

County Youth Saves Airplane And Lives

Sgt. Curtis Biggs Risked His Life To Put Out Fire

Globemaster With 135 Men Aboard Was On Run From Korea

T/Sgt. Curtis Biggs, Martin County young man and the son of Mrs. Sallie Biggs, formerly of Robersonville, has been credited with saving a \$2,000,000 globemaster and the lives of 135 passengers and crew members on the run from Korea to Japan. Following the heroic feat, Sgt. Biggs was immediately recommended for the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the top medals awarded by the Air Force.

Sgt. Biggs' wife, the former Miss Susie Revels of near Williamston is with him in Japan. The story of Sgt. Biggs and his accomplishment appeared in the Tachikawa Aire Base (Japan) News, as follows under date of October 24, 1952:

By Capt. A. G. Thompson

The possible destruction of a C-124 Globemaster with 135 passengers and crew members aboard was averted recently due to the prompt action of the scanner, T/Sgt. Curtis Biggs of Robersonville, N. C. Spotting a fire in number one engine, Biggs at the risk of his own life crawled through the tunnel in the wing to quell the blaze.

During an interview at 315th Air Division Headquarters, the Aircraft Commander on the plane, Maj. Robert Guenther of Brooklyn, N. Y., and New Brunswick, N. J., Chief Pilot of the 315th Air Division, revealed the following facts on the incident.

"We were returning from Korea about midnight," said Maj. Guenther, "with a load of combat B's going to Tokyo for five days leave. I was at the controls, assisted by Major John M. Kelly Jr., West Palm Beach, Fla., chief pilot of the 374th Group, and Maj. Emil H. Garske, 374th Wing Chief Pilot. Just as we made our last turn en route to the Tokyo area, about 15 miles west of Oshima Island, I noticed that the far left engine was giving us trouble. So I decided to feather the engine, go in on three. This was no problem since we have done that many times before."

Fire Noticed
Guenther looked out of the cockpit after feathering the engine, and noticed that the engine was throwing sparks and flames. "I had the engineer pull a toggle switch," he said, "and turn the automatic fire extinguishers loose on the flaming engine. The visible fire went out."

Sergeant Biggs was in the rear of the plane, with the passengers, working in his normal capacity as a "scanner." This is a unique job peculiar to the biggest planes in the Air Force, and requires (Continued on Page Five)

County Students In "Who's Who"

Three Martin county students are among 28 persons chosen to represent East Carolina College in the 1952-53 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

Robert H. Biggs, Williamston; Janice G. Hardison, Jamesville; and G. Anne Whitehurst, Robersonville, are among student leaders whose biographical sketches will be listed in the annual publication.

Selection of students for the volume was made by an East Carolina student-faculty committee who used as basis for their decision the students' scholarship, leadership and participation in extracurricular and academic activities, citizenship and service to the school and promise of future usefulness to business and society.

Information regarding the activities of these students is not available at this time, but the name of one of them appears on the masthead of the college newspaper as feature editor. She is Janice Hardison of Jamesville.

INCREASE

Illicit liquor manufacturers stepped up their activities in this county last month apparently to "corner" some of the cash coming in from the fall crop harvest.

ABC Officers J. H. Roebuck and Cecil Bullock wrecked sixteen plants, three of which were equipped with copper kettles, and two submarine types of sizable proportions. The officers poured out 8,850 gallons of mash and a small quantity of liquor. Three persons were arrested and the two tried and convicted were sentenced to the roads for thirty months and fined \$350.

Long Dry Season Broken By Rains Early This Week

October Of This Year Past Driest Month In Past Eleven Years

The back bone of a long dry spell existing in this section during recent weeks was badly bent if not broken by rains falling on Monday and Tuesday of this week. Less than one-quarter of an inch of rain fell on November 3, but that was hardly felt. Peanut pickers rested an hour or two and resumed operations. On Monday of this week, 41 of an inch of rain fell, followed by 1.34 inches on Tuesday. That turned the trick as far as laying the dust was concerned. The forest and grass fire menace was relieved all right, but the fall had little effect on the small streams and Roanoke River. The fall was also sufficient to cause the ban on hunting to be lifted after wild game had one day of grace.

