

## 'Doctor' Simmons Faces More False Pretense Charges

### Victim Said To Have Taken Medicine Saturday And Died Next Tuesday

Following a preliminary hearing held last Thursday night in the courthouse, another warrant has been sworn out against Johnny Simmons, alias Johnny Williams, charging him with false pretense.

The last case, one of twenty brought against the Negro conjurer, dates back to November, 1945, when he proposed to cure Edward Williams' daughter near Hamilton. The details of the case have not yet been disclosed, but Williams, in procuring a warrant from Justice Chas. H. Mobley last week-end, said that Simmons gave his daughter medicine on Saturday and that she died the following Tuesday. Williams pointed out that he cashed war bonds and drew all the money he had out of the bank to pay Simmons' \$395 fee.

At the close of the preliminary hearing held last Thursday evening, Simmons was required to give bond in the sum of \$7,600. Unable to raise that amount, he was returned to jail to await trial this week. Probable cause was found in nineteen cases, and the other was ruled out of the jurisdiction of the courts in this county with the possibility that it will be transferred to the Pitt County Superior Court.

The voodoo doctors in darkest Africa have nothing on Simmons when it comes to barbaric conjuration, according to stories heard at the preliminary hearing last Thursday.

There was a victim suffering with exzema. Doc Simmons said that she caught it from her husband who caught it from another woman. The skin trouble was centered on the woman's arm, but Simmons said that the main trouble was in her stomach and that it was moving toward her heart. When the woman explained that one of her twelve children had died, Simmons said that the child absorbed the poison intended for the mother and died. The woman declared that she did not speak to her husband for several months because he had commuted the skin trouble to her from another woman, according to Simmons.

Stating his case against Simmons, Sam Blanchard said that Simmons went to his home on the Anderson farm last February or early March and told him that his (Sam's) wife was in bad shape. Sam said she had a bone tumor, and that Simmons claimed he would take it away for \$850. Sam said he paid \$95 down, gave him \$10 more and sold a pig for \$12.90, giving that amount to Simmons. No cure was guaranteed until all the money was paid, but Simmons started his treatments during the meantime. Soon thereafter a bargain was made, Simmons to receive a hog and an oil stove for the cure. Sam said he had not seen Simmons since that time.

The case of Gus Griffin against Simmons is rated a complicated one, the complainant stating that his wife had died and that his daughter (Anna Mills) was missing. Griffin said he had heard about Simmons literally bringing a man back from the dead, and he went to see him about his wife. Simmons said that unless something was done quickly, Gus' wife would die. Gus said he gave the man \$60 to take the case. He carried his wife to Greenville and Simmons sold him a \$75 "medicine" belt, made out of cloth, for his wife. Gus said after the first (Continued on Page Eight)

## Robbers Entered Business Sunday

Breaking a glass and making an entrance through a back window, robbers pilfered the Little Savoy Cafe here on Washington Street sometime between Saturday midnight and Sunday daybreak. Nothing much was missed from the small place of business except about \$25 to \$30 from a piccolo machine. The robbers forced their way into the music box, damaging the machine as well as pocketing the money found there.

## Fact-Finding Group Makes Consolidation Plan Study

Representing the North Carolina State Board of Education, a six-man fact-finding committee made an on-the-spot survey of several school plants in the county last week in connection with the proposed plan to consolidate the Farm Life High School with the one in Williamston, or Jamesville or Bear Grass.

The committee, headed by J. E. Hunter, of the division of teacher allotments, and including J. E. Miller, assistant to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, John Cameron of the division of schoolhouse planning, H. C. Davis, chief auditor for the State Board, and A. B. Combs of the division of instructional service, studied the facts and inspected the school plants at Farm Life, Jamesville, Bear Grass and Williamston, checking distances and road conditions. The fact-finding committee is expected to make no recommendation other than to submit the facts as they were found. No official report could be had, but it was learned that no new facts were uncovered, that the committee found the facts just as they had been presented by investigators and petitioners.

It could not be learned when the State Board would take final action on the proposal. It is possible that a final ruling will be handed down at a special meeting of the State Board in Raleigh on Thursday of this week, or the action may be delayed until the regular meeting on July 3.

