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## Oscar Perkins Was One Of The Heroes On the Monroe

### Rescue Passengers Praise Action Of Young Man From Oriental

### RISKED LIFE TO START DYNAMO

### Braxton Haskins Of Oriental Went to His Death With Sinking Ship

Braxton Haskins, son of Claud Haskins, of Oriental, and who was a member of the crew of the ill-fated steamship Monroe, was drowned when that vessel was rammed and sunk early Friday morning while enroute from Norfolk to New York.

Oscar Perkins whose father formerly lived at Oriental but who now resides in New Bern, was one of the engineers on the vessel and played the part of a hero when the crash occurred. He was among those saved.

### Officers Give Out Statement.

Norfolk, Jan. 31.—Assistant General Manager E. E. Palen, of the Old Dominion Steamship company today gave out the following statement:

"The Monroe left Norfolk at 7:40 and ran into a light fog when outside of the capes, and was proceeding cautiously on her route to New York, blowing a fog whistle every minute by an automatic time clock.

"She passed, two vessels, stopping in each case when she heard their signals.

"When about half way between Cape Charles lightship and the winter quarter lightship she heard the fog whistle of the Nantucket off her starboard bow. She stopped and blew two whistles, which were responded to by the Nantucket. She again blew two whistles which were responded to, and immediately thereafter the crash came.

"The Nantucket was not visible except immediately before the collision, the fog being heavy near the water, but light above.

"The Monroe was struck on the starboard side about one-third the distance from her bow, the Nantucket penetrating the Monroe something like one third of her width, making the sinking of the Monroe inevitable.

### Engineer Perkins' Quick Work

"Captain Johnson, who had been in the pilothouse for several hours, immediately gave notice to the steward to awaken all the passengers, though the passengers were at that time rushing out of their staterooms. They were told to come at once to the boat deck. The dynamo, which was then running gave out in a few minutes and the vessel was encompassed in darkness until Engineer Oscar Perkins rushed below and started the second dynamo, which ran for two or three minutes. The Monroe immediately listed to the starboard, and in the course of three or four minutes the starboard side of the Monroe was awash, and the port side was high in the air.

"In the collision boat No. 1, on the starboard side was crushed. Boat No. 3, on the starboard side, fell in the water and was submerged. Boat No. 4 was crushed and its crew washed into the

Captain Johnson, and boat No. 7 was gotten off under the supervision of First Officer Horsley. It was impossible to use boats 2, 4, 6 and 8, as they were on the port side and could not be put out because of the list to starboard. The life-rafts on the forward deck of the vessel floated as the boat sank and were instrumental in saving many lives.

"Captain Johnson as soon as he could get boat No. 5 over, took all in who were on the starboard side except those who were getting in First Officer Horsley's boat, No. 7, and Captain Johnson's boat, No. 5, immediately dropped down to the stern of the Monroe for the purpose of going to the port side and taking off the remaining passengers on the saloon deck, who had climbed to the port side on account of its being the high side. As he dropped toward the stern he was engaged in picking up passengers that had leaped overboard, and in a very short time had about 35 persons in the boat, these filling it so that it had only about eight inches free board. A pretty good sea was running and the boat was overcrowded, but no one was left in the water who could be found. First Officer Horsley succeeded in lowering boat No. 7, taking all who were on the deck and followed the example of Captain Johnson in picking up those who were in the water, and proceeded by the stern to the port side of the vessel to rescue those who were clinging to the high side.

### Operator Kuehn Died A Hero.

There were notable deeds of heroism by assistant Engineer Oscar Perkins and First Wireless Operator Ferdinand J. Kuehn. Perkins, when the inrush of water put out the main dynamo, and left the Monroe in complete darkness, rushed below and put to work an emergency dynamo. He is among the rescued.

Wireless operator Kuehn gave the first S. O. S. call and after adjusting a life preserver which would doubtless have saved his own life, removed this from his body and put it on a girl Kuehn was lost. His assistant R. L. Etheridge, was saved and walked into the arms of his wife who stood to greet him as the Nantucket docked with the rescued this afternoon.

C. W. Poole, enroute from Gray, Va., with his wife and two and a half year old boy to a visit in Massachusetts, had his wife and child washed from his arms over the rail of the sinking Monroe. Poole, completely crushed, told tonight the story of his great loss and sorrow. He will return to his Virginia home tomorrow.

### Harrowing Scenes.

Ed. Gorman, of New York, told of harrowing scenes of women screaming for help in the cabin of the Monroe. Walking upon the side of the careened sinking ship, Gorman met a girl whom he begged to jump with him into the sea. The girl refused and perished. Gorman was at once picked up by a passing lifeboat.

J. Gaitley, second officer of the Monroe, gave his life preserver to a woman who had none and she was washed into the

## IMPORTANT CASE TO BE HEARD HERE TOMORROW

### NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY IS THE DEFENDANT.

Tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock the much talked about case in which the Government is suing the Norfolk Southern Railway Company for alleged violations of the River and Harbors Act by failing to properly attend to their bridge over Newport river, leading from Morehead City to Beaufort, will be taken up. United States Commissioner Charles B. Hill will hear this case in the Federal building, beginning at 11 o'clock. Assistant District Attorney Ernest M. Green will prosecute for the government and Larry I. Moore of the law firm of Moore and Dunn will appear in behalf of the defendant company.

water saved himself by grabbing a floating ladder.

Miss Sally McCombs, a member of the Macaria theatrical company was in a lifeboat with a West Indian negro, who lost his head and grabbed Miss McCombs' hair. He had to be beaten almost into insensibility before he would free the woman.