The approximately two inches of rain recorded so far this month has relieved dry conditions somewhat, but the precipitation is far short of offsetting the dry October period. No rain fell from October 16 until November 3, and the records show that last month was the driest October since 1941. In October, 1940, there was hardly one-half inch of rain recorded by Hugh Spruill, bridgekeeper at the river here. The driest month ever recorded was October, 1933, when only one-quarter of an inch of rain fell here.

Despite the dry season prevailing in recent weeks, the rainfall up until the first of this month was five inches greater than it was during the first ten months of 1951. The total for 1951 was about ten inches below normal. The .59 of an inch recorded last month was about 2.21 inches below normal.

Keeping close company with the dry spell, Roanoke River before the rains this week was several inches below sea level at this point, the stream dropping to 2.5 feet on the gauge. River traffic, for the most part, has been limited to craft of shallow draft, and few boats have been able to travel (Continued on Page Five)

Club Federation Meeting Friday

The Federation of Martin County Home Demonstration Clubs will hold its annual meeting tomorrow in the Cross Roads Christian Church. Approximately 200 members, representing fifteen clubs, are expected to attend the morning and afternoon sessions.

Following the devotional by Mrs. Joe Winslow of the Gold Point Club, Mrs. Herbert L. Roebuck will extend greetings to the group. Miss Sue Nichols, of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro and an exchange student to Australia, will make the main address at the morning session. Following a picnic lunch, various reports will be submitted along with the presentation of awards. Miss Lorna Langley, agent for the Northeastern District, will install the new county officers.

Twenty-Six Cases On The Calendar In Superior Court

Judge Susie Sharp, First Woman Judge In County, Opens Term Monday

In addition to a few divorce actions, twenty-six cases have been placed on the civil calendar for trial during the two-week term of the Martin County Superior Court opening next Monday. No criminal actions are scheduled for trial during the term which was created some years ago by special legislative act.

Miss Susie Sharp of Reidsville, the first woman jurist ever scheduled to preside over a term of superior court in this county, will open the session next Monday morning at 10:00 o'clock when eight divorce cases will be called. The civil calendar carries no cases of great public interest, and the sessions are not expected to attract many spectators or attention.

In the case of Mary James Pierce against Naomi James and others, the plaintiff asked that nineteen acres of land be sold for partition. Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne ruled that the land could not be divided and that it should be sold and the income from the sale divided. The defendants are appealing to the high court.

The Branch Bank is suing Marvin B. Manning to recover possession of a 1948 Kaiser car. In the case of Mary E. Holliday against Paul Holliday, the plaintiff is asking the court to determine a "reasonable subsistence" for her and child.

Suing Arthur Boyen for \$310.45 actual and \$500 punitive damages, David James by his next friend, Milton James, claims that the defendant seized his car illegally.

The Bonitz Insulation Company is suing J. B. Rogerson and others to recover \$500 alleged due on a note.

The Woolard Furniture Company is suing R. J. Brock to recover \$421.82 alleged due on furniture purchased by the defendant.

Lilley Manufacturing Company is asking \$199.06 alleged due on materials sold Donald R. Johnson. As a result of a motor vehicle accident between Dardens and Jamesville last December 18, Romulus Peel is suing Bennie E. Lilley for \$379.17 damages.

The Lindsley Ice Company is suing Jas. H. Hardison to recover on two notes alleged due in the sum of \$261.60 and \$314.60.

J. H. James is suing L. B. Cobb to recover \$1,000 alleged due on the terms and conditions advanced in a verbal contract, or to recover \$209 expenses incurred by the plaintiff in meeting the terms of the contract.

