the Office of International Information and Exchange, known abroad as the United States Information Program.

(Continued on Page Eight)

Two Car Wrecks In This County

No one was injured and property damage was limited to about \$600 in two motor vehicle accidents on the streets in two county towns last week-end.

Two cars, a 1950 Chevrolet driven by Arrington Hales and a 1951 Ford driven by a young man named Scott, crashed at the intersection of Highways 11 and 44 and 125 in Oak City last Saturday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Damage to the vehicles was estimated at \$200 each.

Sunday morning at 11:15 o'clock a 1951 Chevrolet driven by Elwood Everett and a 1946 Ford driven by Nathan Eborn crashed on a Hamilton Street, causing about \$175 damage to the Chevrolet and \$75 to the Ford, according to information reaching here. No one was injured.

A third wreck on town streets was reported last Thursday night when a 1949 Ford, driven by Eddie Nathan Harris, crashed into the rear of a 1946 Chevrolet driven by Cortez Hassell. The accident took place on Williamston's Washington Street near the Colored High School. Victoria Hassell suffered minor injuries. Damage to the Chevrolet was estimated at \$100 and that to the Ford at \$250. Officers Chesson and Rogerson made the investigation.

Price Differential Threat To Virginia Type Peanuts

Meeting in the Woman's Club here last Friday, members of the North Carolina Peanut Freight Association, county farm agents and Farm Bureau leaders discussed the 1952 peanut marketing program and pointed out that the price differential is threatening the market for those peanuts grown in this state and Virginia.

It was explained that the Spanish type peanut is being supported at \$35 a ton less than the support price for the Virginia type. Unless the differential can be reduced, North Carolina peanuts will wait on the sidelines while the trade turns to the cheaper type which is being produced in greater quantities.

Farm Bureau leaders were asked to work toward having the gap closed with the warning that unless something is done, the market for the Virginia type goober will be gone. The meeting, attended by about fifty persons from all the producing areas in this State, discussed the new marketing program, the cleaners pledging their cooperation in every way possible to make the program work successfully.

ROUND-UP

Eleven persons were rounded up and temporarily detained in the county jail during the past week-end. Four were booked for drunkenness, two for assaults, and one each for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, drunken driving, false pretense and issuing a worthless check.

Six of the eleven were white men, and the ages of the group ranged from 20 to 48 years.

School Delegation Presents Its Case

Appearing before a meeting of the State Board of Education in Raleigh last Thursday afternoon, a 100-man delegation presented a strong case in behalf of the Farm Life High School.

Allowed twelve minutes to present its case, the delegation offered sound argument against consolidation of the high school department. Attorney Clarence Griffin, Superintendent of Schools J. C. Manning and A. Corey, nominee for the State House of Representatives, were heard, and County Commissioner H. L. Roebuck read a resolution passed by the Board of County Commissioners, asking that the department be retained.

The board, giving the delegation a cordial reception, was believed to have been impressed by the case as it was presented and the large delegation reporting for the hearing. Hardly more than half of the group could find space in the room where the hearing was held.

Members of the delegation are hopeful that the board will submit a favorable ruling at its July meeting. Others are not so hopeful, pointing out that if only one school was involved a favorable decision might be expected, but since there are many similar cases, the weight of numbers could prove disadvantageous to the cause of the school in this county.

Man Found Dead Monday Morning

Jeffrey "Lawyer" Pikes, 63-year-old colored man, was found dead in the yard of Bertha Slade's home on the Turner farm in Oak City about daybreak Monday morning.

Making an investigation, Coroner W. W. Biggs ruled that death was due to natural causes, possibly a heart attack, and that no evidence of foul play was found.

Pikes, a native of Beaufort County, had been working in the Oak City community for a number of years as a logger for J. C. Johnson. He was thought to have been getting along all right. He disappeared sometime during Sunday night from the home and was found dead a short time later. He had been dead only a short time when the body was found.

PRODUCTION

Ephriam Wooten, aged colored man of RFD 3, Williamston, while farming on a limited scale is going all out for mass production.

He displayed four heads of cabbage on one stalk, the largest head, fully developed and perfectly shaped, weighing about four pounds.

Several Thousand Dollars Unclaimed In Martin County

Insufficient Addresses Delay Distribution Of Tobacco Checks

Several thousand dollars, representing equity in the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation, have been unclaimed by approximately 175 farmers in this county and immediate territory, according to information released a short time ago. Many of the farmers do not know that the money is waiting to be claimed.

The money is being paid to farmers who were members of the Stabilization agency in 1947, and represents the difference the farmer received for his tobacco at time of sale and the amount received when it was sold by the agency.