### FIRST HARVEST

Farmers Toba Bowen in Cross Roads and Jay Lilley in Bear Grass last Friday launched the tobacco harvest in this county, each harvesting fairly sizable barns of tobacco.

The quality of the first harvest was rated inferior by Mr. Bowen who explained that the first leaves were burning in the field as a result of the dry weather.

The harvest is unusually early, but the task is not expected to get under way on any appreciable scale for another ten days or two weeks in this county.

## Two Accidents On Streets Here

Two accidents, one of them being rated as minor consequence, were reported on local streets last week-end. No one was injured, Officer Tom Chesson reported.

A 1947 Studebaker, owned by John W. Outten, Martin General Hospital technician, rolled away from its parking place all by itself on West Liberty Street late Saturday afternoon and coasted down hill into the parked car of Robt. P. Kloeti in front of the General Grocery. Mrs. Kloeti and son were in the car, but they were not hurt. An unofficial estimate placed the damage to the Kloeti Pontiac at \$100 and that to Mr. Outten's car at \$50. Pointing out that another car forced him off the street, Sidney Baggette, Bertie County man and a former Williamston resident, ran into a light pole on East Main Street, the 1951 Chevrolet then swerving and plowing into a home on the other side of the street about 1:00 o'clock Saturday morning. Damage to the car was estimated at \$750. Baggette was not injured, police said.

## Painfully Hurt When Hit by Car

Robert Earl Lee, seven years old, was painfully but believed not badly hurt when he was run down by a car driven by Charlie Barns of RFD 4, Windsor, on Washington Street here early last Thursday afternoon. His head bruised and skinned, the little victim was removed to a local hospital where he was released following over-night treatment.

Investigating the accident, Chief John Roebuck said the little fellow ran from behind a parked car into the street.

## Driver Deserts Car and Escapes

Joe Dowdy, colored man driving Elmo Rodgers' car, deserted the machine and escaped when local officers closed in on him about 5:00 o'clock Sunday morning. The owner of the car, riding in it, was booked for public drunkenness, Officer Tom Chesson reported.

Dowdy tried to outrun the officers, with the car but he was overhauled a short distance out on the Washington Road.

## Three Accidents On County Roads During Week-end

### No One Was Injured And Property Damage Was Less Than \$300

No one was injured and property damage was held to a low figure in three motor vehicle accidents on the highways and rural roads in this county last week-end, according to a report released Monday by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol office in the Martin courthouse. Williamston police reported two accidents on local streets, but no one was injured and property damage was limited in those two to \$850, it was learned.

Traveling from the Rocky Mount June German about 6:00 o'clock Saturday morning, William Riley Bullock, Jr., of Bethel started to pass Booker T. Mizelle on the western outskirts of Robersonville and the vehicles crashed. Investigating the accident, Patrolman B. W. Parker said that Mizelle, driving a 1941 Ford, started to make a left turn, that damage to Bullock's 1949 Ford was estimated at \$40 and that to the Mizelle car at \$25.

Driving a Dodge fruit truck between Everetts and Robersonville last Friday afternoon, John K. Newcomb lost control of the machine when the steering rod came loose and the truck went into a field and almost turned over. There was no damage, Patrolman Parker said following his investigation.

Just off the roads where he served time for drunken driving, Charlie Razor bought a 1938 Model Buick last Saturday and wrecked it Sunday morning at 11:30 o'clock on a dirt road in the Flat Swamp section of Robersonville Township. He lost control of the machine on a curve and the car turned over, causing about \$200 damage. Razor and his four companions were not hurt. Following his investigation, Patrolman B. W. Parker charged Razor with reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle while his driver's license was revoked.

Defense counsel pleaded with the court that the evidence be suppressed because the search warrant was not legally executed. The defense maintained that the complaining officer was not examined under oath when he asked for the search warrant, that was null and void and that a motion for a directed verdict of not guilty should be allowed. The state admitted that no affidavit was signed in the case by the officer, and the judge did not proceed the action.