In the case of Andrew Martin against Cecil Yarell and David Lilley, the plaintiff is asking \$500 car damages and \$1,000 personal damages as a result of an accident last May 2 on Highway 64. Geo. Frank Green, suing the same defendant. (Continued on Page Six)

Install Weather Bureau Apparatus

Now that official United States Weather Bureau thermometers have been installed on Roanoke River here, it will be possible in the future to get accurate temperature readings in this immediate area.

Mr. Charles B. Carney, head of the Weather Bureau in Raleigh, recently installed the special equipment in Bridgekeeper Hugh Spruill's yard at the river, and already readings as low as 22 degrees have been recorded.

When Mr. Spruill expressed keen interest in the equipment and expressed a willingness to service it and file the reports, Mr. Carney made every effort to have the thermometers installed. On the thermometers records the minimum temperature, and the other records the maximum. There'll be no more arguments over high and low mercury readings which have varied as many as ten degrees from one side of town to the other at the same hour.

Industrialists Considering Locating Factory In Area

No definite decision has been reached, but two industrialists are considering locating a factory in this immediate area, according to Executive Secretary Al Stewart of the Williamston Boosters. Messrs. J. W. McCarthy of Chicago and Jos. Mintz of Newark, accompanied by W. C. Guthrie and Miss Jay Spencer of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development and Miss Elizabeth Long of the N. C. Employment Security Commission spent several hours here Tuesday studying pertinent data and looking over several potential sites.

It was reliably learned that the company is considering two locations in this State, one here and the other in western North Carolina. A definite site is to be selected within the next few days, it was learned. The industrialists did not go in to plan details, but explained that

Issue Twenty-One Licenses To Wed In Martin County

Issuance In October Little Below Average For The Particular Month

Twenty-one marriage licenses were issued by the office of Registrar J. Sam Getsinger in this county last month. The issuance runs a little below the average established for the particular month over a period of fifteen years. However, the issuance was larger than those reported for the month in both 1950 and 1951. It was the fourth month this year that the number of licenses issued to white couples exceeded the issuance to colored couples.

Licenses were issued last month, twelve to white and nine to colored couples, as follows:

White
Bruce Powell Rogerson and Hilda Jean Frizzelle, both of Williamston.
Fred Tunstall Matthews and Marion Kathleen Elliott, both of Hertford.
Ernest W. Griffin and Essie Mendenhall, both of Williamston.
R. H. Weaver of Robersonville and Mary L. Stalls of Williamston.
James Carroll Perry of Jamesville and Catherine Bullock of Robersonville.
Charlie Edward Lassiter and Virginia Whitaker Cherry, both of Robersonville.
Donald McCoy Jones and Bettie Frances Lassiter, both of Jamesville.
David F. Jones and Janet Arlene Higgs, both of Toano, Virginia.
Kelly B. Warren and Wilkie Dell Warren, both of Robersonville.
Jennis Howard Price of Jamesville and Ruby Farmer of Robersonville.
Harvey Dell Brown of RFD 3, Williamston, and Dessie Leggett last May 2 on Highway 64. Geo. Frank Green, suing the same defendant. (Continued on Page Six)

Colored
Louis Vernon Lee of Robersonville. (Continued on Page Five)

In the case of Joseph Mills against Lonnie Mills, the plaintiff says they were married February 28, 1923, and separated August 15, 1946, that no children were born of the union.

Suing Ervin Woolard for divorce, Auradis Woolard says they were married in April, 1938, and separated in August, 1949, that no children were born of the union.

George Jesse James in his case against Mary Louise James says they were married January 14, 1950, and separated June 14 that year, that no children were born of the union. The defendant denies the allegations in the complaint and asks that no divorce be allowed the plaintiff.

In her case against Clifton Ed. (Continued on Page Six)

Fire Alarm Sounded Here Tuesday Noon

A general fire alarm was sounded here at noon Tuesday when an oil heater went out of control in Pittman's used car lot on Washington Street. Immediately after the alarm was sounded, the fire in the heater subsided and no run was made by firemen.