The checks have been mailed, but due to insufficient addresses or improper spelling many are returned.

Those farmers whose names appear in the list below can claim checks by either offering their identification card, or showing their pink agreement and receipt, or copies of their 1947 crop warehouse bills, or copies of 1947 settlement memorandums describing tobacco delivered to the Stabilization Corporation, and/or their 1947 marketing quota card number. The identification must be accompanied by the farmer's full name and present address and name, of 1947 crop landlords or tenants.

Those whose names appear below are advised to write the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation, Box 2718, Raleigh, N. C., including the necessary information. The office of the county agent will be glad to render any assistance possible in helping farmers prepare proper identification.

Checks are due the following: Willie Ackline, Bethel; A. Andrews, Robersonville; C. Andrews, Robersonville; Ernest Andrews, Stokes; James Andrews, Robersonville; J. M. Andrews, Bethel; Will Andrews, Bethel; Theodore Ange, RFD 2, Williamston; H. Anthony, Robersonville; James Austin, Robersonville; Henry Ayers, Bethel; S. A. Ayers, Robersonville.

James Ballard, Robersonville; G. Barkley, Robersonville; James Barnes, Bethel; John Battle, Robersonville; Zachary Berry, RFD 2, Robersonville; P. C. Bland, Jamesville; Charlie Bond, Robersonville; Charlie Brady, Stokes; Wayne Braxton, Robersonville; O. B. Buxley, Robersonville; Dallas Brown, Robersonville; Joe Brown, Robersonville; Johnnie Brown, Oak City; Noah Brown, Robersonville; Lester Brown, Oak City; S. A. Brown, Williamston; Sam Brown, Palmyra; Elbert Bryant, Williamston; Gus Bryant, Oak City; Roberta Chance, Robersonville; Joe A. Cherry, Robersonville; Lewis Clark, Bethel; W. Clark, Bethel; Willie B. Coltrin, Robersonville; J. G. Codgett, RFD 3, Bethel; James Codgett, Bethel; James Coggins, Stokes; Luther Cox, RFD 2, Robersonville; Judas Crandall, Robersonville; Walter Cross, Palmyra; Ernest Crummer, Robersonville.

C. M. Dampert, Jamesville; Gatlin Daniel, Stokes RFD 1; D. E. Davis, RFD 2, Robersonville; E. G. Davis, RFD 2, Robersonville; Harry Davis, Robersonville; Joe Davis, Bethel; James Davis, RFD 3.

(Continued on page eight)

Victim Of Attack Reported Better

Critically hurt when William T. Currie fired two .32-caliber bullets into him at Jamesville a week ago, Elmer Gray Modlin, 42, was reported to be getting along very well in a local hospital this morning. His recovery is expected if no complications result, it was learned. The man's intestines were punctured and torn in at least six places by one of the bullets and his arm was fractured by another bullet.

No hearing has been scheduled in the case. During the meantime, Currie continues in the county jail.

Abbitt Planning To Rebuild Burned Mill

ALMOST

"If all those who have volunteered can make it, we'll have a sufficient number to meet the bloodmobile quota on Thursday of this week," Recruiter Chairmen Hildreth P. Mobley and Edgar Gurganus said late yesterday. At that time, 193 volunteers had signed up, and the seven more needed were certain to be had, it was explained. The recruitments were reported as follows: Jamesville, 16; Williams, 14; Griffins, 3; Bear Grass, 18; Williamston, 135; and Everetts, 7.

The bloodmobile will be located at the Legion Hut on Watts Street from 10 a. m. until 4:00 p. m.

Williams District Over The Top In Cancer Campaign

Approximately \$1,600 Has Been Raised To Date For Fund In County

Williams Township, one of the smallest in the county, was the eighth district to exceed its quota in the current cancer fund drive. Asked to raise \$50, the district, under the chairmanship of Mr. Floyd Moore, reported \$53.40.

It was also reported that Cross Roads Township, Judge Jos. W. Bailey, chairman, had exceeded its quota by \$21.63, and that a detailed report would be released later in the week for that district. With reports complete from eight districts in the county and partial reports in from Williamston, the current cancer fund drive now stands right at \$1,600, leaving it about \$600 short of its goal. It was reported that Griffins was meeting its \$100 quota, that Mrs. Ben R. Manning planned to make a final report shortly, that the district will exceed its original quota by more than \$50. No report has been received from Mr. John G. Taylor for Robersonville as yet.

