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The Hoke County News

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NEWS OF OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM

Pvt. Johnny C. Pate has returned to Camp Stewart, Georgia, after spending a nine-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. Pate.

Pfc. William Smith has notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Smith, that he has arrived safely somewhere in New Guinea.

Cpl. James A. Smith is now back at his station in the British West Indies after spending a 30-day furlough here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Smith.

Seaman Lie Ted Rogers, who has been serving with a guncrew of a merchant ship, is home on an 18-day furlough.

Lt. Jake Austin is expected to arrive home today to spend the holidays with his mother, Mrs. J. H. Austin. After this leave Lt. Austin expects to report at San Francisco for sea duty. He will be accompanied home by his sister, Mrs. E. M. Coleman of New York.

Warrant Officer George Bethune arrived home Tuesday to spend thirty days with his wife and child. Mr. Bethune has recently been released from a Naval hospital where he was treated for injuries received when his ship was torpedoed in the Mediterranean area. Thrown overboard, with several other men, he gave his life belt to a man who could not swim and was credited with saving his life. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit.

Sgt. John K. McNeill, Jr. stationed in Greenville, S. C. was at home for a few days this week.

Father Of Nine Gets \$268 Monthly In Army

Fort Jackson, S. C., Dec. 18.—Pvt. Goldman J. Trantham of Clyde, N. C., who has reported to the reception center here, is one shipyard worker who suffered no pay cut when he entered the army.

Father of nine children, the 36-year-old private and his family will draw \$268 a month from the government, more than a major's base pay.

As a shipyard machinist, Trantham was making \$240 a month before his induction three weeks ago at Camp Croft, through Haywood county, North Carolina, local board No. 1, Waynesville, N. C.

Hoke County Abattoir

Work at the County Abattoir was slowed up the past week by bad weather, and it was impossible to kill all of the hogs that the people wanted killed. However, in spite of the weather 39 hogs were slaughtered that dressed 9365 lbs for 19 customers. In addition two deer and four cows were slaughtered.

Court House Holidays

The Court House will be closed on Friday and Monday for Xmas holidays, except that the Draft Board will meet on Monday after-noon as usual.

Hold Scotland Girl On May Act Charges

United States Commissioner W. R. Barrington ordered Doris Etta Wiley of Scotland county held on charge of May act violation at a hearing here Tuesday afternoon. He set her trial for December 23, at the special term of Federal Court in session at Greensboro, before Judge Johnson J. Hayes. Evidence presented at the hearing showed the woman had active cases of syphilis and gonorrhoea, and that when she was arrested by FBI agents she was in the company of a soldier. Mr. Barrington stated that a special term of court for the trial of May act violators was now in session because the jails were overcrowded with women awaiting trial.

Business Houses To Close Monday

Practically all business houses of Raeford will be closed all day Monday in order to give their employees an additional holiday for the Christmas season.

Harris' Attorneys Gain 30 Day Stay Of Execution For Slayer Of Three Members Of Bill Family August 27

Alex Harris Taken To State's Prison Monday By Sheriff D. H. Hodgkin; Date For Execution Now Set As January 28th

Alex Harris, slayer of three members of the Bill family, is to die in the gas chamber at State's prison on January 28th, according to Sheriff D. H. Hodgkin who delivered the condemned triple-murderer to the prison Monday morning of this week. On December 15 the Supreme Court ruled that there was no error in the Superior courts findings that Harris was guilty of murder in the first degree in the death of Mrs. E. A. Bill, and the execution was automatically set for December 31st. His attorneys McNair Smith, E. L. Gavin and L. R. Varsar secured a 30 day stay of execution.

Harris was found guilty of the slaying of Mrs. Bill by a jury of a special venire brought here from Robeson county after the state had failed to get a jury from a venire of 150 citizens called from Hoke. He was also charged with the murder of Mrs. Bill's daughter, Mrs. Estelle Wilson, and her son, Eugene Bill, at the Bills service station on August 27, 1942. At the time Harris was reported to have been brooding over the death of his son, Johnny Harris, 22, who died of gunshot wounds the previous Sunday night, received during an argument which took place after he and his companions and several other customers had been asked to leave the station at closing time. Afterwards J. Harris was said to have gone back to the door and the shooting occurred. On investigation of his death members of the sheriff's department found that one shot was fired from outside and two from the inside of the building. Eugene Bill was indicted for the slaying of Harris and had posted a \$2,500 cash bond, while awaiting trial.