Delayed two days on account of rain, the county-wide drive to gather a carload of corn for the relief of human suffering overseas and especially in Korea, is meeting with success, according to early reports reaching here.

Messrs. J. H. Lillard and Geo. Oglesby, working in the Hamilton section yesterday, said the corn was pouring in, that those farmers who did not have corn to spare were offering soybeans and in some instances cash. "Our farmers are behind the project, and we are hopeful we can pass the quota of 1,200 bushels," Farmer Mayo Hardison, county chairman of the drive, said late yesterday. It is planned now to load the car here next Tuesday. During the meantime, a can-

vass for cash contributions is being made here and in other towns in the county. The cash will be used to supplement the corn and soybean rations and pay the freight of the farm commodities, it was explained.

Other canvassers, using their own vehicles and serving without any remuneration whatsoever are going from farm to farm throughout the county, picking up corn. It is possible that some will be missed, but those who are not at home when the canvassers call are earnestly asked to deliver corn to their nearest shellers where it will be handled, or deliver it to the freight station in Williamston. Time is short for advancing the project, and all are asked to give it a push forward today.

the plant would need about 20,000 square feet of floor space, and that its operations would center around the processing of plastics. The proposed plant, it was learned, is to employ approximately 100 workers, mostly women, with a potential payroll to start with of more than a quarter million dollars annually. Except for the management and maintenance personnel, all the labor is to be recruited locally.

The company representatives while asking the town for no free concessions, are interested in a cooperative effort in locating a comparatively small site and certain facilities. It was a bad, rainy day, but Messrs. McCarthy and Mintz said no apologies were necessary. The visiting party found time to inspect the Williamston Peanut Company plant and they were impressed by the tour conducted by Mr. N. C. Green.

Eight Suing For Divorces In The Superior Court

Eight divorce cases have been placed on the calendar for trial in the Martin County Superior Court next Monday. In a ninth case, the plaintiff is asking the courts to give him the custody of his three children, alleging that the mother is not a fit person to rear the little tots.

Judge Susie Sharp of Reidsville is scheduled to preside over the term which is booked for a two-week run or until the day before Thanksgiving.

Only one of the divorce actions is being contested, according to a review of the calendar this week, and all the cases are based on grounds of two years separation.

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Next Tuesday in Washington at the B. H. M. headquarters a demonstration bookmobile will be shown the trustees who meet in their regular monthly meeting. This demonstration bookmobile has been brought into the state to visit the counties and units that are in need of replacing their present equipment. The model is one of three designs that the company is hoping to standardize and manufacture on the assembly line or mass production.

The B. H. M. bookmobile now in service has been run for over six years and is now incapable of rendering the service that is required. The present bookmobile, however, had over two hundred and twenty seven thousand books circulated from it during the year ending July 31st. It is sincerely hoped by Mr. Charles R. Gray of Robersonville and Rev. John L. Goff of Williamston, Martin County's trustees, that the clubs and people of the county will help put this program across for Martin County must raise twelve hundred and fifty dollars to match the offer of the County Commissioners twelve hundred and fifty dollars to match the offer of Martin County comes up with its share. Each club in the county is asked to notify one of its trustees about its acceptance of the suggested goal or send the same to one of them. Help assure the boys and girls and men and women of our rural sections of good literature brought to their doors through continuing this fine bookmobile service.

Drive To Gather Carload of Corn Meeting With Success

Delayed two days on account of rain, the county-wide drive to gather a carload of corn for the relief of human suffering overseas and especially in Korea, is meeting with success, according to early reports reaching here. Messrs. J. H. Lillard and Geo. Oglesby, working in the Hamilton section yesterday, said the corn was pouring in, that those farmers who did not have corn to spare were offering soybeans and in some instances cash. "Our farmers are behind the project, and we are hopeful we can pass the quota of 1,200 bushels," Farmer Mayo Hardison, county chairman of the drive, said late yesterday. It is planned now to load the car here next Tuesday. During the meantime, a can-

Farmers Urged To Seek Full Support Price For Peanuts

Special Committee and Few Farmers Met In Scotland Neck Tuesday

Meeting in Scotland Neck this week, members of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Peanut Committee and about 100 growers from the producing area went on record as opposing the sale of peanuts for less than full support prices.