He suggested that the officers be more careful in procuring search warrants, and that they contact justices who knew how to issue them. The jurist also expressed the wish that he could "get his hands on the defendant", that while prosecution in the case was balked, he felt certain the defendant would be back in court sooner or later.

Names Added To Jamesville List

Contributions solicited for the 1952 cancer fund by Mrs. Seth Davis in Jamesville were inadvertently omitted in the list published a few days ago. In checking the list, The Enterprise found the following contributions had been submitted but left out by the publishers:

Mr. and Mrs. Seth Davis, \$2; Mrs. E. W. Hardem, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Robbie Waters, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Griffin, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Woolard, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hough, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Knowles, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle Davenport, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hardison, 50c; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hayes, 50c.

### EXPECTED SOON

A ruling by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle in the civil action brought by the town against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company and the North Carolina State Highway Commission is expected the latter part of this or early next week, it was learned yesterday.

Presiding over a one-week term of the Martin County Superior Court here this week, Judge Frizzelle stated that he had been studying the case along with many others since the hearing held during the last March term, that he wanted to review one or two more cases related to the action before reaching and announcing a decision.

"I have not yet reached a decision in the case," Judge Frizzelle said yesterday afternoon.

During the meantime, the narrow roadway under the railroad on Williamston's West Main Street still stands as a danger spot and as an obstacle to progress.

### Special Meeting Of Amvets Here Thursday

There will be a special meeting of the Martin County World War II Amvets, Thursday night June 19, at the Martin County Courthouse.

This meeting has been called by the new organization commander, Luther Hugh Hardison, young Jamesville merchant. Commander Hardison urges all officers and members to be present at this meeting.

## Prize Winning Essay Written By County Girl

### Miss Barbara Holliday Is Third In State-Wide Contest

By Barbara Holliday

Many times foreigners have been known to sum up their impression of America like this: "Your capacity to produce and your energy excite the admiration of the world, but America's unsolved problems of poverty, slums, and neglected minority groups—despite your great wealth and vitality perplex and distress us."

The truth which is so quickly apparent to our friends from abroad is documented by government statistics. Despite a national production of \$257,000,000,000 in 1949, 10 1-2 million American families existed on incomes of less than \$2000. Shiftlessness was not an important factor; but discriminatory employment practices against the handicapped, the aged, and minority groups were a major cause of this mass misery.

During a period of mobilization for defense, the country cannot be wasteful of any resources, human or natural. Defense Mobilization Administrator, Charles E. Wilson, has told the nation it must add three to four million workers to defense this year. This manpower requirement has turned the spotlight on our great remaining untapped reservoir—the disabled, the Negro, and the aged worker. Barriers are beginning to come down.

But when the defense job is done, will these groups again be forced back on the scrap heap of low-paid marginal jobs on the relief rolls, even though their proven abilities entitle them to a continuing opportunity to earn a decent family living? Americans must weigh this question!

For years we have thought of the problem of employing handicapped people as important because of the humanitarian benefits to individuals who become self-sufficient wage earners. Until recently, employment of the handicapped was made in the spirit of sympathy and pity. As a result average performance was not expected. Not only did the handicapped resent this feeling of pity but they also resented their being selected for a job because of sentiment.

Today, however, our awareness of the competitive situation that has developed in the world and the possibility of a war of survival leads us to the realization that for national safety we need to produce to our maximum capacity. To do so we need to procure safe and productive employment for all of our latent workers.

Now is the time for the physically handicapped to make their maximum contribution to the present and future security of this nation. It is the time to give a job to every American who is willing and able to work. The way to get top production is to hire every willing worker in the country. America's national security depends on our industrial strength. Therefore, every American who can do a job should be given one.

We know that we have a grave situation because our national census of the handicapped tells us that we have many thousands, perhaps millions, of handicapped people who are not engaged in productive employment. This represents a tremendous potentiality for greater production and for increasing national efficiency, if we can solve this problem and can find the way to place this segment of our problem and can find the way to place this segment of our population on productive jobs. If this is accomplished, the handicapped persons, industry, and all society will gain because we will enjoy greater national security.