On the day of the triple slaying, Alex Harris had been to a tobacco market. He returned home and testimony at his trial showed that he had gone to the Bills service station and immediately upon entering the place shot the three members of the family down, killing them almost instantly. He then left for Raeford where he surrendered to Policeman W. R. Sanders.

The first attempt to try the case ended abruptly when the Solicitor Ertel Carlyle found it impossible to secure a jury from Hoke County in November 1942. A special venire of Robeson County citizens was called for the January term of Superior court. The jury returned a verdict of murder in the first degree of Mrs. Bill and the other charges in the deaths of Eugene Bill and Mrs. Wilson were not tried. Judge Leo Carr sentenced him to die in the gas chamber. An appeal was made by his attorneys and the appeal was heard early this month. The Supreme court's decision was announced on December 15th, but the courts order reached here only last Monday, on which day Harris was taken to Raleigh and committed to death's row.

Russians Hang 4 For Atrocities To Civilians

MOSCOW Dec. 20 — The bodies of three German soldiers and a Russian who confessed he helped them commit atrocities against the Russian people swung today from the public gallows in the icy wind of Kharkov's main square.

The three were hanged at 11 A. M. yesterday, a day following their convictions by a military tribunal of the fourth Ukrainian front in the first first war criminal trial.

A crowd of 40,000 saw the condemned men strung up, and since that time hundreds have flocked into the city from faraway sections of Kharkov province to see visible proof that the verdict was carried out.

The men hanged were Wilhelm Langheld, a Gestapo captain; Hans Ritz, vice-commander of a storm troop company; Richard Ritzlaw, Gestapo auxiliary police corporal and Mikhail Bulanov, a Russian who served as a chauffeur for the Gestapo.

Bethel Church

The Rev. Harry K. Holland will conduct a special Christmas service at Bethel Church Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Mr. Holland holds services at Bethel each 2nd and 4th Sunday. Sunday school is held each Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

Return Negro From Ohio Who Jumped Bail And Jail-Term

Sheriff D. H. Hodgkin Tracks Down Summie Daniels; Gone Since September.

Summie Daniels, negro sentenced to serve nine months for assault, was returned here Sunday to await a hearing on charges of bond-jumping. Daniels was arrested last week by Dayton, Ohio, officers at the request of Sheriff D. H. Hodgkin. Through information gained from letters Daniels wrote to relatives here his hideout in the Ohio city was discovered and Sheriff Hodgkin requested police there to place the negro under arrest. Daniels waived extradition and accompanied the sheriff and Douglas McLeod back to Raeford.

The negro was convicted of assault with a shotgun upon Sellers Baker and others at a birth party in the April term of Superior court. He was sentenced to serve nine months on the roads. The sentence was deferred until September first and William McDairmid posted bond of \$350 for his appearance on that date to start serving the sentence. Daniels disappeared from home about the last week of August.

Hearing on the bond offense will be held at the January term of criminal court, it is expected.

Hoke High News

School closed Tuesday, December 21st for Christmas holidays, and work will be resumed Wednesday, December 29th. The school schedule will run thirty minutes later; that is, school will begin at 9:55 o'clock.

A musical Christmas program, under the direction of Miss Baldwin, was given in Chapel Tuesday. The glee club sang two numbers, and the members of the band played several selections. The Christmas Story was read by Retha Howell, and the band members played the accompaniment. The entire student body joined in singing Christmas carols.

A number of last year's seniors have been visiting school this week. The majority of these say that the work in college is very difficult.

Directed by Miss Fisher, the pupils of room number 17, decorated the front hall for Christmas.

The library has just received thirty-seven new books. These books will be ready to put on the shelves soon after the holidays.

The members of the faculty who live out of town left for their homes Tuesday afternoon.