Ben Everett of Palmyra recommended local storage be taken advantage of at once to prevent a glutted market for he said, "the cleaners otherwise won't be able to handle the peanuts as fast as they are put in."

Someone else added the thought that "if the cleaners realize we are satisfied to receive one cent a pound less than support price, first thing they will be wanting us to be satisfied with two cents less per pound than support price."

The resolution as adopted by the group Tuesday and previously by the Association of Virginia Peanut and Hog Growers, Inc., follows: "...unanimously and urgently recommend to North Carolina (Virginia) peanut producers—

They flatly and steadfastly refuse to sell any peanuts for less than full support price as an absolute minimum price. Full support price should not be confused with the schedule of prices currently in use by buyers. Although a number of reports indicate some buyers have confused producers to the extent they thought such price schedules to be support prices, they are in effect approximately 1c per lb. below support (Continued on Page Five)

Advancing Drive For Bookmobile

The drive for funds in Martin County to help purchase a new Bookmobile for the B. H. M. Regional Library Association is going along at an encouraging pace. All of the schools in the county are cooperating and some of them have sent in the money received. The following clubs over the county have sent in their gifts: Oak City Ruritan Club, Robersonville Rotary Club, Bear Grass Ruritan Club, Community Home Demonstration Club, Jamesville Ruritan Club, Jamesville Women's Club, Williamston Woman's Club and the Williamston School. A number of clubs over the county have accepted suggested goals and have not up until now reported. There are still a number of clubs meeting this week to discuss their next Tuesday in Washington at the B. H. M. headquarters a demonstration bookmobile will be shown the trustees who meet in their regular monthly meeting. This demonstration bookmobile has been brought into the state to visit the counties and units that are in need of replacing their present equipment. The model is one of three designs that the company is hoping to standardize and manufacture on the assembly line or mass production.

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After Mr. Crockett responded to the declarations of gratitude, the guests assembled for dancing.

Monthly Payroll For The Teachers

The third monthly payroll for Martin County teachers is being prepared and a total of \$84,710.55 is to be distributed to them week after next, the total including salaries of seventeen janitors and 61 bus drivers. The 117 white teachers and principals are to receive \$36,352.05, and the 120 teachers and principals in the colored schools are to receive \$37,544.50. Janitors will get \$2,200 and the 61 bus drivers are to receive \$1,220.00. The salaries of the 117 white and 120 colored teachers, 17 janitors and 61 bus drivers are being paid out of State funds. The several agriculture, home economics and extra teachers will receive \$7,394.00 from local funds.

Discuss Outlook For Farming Next Year

CLOSES TOMORROW

With just about all the crop in this section already marketed, the Williamston Tobacco Market will hold its last sale of the season tomorrow morning.

Following the Armistice Day holiday Tuesday, the market yesterday sold 69,130 pounds for an average of \$45 per hundred pounds. Sales today are light, and a small sale is in prospect for tomorrow.

Security Agency Representatives Guests At Party

Frenchmen and Filipinos Impressed During Brief Visit

Language barriers were erased Tuesday night as the Standard Fertilizer company and its employees entertained the eight French and two Filipino participants in a Mutual Security Agency fertilizer study group at a dinner party at the Plymouth country club. The two interpreters and Forrest Turner, MSA field service director and consultant, and Mrs. Turner, also were guests at the event which climaxed the team's two-day stop in Williamston.

With C. G. Crockett, Standard Fertilizer's general manager, as master of ceremonies the group gathered before dinner for informal conversation and singing. Some of the Standard employees serenaded the foreign guests in the barber-shop quartet style and the French group replied with a rousing French song. The Filipino guests sang a duet in their native language and the three groups joined in singing songs familiar to all of them.

