

LOCAL NEWS

A. P. Barnhill of Everetts, was here Sunday.

Miss Hope Hardison is visiting friends in Cofield.

V. E. Everett was in Williamston Monday night.

Roscoe Tankard spent the week-end in Bayview.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Hardison spent Sunday in Cofield.

Everett Burgess of Elizabeth City, was a week-end visitor here.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Walker of Roper, were visitors here Sunday.

Joe Arps and Buster Adler were in Tarboro Monday night.

T. C. Burgess returned Saturday from a business trip to New York.

O. H. Lyon and Dr. C. McGowan were Sunday visitors in Durham.

Lue Read and H. V. Austin made a business trip to Cherry Monday.

Mrs. E. R. Buck of Washington, has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Swain.

Rev. E. C. Harris of Washington, was here Sunday visiting friends.

Clyde and Lewis Hassell and Miss Eva Owens spent Sunday in Bayview.

Warren Cahoon of near Roper, was a business visitor here this week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Miller of Rich Square, spent Sunday here with relatives.

W. C. Spruill of Raleigh, is here for a few days visiting relatives and friends.

Dr. W. H. Ward and L. P. Hornthal were in Williamston on business Monday.

J. R. Latham of the Long Ridge section was a business visitor here this week.

Mr. Ed. Moore and Miss Biggs of Washington was in town Monday afternoon.

Miss Christine Ward of Maysville, is here the guest of Miss Margaret Ward Jackson.

Mrs. George Wagner of Norfolk, is here visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Satterthwaite.

Miss Ethel Owens of Vanceboro, has been here visiting her mother, Mrs. S. L. Owens.

Cyril Norman of Raleigh, spent Sunday here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Norman.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Bonner of Aurora, were week end visitors of friends and relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mesick of Pinetown spent Sunday here with Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Hilliard.

Misses Gertrude and Laura Norton and Mrs. Bob Everett of Williamston have been visiting friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Liverman and little daughter, Anne, are visiting friends and relatives in Poquosin, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hardison, Mrs. S. L. Owens and Miss Ethel Owens made a motor trip to Rocky Mount Sunday.

Mrs. W. F. Ausbon, Frank Ausbon, Misses Hermine Ausbon and Elizabeth Respass spent Sunday in Morehead City.

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Davis and daughter, Miss Lorene, and son, William S., of Norfolk, have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Vail.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarendon Woodard and Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Ralph and daughter of Norfolk, spent the week-end here with relatives and friends.

James E. Griffin, Francis Manning and Jack Booker of Williamston, passed through here Wednesday on their way to Norfolk, where they are spending a few days.

PROBABLE CAUSE IN BEACH BURNING

P. L. REA AND A. G. ATKINSON IN JAIL IN DEFAULT OF BONDS OF \$15,000.00 AND \$10,000.00, RESPECTIVELY, ON CHARGES OF ARSON

The preliminary hearing in the recorder's court Tuesday of P. L. Rea and A. G. Atkinson, charged with arson in connection with the burning of the buildings on Rea's Beach on Wednesday morning of last week, drew a record attendance.

Probable cause was found against each and bond for Atkinson was fixed at ten thousand dollars for his appearance at the October term of superior court, and upon failing to give same, he was placed in jail to await trial. Fifteen thousand dollars was required as a bond for Rea, which, as we go to press, has not been provided.

C. B. Wade, special investigator from the insurance department, Junius D. Grimes represented Atkinson, W. L. Whitley appeared as counsel for the insurance department, and Van B. Martin for Rea. Examination for the prosecution was conducted by Whitley, with occasional questions from Carl L. Bailey, prosecuting attorney for the county. Strict account of the progress of the hearing was kept by Wade.

The first witness to mount the stand was W. F. Ausbon, local insurance agent, who issued a policy in the sum of six thousand one hundred and fifty dollars, which purported to cover approximately three-fourths of the actual value of the property insured according to an appraisal made by him at the time of issuing the policy, which was originally for \$5,750.00 issued in 1925, and an endorsement of \$400.00 covering bathing suits and piano in May 1926, bringing the total of insurance up to \$6,150.00.

Sheriff Reid, upon being questioned, stated that five buildings were destroyed by the conflagration, they being the fish house, light plant house, Clayton dwelling (unoccupied), pavilion and dwelling, and that all were in bad state of repair, and that on a whole they were worth approximately \$200, each.