The handicapped worker wants (Continued on Page Six)

## Attack Victim In Veterans Hospital

Critically wounded when struck by a bullet fired by William T. Currie in Jamesville on June 3, Elmer Gray Modlin, 32-year-old World War II veteran, was removed to a veterans hospital in Fayetteville early this morning. He made the trip in a Biggs ambulance.

Volunteer firemen were called out here early last Saturday afternoon when a pile of leaves caught fire and threatened an outbuilding on the Lamb property, corner of Smithwick and Academy Streets. There was no damage.

## Crop Duster Pulls Out Of Crash With Minor Injuries

Blinded out for a second by the sun, Merle Torrance, crop duster, struck a 7,600-volt power line with his cub plane and crashed a few miles out of Jamesville at 10:00 o'clock last Saturday morning. Suffering only a minor scratch or cut about the head, the 30-year-old pilot crawled out of the wrecked ship, reported to sectional headquarters at Larry Barnhill's store near Robersonville and immediately made ready to continue his work.

The ship is being repaired at the center in this county and will join the fleet by the end of the week, Mr. Torrance said last night. During the meantime, his operating partner, Clarence W. Witte, is carrying on the business, it was explained. Mr. Jab Roberson, of Robersonville is working with the crop dusting service, and the group is preparing to handle the war on crop insects and pets in this area.

The fliers are from Kewanee, Illinois, and are experienced air-men as well as crop dusters, Mr. Roberson said.

Power service at the Munford Brown crossroads was interrupted for about ninety minutes, and the break was repaired and full service was restored by late afternoon.

No estimate on the plane damage could be had immediately, but the propeller was wrecked, a wing shattered and the motor twisted a bit in the accident.

## Seek Second-Degree Murder Case Verdict

Castannia Sutton Taking Stand In Own Behalf Today

Few Other Cases Removed From Docket In The Superior Court

## U. S. Is Helping Burmese Farmer Get Better Crops

### Former County Agent From Tennessee Is Doing A Great Job

Rangoon, Burma—Crop yields are higher in the Shan States of Burma today and the equipment the Shan farmers are using is better adapted to its purposes because a former Tennessee county agent has personally brought American agricultural know-how to the Shan hill people.

He is Otto Hunerwadel, a member of the staff of the Mutual Security Agency's Special Technical and Economic Mission (STEM) to Burma.

With a background of 18 years as a county agent in Tennessee, Hunerwadel is doing in Burma what he did for so long in the United States. He goes into the "backwoods" areas of Burma's Shan farmers individually and in small groups.

To the Burmese, he is "the American agriculture man." To endless numbers of them, he is a personal friend who, through his suggestions or mechanical skill, has helped them improve their crop yields or fixed some valuable piece of equipment, such as an American refrigerator or an old sewing machine.

Hunerwadel has brought them better seeds and showed them how to plant them so that they get more and better crops. He has taught the Shan farmers better methods of pruning their fruit trees, how to use insecticides and fertilizers and how to practice soil conservation. He brought them samples of hemp from Rangoon and showed the Shan farmers how to twine their water buffalo lead ropes so they would stand up against long hard pulls.

A simple suggestion he made for casting the tips of the Shan farmers' plow shares has improved their use in rocky soil.

MSA officials point to Hunerwadel's achievements in Burma as an effective example of the philosophy (Continued on page eight)

## Fatally Stricken On Local Street

McKinley Powell, 48-year-old colored farmer of Hamilton, was fatally stricken while talking with members of his family in front of the Guaranty Bank building here on Main Street shortly after 5:00 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Believed to have suffered a stroke of paralysis, Powell was pronounced dead upon arrival at a local hospital. His body was turned over to a local funeral home.

Powell, telling friends that he felt mighty bad added that he didn't believe he could survive another attack. A few seconds later he fell to the sidewalk. No doctor could be had for him at the scene, and he was placed in a car and carried to the hospital.

The man, said to have lived near Hamilton most of his life, had attended court that day, and one report said he had planned to attend the Negro June German in Rocky Mount last night. It was also reported that he had suffered a stroke some time ago.