At the dinner table, Mr. Crockett introduced the Standard employees and their husbands and wives and Raymond Bailey, team manager of the MSA delegation, introduced his group with the aid of Miss Simone Dupont, one of the interpreters.

After dinner Mr. Bailey expressed his group's appreciation for the courtesies extended them during their stay in Williamston. He explained that the fun they had here was a delightful surprise because they had been told in larger towns that Williamston was the place "where even the birds carry a crumb under their wing" if they plan to stop.

Mr. Bailey also pointed to the significance of Armistice Day to both the French and the Williamston group as a sign of the cooperation of the two countries in days past and today.

Crispin K. Hackney, spoke for the Filipino guests and expressed his gratitude to the United States for its cooperation and its aid in helping his country gain its independence. He used the Williamston hospitality as a sign of friendship existing between the countries.

After Mr. Crockett responded to the declarations of gratitude, the guests assembled for dancing.

Funeral Held For Benjamin F. Perry

Funeral services were conducted in the Christian Church here yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for Benjamin F. Perry who died Monday afternoon in a local hospital following a brief illness. The Rev. John L. Goff, pastor, assisted by the Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, conducted the rites. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery where the Masons were in charge of the rites.

Among those from out of town who attended the services were, Mr. W. J. Woolard of Plymouth, Mr. Sidney Mallory and Mr. H. M. Ainsley of Oak City, Mr. Slade Roberson of Virginia, Messrs. Benjamin Whitchard and J. L. Williams of Robersonville, Mr. J. M. Myers and son, H. Myers, of Richmond, Dr. and Mrs. Bridgeman Perry of Hopewell, Mr. and Mrs. Luke Roberson of Washington, D. C., Miss Jeanette Paramore of Scotland Neck.

No Marked Change In Farm Picture Expected In 1953

Outlook For Tobacco And Cotton Fair But Not Bright For Peanuts

Speaking to a group of farm leaders in the Martin County Agriculture building a few days ago, representatives from the State Extension Service advanced the opinion that there would be no marked change in the 1953 farm picture. It is believed that the outlook for tobacco and cotton is fair with present price schedules carrying over into next year, but the prospects for peanuts is not too bright.

Guy Cassell and Dr. C. B. Tratchford, farm management specialist, spoke to the small group in this county.

The specialists are of the opinion that the population gain should be an important factor in holding up demand for farm products. The speakers went on to explain that factor and discuss the outlook for various crops, as follows:

Tobacco
Now 157,000,000 people, who have grown 6 million since April, 1940, and over 25 million since 1940. These 25 million people require more meat and milk; more housing, schools, churches; more of the goods and services sold by farmers and other people in our economy.

Our average use per person of many foods, textiles, tobacco and other North Carolina farm products has also increased. For example, we're eating 50 per cent more fruits and vegetables now than 40 years ago. We now use 25 per cent more eggs and 30 per cent more dairy products per person in 1920 has increased to about 45 pounds per person in 1952. About 11 pounds of tobacco is used per person in the United States now. In 1940, about 3 pounds per person was used.

Production of all types of tobacco in 1952 is estimated at 2,210 million pounds. Blue-cured production is about 1,380 million pounds. This is 5 per cent less than the 1951 crop. North Carolina farmers produced 923 million pounds of blue-cured tobacco in 1952.

Catch-over of blue-cured tobacco on July 1 was 1,731 million pounds—11 per cent larger than a year earlier. Total supplies will exceed 3,111 million pounds, a new high level.

Total disappearance of blue-cured tobacco during the past year was 1,279 million pounds, 3 per cent above the previous year, and the largest in history. Domestic uses were up 2.3 per cent. Exports at 502 million pounds were up one-sixth and represented 39 per cent of total use. The United Kingdom bought about one-half of the total blue-cured exports. Germany took 9 per cent of the exports.

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