Percent Hoke Gets U. S. Classification

About 10,000 bales of cotton, from the 14,000 produced in Hoke county, have been sampled and the samples sent to the U. S. Classing Office in Raleigh as a part of the one-variety improvement program in the county, reports County Agent A. S. Knowles of the State College Extension Service. In addition to the grade and staple, farmers are pleased with the basic loan value marked on each classing card. This service has aided growers in getting better prices for their cotton, according to Knowles.

Three Cases Tried In County Court

Only three cases were tried in county court Tuesday before Judge Henry McDiarmid, one of the lightest dockets during the year, according to court attaches.

Lee McNeal, Newport News, Va., was found guilty of driving drunk and transporting non-tax paid liquor. He was fined \$50 and costs for driving drunk, and \$25 and costs on the transportation charge, and the car was confiscated by the court.

Shelton Faulk, negro, was convicted on charges of possession of a still, near beer and other paraphernalia for the purpose of making liquor. He paid costs and still fee amounting to \$58.90 in lieu of a 60 day sentence on the roads.

David Faulk, son of Shelton, was found not guilty on liquor manufacturing charges.

Seven Escape From Carthage Prison Camp Tuesday

Three Robeson County Men In Group Which Overpowered Guard And Fleed.

Raleigh, Dec. 21.—State law enforcement officers with bloodhounds joined in the hunt today for seven short-term white convicts who escaped from the Moore county prison camp early today after overpowering the night guard.

Penal Director Oscar Pitts said the prisoners were Buddy Blackman, 18, of Robeson county; Ralph Johnson, 22, of Harnett; Hallie Lee Kelly, 28, of Davidson; Bill Haywood, 27, of Davidson; Charlie Pulley, 36, of Robeson; Tobus Greer, 21, of Davidson; and Ed Seamon, 22, of Robeson. Their sentences ranged from one to six years.

Pitts said they got out of their cell block when the night guard left his post about 12:30 A. M., to get his lunch. When the guards returned the prisoners, who were hiding in a corridor, jumped him, tied him up and took his pistol. They had managed to get out of the block by unscrewing bolts in the door.

The convicts fled into a field and the guard shortly freed himself and gave the alarm. The theft of an auto, mobile at Pinehurst was attributed to the escapees.

If Liberty is worth fighting for, it's worth paying for—Buy More War Bonds.

Coast Line To Probe Two-Train Crash At Hearing Monday; ICC, Perhaps State And Congressional Investigations Too.

Formal Hearing Monday At Rocky Mount; Death Toll Now Set At 72 From Wreck Of Two Streamliners Here Last Thursday Morning. Heroic Work Of Civilians And Army Personnel Praised.

Red Springs, Dec. 22.—G. C. Sibley, general manager of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway, has announced from Wilmington, that there will be a formal hearing in the railroad's investigation of the wreck of the road's two crack streamliner trains here last Thursday. The hearing will be held at Rocky Mount Monday morning, December 27th.

James M. McMillan Dies At Rockfish Home Sunday

Funeral Services Held Tuesday At Parkton For Brother Mrs. Edgar Hall Of Raeford.

Funeral services for James Monroe McMillan, 54, who died at his home near Rockfish Sunday night, were held Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock from the Parkton Methodist Church by the Rev. Mr. Brown, pastor, in charge.

Active pallbearers were his nephews: Buddy McMillan, J. D. McMillan, Bobby McMillan, Neil A. Maxwell, Jr., J. D. Gibson, and William Lindsay. Honorary pallbearers were: Dr. D. S. Currie, Sam Thompson, Alton Armstrong, J. G. Hughes, Fred B.heimer, A. A. McEneaney, John Wright, Conny Bird, Harry Jordan and John Gibbs.

Mr. McMillan was a prominent farmer of his community. He was the son of the late Ada Williams and Zachariah Taylor McMillan of near Parkton.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Delena Gibson McMillan; three daughters, Mrs. John T. Tally of Winston-Salem, Mrs. Hugh McCall of Maxton, and Miss Catherine McMillan of Lumberton; five sisters, Mrs. Edgar Hall of Raeford, Mrs. Sandy McMillan of Parkton, Mrs. W. A. Barnhardt of Lenoir, Miss Mary Bell McMillan and Miss Meta McMillan of Parkton; and by four brothers, Murphy of Lumber Bridge, Dan T. of Parkton, Vance of Southern Pines, and Duncan of Parkton.