In Williamston, the following canvassers reported over \$700: Mrs. John Roebuck, \$10.05; Mrs. Eva Grimes, \$6; Mrs. A. L. Jameson, \$81.50; Mrs. D. V. Clayton, \$13; Mrs. Connie B. Clark, \$26.60; Mrs. George Corey, \$4.90; Mrs. W. W. Ray and Mrs. C. B. Whitehurst, \$19.78; Mrs. W. H. Sessoms and Mrs. C. H. Godwin, \$26.50; Colonial Stores, \$10; Mrs. Jessup Harrison, \$7.26; Mrs. Tom Parker, \$49.00; Mrs. J. P. Hedspeath, \$18; Mrs. M. J. Whitley, \$16.30; Mrs. James Bailey Peel, \$16; Mrs. Larry Bullock, Jr., \$6; Mrs. Bruce Holloman, \$46.50; Mrs. David Keel, \$7.80; Mrs. Hugh Wyatt, \$2; Mrs. Bolton C. Parker, \$25; Mrs. Vera Postens, \$24.52; Mrs. C. Cobb, \$13; Mrs. J. H. Forbes and Mrs. Lewis Phippen, \$11.85; Mrs. Tom Crockett, \$19; Mrs. Bill Throver, \$7.50; Mrs. Jack Manning, \$17; Mrs. H. A. Bowen, \$4.25; Mrs. Billy Griffin, \$10.20; Mrs. Coy Roberson, \$24.75; Grace Street, \$13.50; Mrs. Wallace Tarkington, \$4.50; Mrs. L. B. Wynne, \$13; Mrs. W. F. Coppage, \$75.75; Mrs. Sylvia G. Newell, \$49; Mrs. T. B. Brandon, \$1; Joe Perry, \$1; R. J. Hardison, \$1; Joe Perry, \$1; Grady Godard, \$1; Floyd Moore, \$5; Mr. Moore, along with the chairmen in the other districts expressed his appreciation to all those who contributed and then went on to help raise the fund and make the drive a success.

Even while the embers still burn, Mr. Abbitt is making plans to rebuild the mill. Engineers and millwrights are to survey the situation on Thursday of this week. It was explained that the rebuilding program would be pushed as rapidly as possible.

Soon after the mill burned, customers of the mill, including several of the big wholesale firms in this section of the State, called and expressed the hope that the mill would be rebuilt and that the product would be placed back on the market as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Abbitt said he could not offer an estimate on the costs until the engineers complete their survey. "But when we make our plans they will be so designed to make the mill one of the most modern in the country," Mr. Abbitt said.

The mill dam gave way and considerable water went out of the pond, threatening the fish. Volunteers were asked for Sunday and a few filled bags with dirt and checked the water flow. He expressed his appreciation to all those who in anyway helped during the emergency last Friday night, and expressed the hope that all his customers would bear with him during the present emergency.

The fire was the second to which local firemen were called in less than twenty-four hours. Fire started in the Dixie Peanut Company's hull house about 10:30 o'clock Thursday night, but little damage resulted there. The sprinkler system had almost checked the fire when firemen reached there and they finished knocking it out with water from a large hose line.

AMVETS MEETING
Luther Hugh Hardison, Post Commander of the Martin County AMVETS, has called another special meeting on Thursday night, June 19, at 8:00 o'clock in the Martin County courthouse. All white veterans of World War II, officers, members and others, are urged to be there.

Mill Is Destroyed By Fire Friday Night Near Here

Large Quantity of Corn Also Burns In Abbitt's Mill Fire On No. 125

Abbitt's grist mill, an old landmark known for many years as Mobley's Mill, was destroyed by fire last Friday night along with several thousand bushels of corn, corn barn, sheds and much equipment. A large grain elevator was damaged to some extent.

The loss was unofficially estimated at about \$80,000 with approximately \$15,000 insurance in force.

Started by a spark from one of the grist mill rocks or flints, the fire spread rapidly in the main two-story building. The attendant tried to telephone in an alarm, but the line was busy and it was declared that the talking parties refused to yield the circuit. During the meantime, the fire spread to all parts of the building and was seen several miles away possibly twenty minutes or more before someone made a trip to the local fire station and sounded the alarm.

Williamston's volunteer firemen carried both of the large pumps and placed them in operation, drawing water and fighting the fire back from the large grain elevator. It was more than a three-hour fire, and the highway was blocked most of that time. Telephone service between Williamston and Hamilton and Oak City was disrupted several hours when all the circuits were burned down.

Traffic jammed the streets when the second of the two fire trucks moved out, and hundreds went to the fire, some of them getting hemmed in for hours.

Mr. W. O. Abbitt, owner-operator of the mill, stated that four thousand bushels of corn had been placed in the elevator Friday afternoon.

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