Atkinson Testifies

Atkinson took the stand, and after being advised by the trial judge that he was not forced to answer any questions of an incriminating nature against himself, spoke fluently with apparent confidence and evident unconcern. He stated that he had known and been associated with Rea for about forty years. A few years ago the beach property was sold to J. R. Hollis, who retained control until December of last year, when it again came into the hands of Rea. A fishing industry had been operated for a number of years, and upon regaining the property Atkinson, so he claims, was asked to inspect the seine and report the condition to Rea. He testified that he found the fishing material in almost a worthless condition, and upon reporting to Rea he was offered one hundred dollars in cash, deed to a lot and assistance in building a house upon same if he would aid in the destruction of the property by burning it. He claims that he made no answer to the offer and that Rea repeated the offer insistently once or twice each month. Continuing his evidence he stated that Rea fixed the time for the fire, which was designed to destroy the entire beach property, for the

Fourth of July which would undoubtedly offer a splendid opportunity because of the festivities that were to be held there that day. Still he, Atkinson, would not enter into the agreement.

The witness asserted that Rea broached the subject to him several times after the Fourth, and that each time he became more insistent and that many times when Rea attempted to arrange a meeting with him that he paid no attention whatever to his efforts.

On Tuesday of last week they met at the beach and the proposition was gone over, and in the conversation Rea stated that he would wait no longer, that it must go up that night whether he received a cent of indemnity from the insurance company or not. The witness stated that Rea told him that a party wanted to purchase the property, but would not buy it with the buildings there, as they would not suit his purpose. Rea is claimed to have stated that it was much cheaper to destroy them than it would be to tear them down and remove the timber, etc., and that they must be destroyed that night. Going among the buildings with Rea the witness stated that he was shown the preparations for the fire that had been arranged, which consisted of five gallons of gasoline and numerous rubbish piles of inflammable matter that had been placed in advantageous places.

Food and ice water were provided for Atkinson at the close of the day, so he claims, but around eight o'clock he still had not decided to ignite the buildings and went to his home in Roper, a distance of four and a half miles. Remaining home about twenty minutes he reflected over the situation while smoking a cigar and being confident that Rea would start the fire if he failed to show up, he started back to the beach, reaching there after twelve o'clock. It had been agreed upon that a low burning lantern placed in the yard beside a stump would reveal the fact the beach was unoccupied, so the witness stated. So, beginning with the fish house at the western limits of the beach he began the fire, and continued to fire them until finishing with the dwelling at the eastern limits. Using gasoline as an aid he ignited a mattress in an up-stairs room of the dwelling and left. No satisfactory results came from this, he claims, as the fire went out. Ensnoring himself in the woods nearby, he waited until expected crowds came to the scene. Going on with his evidence he asserted that he saw Rea go into the dwelling and start another fire, which destroyed the building.

George Wilkins, colored man employed on the adjacent farm of A. L. Alexander, stated on the stand that Mr. Rea was sitting around a tobacco barn when he went there at twelve o'clock to begin his part of the night watch, and that it was the first time he had seen him there this year. In a short while Mr. Rea went to sleep on a bench, and did not awaken until he aroused him after discovering fire in the direction of the beach, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile.

No rebuttal testimony was proffered by counsel for Mr. Rea.

PLANS SHAPING FOR PIC-NIC

If interest and work will have anything to do with it that Charitable Brotherhood picnic to be held in Roper next Thursday will be one of the most enjoyable affairs ever held in this county.

S. J. Barco, president of the Roper lodge, has selected a committee on program that really knows how to do it right. He has put R. W. Lewis, T. W. Dillon, R. T. Chesson, W. J. Hassell, C. E. Mizelle, E. M. Chesson and J. C. Knowles to work preparing for the event, and they are all trying to outdo each other. A tentative program given us this week begins with a sermon at 11 o'clock by Rev. D. W. Arnold followed by dinner. In the afternoon C. A. Singleton, grand president of the order, will begin the speaking, and will be followed by J. P. Jackson, grand vice-president, D. J. Spruill, Jack Edwards and Jack Weede.

Gaylord Grove has been selected for the occasion and everybody is invited to attend and to carry basket lunches. Invitations are not only extended to members of the order, but to everybody, and the committee sincerely hopes that the people will come out and have a good time with them.

Washington Making Bid For Legion Convention

Frank Weir, Washington came into our office Tuesday afternoon his face as full of color as a harvest moon. Bursting into the back room he flung a voluminous at us with a command "Look at that!". As soon as we recovered our equanimity we looked, and found that the object of his excitement was a special American Legion edition of the Washington Progress which purpose was to prevail upon the state convention now in progress in Hickory to select Washington as the convention city for 1927.