## Officers Wrecks Copper Kettle

Raiding in the Hassell section of Hamilton Township Saturday, ABC Officers Roebuck and Bullock and Deputy Wiley Craft and assistants wrecked a small liquor plant. The raiders confiscated the 40-gallon capacity square copper kettle and poured out about 100 gallons of mash.

## Cross Roads Adds To Cancer Fund

Cross Roads, after exceeding its quota by a large margin, added another \$5 to its contributions this week, it was reported by Chairman Joe W. Bailey.

The Willie Peele Circle, named for Mrs. Peele who was a prominent and able leader in the Everetts Baptist Church, made a \$5 donation, Mr. Bailey said. The total raised in Cross Roads for the fund now stands at \$126.63.

In publishing the list of contributors last week, the paper made a few errors which stand corrected, as follows: Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wynne, 78c; Lorraine Wynne, \$1; Mrs. Chester Taylor 50c and Nathan Bullock 50c.

## Invitation Issued For Peel-Griffin Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. J. Marion Griffin of Robersonville request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter, Arwilda Jane, to Sfc. Paul H. Peele, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Peele of Williamston, on Sunday, June 22, at 4:30 p. m. at the Christian Chapel Church, RFD, Robersonville.

## Magazine Group In The County

A group of about sixteen young men and women caused much excitement in the county last week-end. It was reported that members of the group had kidnapped a young Jamesville Township girl, and investigations were held late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning.

It was brought out that the young lady whose name was not divulged had agreed to work with the group for \$67 a week, and that she had accepted the job with the consent of her mother. A delegation from Jamesville reported to law enforcement officers Wednesday night and the girl was removed from a tourist court and returned home by her step-father.

During the investigation, officers learned that the magazine solicitors had employed pressure tactics in selling their magazines, that they had cursed and abused one farmer over in Williams Township. At one home, members of the group could not sell the lady of the house a subscription and asked permission to contact the husband in the field. They explained to the husband that the wife wanted a magazine and he was to pay for it. The wife's wishes were recognized and the farmer pulled out the subscription money, the canvassers going their way.

No charges were brought, but the group soon pulled up stakes and left the county.

## ROUND-UP

The drunks monopolized the jail record in this county last week-end. Five persons, charged with public drunkenness, were jailed during the period. There were other law violations reported, but bond was arranged before the jail doors were closed on the alleged violators, and a few were not apprehended.

Two of those arrested and jailed were white, and the ages of the group ranged from 18 to 48 years.

## QUOTA

The Martin County Red Cross Chapter met its 150-pint quota when the regional blood bank sent its bloodmobile here last Thursday.

Recruiters Mobley and Gurganus said that 220 volunteered to give blood, that quite a few found it necessary to cancel their appointments at the last minute while a few forgot their appointment. Had it not been for a goodly number of dropouts, the quota would not have been met, it was pointed out.

Foregoing a claim to a verdict of murder in the first degree, Solicitor George Fountain of Tarboro in the superior court completed the evidence for the State at 4:20 o'clock Monday afternoon, leaving the facts confused and the witnesses not certain of anything definite.

The trial is expected to reach the jury sometime today, possibly at noon.

Jack Palmer, one of the main witnesses for the State, told much about the case, but another witness, Gus Andrews, maintained that Palmer did not appear at the Sutton home until after the "stabbing". Palmer, explaining that he did not know who lived in the house, said he stopped when he heard a noise there. He said he saw Gus Andrews carrying the victim from the kitchen to a front bed room, that he took the death dealing weapon—an icepick—and carried it to Robersonville, then back to the home near Parmele, and later delivered it to "a lady in Robersonville."

It was indirectly brought out during the trial that there had been variations in the stories told soon after and since the fatal attack, and officers are of the opinion that all the parties, including most if not all the witnesses were so drunk they hardly knew what happened.

Marjorie Andrews, young colored woman who was said to have been sleeping or resting in another room, said she heard Sheppard tell Gus Andrews to turn him loose, that immediately thereafter she heard Castannia say, "I have stabbed Luke (Sheppard). I have stabbed Luke." The witness further quoted the defendant as having said, "Gus, take the ice pick and throw it away."

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