RATION NOTES

Truck Gasoline
The following instructions have been issued for the issuance of gasoline coupons for truck operators for the quarter beginning January 1st.

1. Applicant must present new license registration card.
2. Applicant must present his new War Necessity certificate; if new one has not been issued, he must present certificate used in 1943.
3. All "T" coupons must be called for. The board is not permitted to mail them, nor make advance allotments.

If Liberty is worth fighting for, it's worth paying for—Buy More War Bonds.

And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, His Mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The Gospel according to St. Matthew



Other investigations of the tragedy which took the lives of 72 persons are in progress, with S. N. Mills, director of the bureau of safety of the Interstate Commerce Commission, announcing that three special investigators of the ICC are questioning witnesses at Red Springs, Lumberton, Fayetteville, Raleigh and other points. Rumors of a special Congressional investigation and an investigation by State authorities are also heard, but no confirmation has been attained.

Both tracks of the system's main line were opened to traffic Sunday morning at 6:30 when Army rescue workers and railroad spokesmen stated that all bodies had been removed from the wreckage of the four smashed coaches of the northbound train which were derailed and piled high upon each other after sideswiping several cars of the southbound Tami-amu Champion.

Army and Red Cross reports confirm the report of the Red Springs Funeral Home, official army contract mortuary, that there were 72 persons killed in the wreck. There were 21 civilians, all but one of whom have been identified, and 51 service men killed, all identified. Three of the victims of North Carolina's worst tragedy died after reaching hospitals, according to the reports.

According to statements of railroad men three cars of the southbound train were derailed at 1:10 A. M. Thursday, December 16. Though they leaned over the northbound tracks they did not get on the rails and throw the electric signal system. Forty minutes later No. 8, the northbound Champion, crashed into the derailed cars and four of the cars of No. 8 and the three-unit diesel locomotive were thrown against the bank of the hillside bordering the tracks. Three coaches and a pullman car were piled together and badly smashed. One old coach of the Florida East Coast System was of part wood construction and one end of it was crushed to pieces.

A total of fifteen cars of the two 18-car trains were derailed or damaged. Only one person on the southbound train was killed and few of the passengers were seriously injured.

On the winter's coldest night, with snow continuing to fall on a sheath of sleet which had fallen Wednesday, hundreds of citizens from Red Springs, Pembroke, Lumberton and Fayetteville aided in the rescue. Ambulances from Maxton, Red Springs, Lumberton, Hope Mills, St. Pauls, and Fayetteville together with delivery trucks and a bread truck arrived soon after the crash to take injured to hospitals at Lumberton, Fayetteville and army bases at Maxton and Fort Bragg.

First injured were removed to Bakers hospital by Waverly Barham and Dan Klapp of the Red Springs Funeral Home, Drs. H. H. Hodgkin, C. T. Johnson and R. D. McMillan, with their nurses all from Red Springs, were first to give medical treatment and first aid. Dr. W. S. Fleming of Fayetteville and medical men from Lumberton also aided until rescue work was taken over by hospital units and medical officers from Maxton and Bragg army bases.

Food and hot drinks were supplied to injured and to rescue workers from five o'clock Thursday morning until after one o'clock that afternoon by a corps of housewives from Red Springs and by the dining hall staff of Flora Macdonald College and ambulance drivers and other workers bringing injured persons or bodies to Red Springs were supplied food and coffee by citizens of the town using the Barham home for this purpose. The Rev. Henry G. Ruark, pastor of the local Methodist church acted as coordinator of this effort. Army field kitchens were put in service Thursday afternoon.

Army police refused cameramen of press association rights to make pictures of the accident for several hours unless they were granted permission by the railroad superintendent, Murchison, who apparently not realizing the immense nation-wide interest of the catastrophe, refused to allow pictures made. He gained for the railroad company and for the Army public relationship group some very unfavorable publicity.

(Continued on Page Eight)