The edition is splendidly edited, well arranged and carries an especial appeal to the ex-service men and women. It is our hope that our sister city will be selected for the next convention, and we are sure that should the legionnaires make a visit there they will be entertained in an elaborate manner.

Mr. and Mrs. Daye Woodard and children and Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Lucas left yesterday for a motor trip to Finley and Toledo, Ohio, and while away will visit many other points of interest.

RECORDER'S COURT

Recorder's court here Tuesday was attended by much larger than usual crowds, and judge Norman disposed of the following cases:

Columbus Rhodes, larceny, guilty assigned to public roads for three months.

Annie M. Pettiford, larceny, for probable cause held for Superior court.

John Mack Pettiford, resisting officer, etc., guilty, assigned to public roads for three months.

John Mack Pettiford and Alfred Pettiford, affray, guilty, judgement suspended upon payment of cost.

Leslie T. Davenport, assault, nolo contendere, fined \$25.00 and cost.

A preliminary hearing was given P. L. Rea and A. G. Atkinson on a charge of arson, report of which appears elsewhere on this page.

To Preach Here Sunday

A telephonic communication from Rev. Theodore Partrick announces that there will be services in Grace Episcopal church at the usual hours Sunday.

An invitation is extended all to attend.

Entertained Little Friends

Master Willford Whitley entertained eighteen of his little friends Wednesday afternoon with a delightful party at his home on Main street. Various games were played on the lawn and interesting stories told by some of the larger children. The children were later invited into the dining room where delicious ice cream and cake were served. At each place was found an attractive candy favor.

Those present were Cornelia and Edith Edmondson, Mary Elizabeth Bray, Douglas Ausbon, Elizabeth Willoughby, James Harrell Ward, Rebecca Ward, Meredith Johnston, Louis Ward Alexander, Frances Alexander, Katherine Midgett, Elizabeth Reid, Lillian Reid McGowan, Shirley Powell and Elizabeth Martin.

Mesdames H. V. Austin and Jack Read went to Washington Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Horton were in Vanceboro Tuesday.

Miss Dorothy Swain of Mackeys, is here visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Swain and little son, Jack, were in Mackeys Sunday.

SKINNERSVILLE NEWS

Mrs. Lela Styson spent Tuesday in Edenton.

W. E. Blount and C. L. Everett were in Plymouth Tuesday.

G. L. Davenport and Joe White motored to Creswell Tuesday afternoon.

A revival meeting will begin at Holly Neck Disciple Church Sunday, August 22nd.

Master Carlton Brown Shaffer left Sunday for his home in Norfolk, after visiting his uncle, C. V. White.

Mrs. Mollie Alexander and daughter, Miss Inez, were guests of Mr. Alexander's mother, Mrs. Walter White, Monday.

Wilbert Blount left Saturday for New York after spending some time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Blount.

Mr. and Mrs. George Swain and little daughter, Doris, of Suffolk, Va., spent the week-end with Mrs. Henrietta Swain.

Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Hethcox and family of Creswell, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Davenport Monday afternoon.

The members of Oak Grove Church gave a picnic Wednesday afternoon at five o'clock at Heartwell Jethro's landing, complimentary to their Sunday School attendance.

Miss Emma Gray Morehead, county demonstrator, met a small number of the ladies of this community at Albemarle school house Wednesday, August 11th. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Ida Brickhouse, and Mrs. C. L. Everett read the minutes of the last meeting. Then "The Old North State" was sung by the members. Officers elected were Mrs. Ida Brickhouse, president, Mrs. C. L. Everett, secretary, and Mrs. C. V. White, booster. Canned fruits and vegetables that had been put up in Plymouth and Creswell were shown, and among them was preserved carrots, which created a great deal of interest.

Schools to Begin September 8th.

Announcement is made that the Plymouth graded schools will begin their 1926-'27 session on Wednesday, September 8th, and the superintendent is anxious that all concerned be advised of this fact.

Next week we hope to carry a tentative schedule of the work planned for the coming session, and to also give the names of the teachers and other information of general interest in the schools.

Mrs. C. L. Murphrey and Mrs. M. E. Blount and children of Norfolk, are visiting Mrs. A. R. Dupree.

The Champion—and Challenger

"TEX"

AUTOGASTER