C. H. Davis told how a frenzied negro standing upon the sinking Monroe asked another negro for a pocket knife, with which he proceeded to cut his own throat from ear to ear and then fell into the sea.

### Disaster For First Time.

"This is the first time in the history of the Old Dominion Line that the life of a passenger has been lost at sea," said Mr. Walker. "The line was organized in 1867. Seven steamers have been in operation for several years. SHIP STORY—continued.

The Monroe was the staunchest of the lot. She was put into service in 1903.

"There was life saving equipment aboard for nearly double the number of souls she carried on this trip. Under the navigation laws we are required to have 100 per cent. equipment at this season of the year. We had fully that. The Monroe carried boatage for over 300 and there were but 133 persons aboard her, all told."

### For a Thorough Investigation.

Washington, Jan. 31.—A thorough investigation of the circumstances resulting in the collision between the Nantucket and the Monroe today was ordered by the Department of Commerce. Assistant Secretary Sweet instructed steamboat inspection service to make an exhaustive inquiry.

The following members of the crew were lost:

- Boatswain N. Nelson.
- Quartermaster Guiles.
- Bow Lookout A. Soydin.
- Deck Watchman T. Juvich.
- Saloon watchman L. Ward.
- First Wireless Operator Ferdinand J. Kuehn.
- Third Assistant Engineer Braxton Haskins.
- White Stewardess Mrs. Gurney.
- Colored Stewardess Patsy Wallace.
- Second Cook I. White.
- Third Cook Joe Bradford.
- Head Waiter P. Davis.
- Waiters J. Delk, J. Martin, A. Fradley, D. Proverbs, W. A. Gardner.

Among the unaccounted for of the crew are also several deck hands and coal passers who have not yet been checked up by the company.

## TWO WEEKS TERM SUPERIOR COURT BEGINS TOMORROW

### Judge F. A. Daniels Is To Preside.

### CIVIL CASES FIRST

### Criminal Docket To Be Disposed Of Next Week.

A two weeks' term of Craven County Superior Court will convene in this city tomorrow morning with Judge Frank A. Daniels, of Goldsboro, presiding.

Judge Daniels is well known in New Bern. He was a law partner of the lamented Charles B. Aycock and presided over the last term of Superior Court held in this city. It is usually the case that the criminal cases are disposed of during the first week and the civil cases taken up later. On this occasion this order will be reversed, the civil cases will be taken up tomorrow morning and will probably consume the entire week.

On next Monday morning the criminal docket will be taken up. There are quite a number of cases on this docket and the entire week also will probably be consumed in their disposal. The following cases are on the docket for this week:

### Monday.

West vs. Tingle; Page vs. Blades Mason vs. Stephens; French vs. Richardson.

### Tuesday.

West vs. laughinghouse, et als.; Parker Buggy Co. vs. J. M. Arnold; Fruit Co. vs. Ashford; Wiggins vs. Chapman; Willis vs. Wayne; Pearson vs. Green.

### Wednesday.

Williams vs. Green; Lancaster vs. Bland; Ashford vs. Schrader.

### Thursday.

Brinn vs. Steamboat Company; Harris vs. Mutual Aid Banking Co.; Iron Works vs. Dixon; State & Pollock vs. Brown; Holton vs. N. S. and Southern R. R. Co.; Foy & Ipock vs. Stephens, et als.

### Friday.

Stanley, Adm. vs. Edwards; Williams vs. Tisdale.

### Divorce.

Richardson vs. Richardson.

## A. T. WILLIS COMPANY ARE IN NEW HOME

### RECEPTION WAS HELD LAST NIGHT—BEAUTIFUL SOUVENIRS.

The A. T. Willis Company are now located in their new home in the Mitchell building on Middle street and last night they held an informal reception in honor of the occasion.

Music was furnished by the Imperial Orchestra and each visitor was presented with a beautiful carnation as a souvenir of the occasion. Hundreds of visitors crowded the store during the day and evening and each was profuse in his and her praise of the attractive manner in which the interior has been arranged and also in which the goods are displayed.

The A. T. Willis Company, while comparatively a new firm, are enjoying a patronage which is indeed gratifying. They handle an extensive line of men's and boys' wearing apparel and the public knows that they will find anything in this line at that store

## NEW BERNIAN MAKES HIT ON THE STAGE

### CARL ARMSTRONG PRAISED BY NORFOLK NEWSPAPER.

Carl Armstrong, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Armstrong, of this city, is winning new laurels on the vaudeville circuit. Carl was seen here a few months ago and made a decided hit. Since that time he has travelled extensively and frequent reports reaching New Bern have been to the effect that he was "making good."

Last week he played at the Academy of Music at Norfolk, Va., and the Ledger Dispatch of that city has the following to say of he and his partner: "Carlyle (Mr. Armstrong's stage name), and Steven, a black and tan pair, in which the male member proved a genuinely clever comedian and fun maker and his tan feminine consort the possessor of good acting ability and a singing voice. With parodies, songs and patter they kept the laughter rippling throughout the act."

It is probable that Carl will be seen on a local stage some time in the near future.

## WOMAN'S CLUB CALENDAR.

February 3: Current Events with Mrs. S. L. Dill, at 4 p. m.  
February 4: General Meeting in Club rooms at 4 p. m.  
February 5: Music in Griffin Auditorium at 4 p. m.

## SURPRISE MARRIAGE TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT.

A marriage which came somewhat as a surprise to the many friends of the contracting parties took place last night at the home of the bride's parents, No. 106 Griffin street, when Miss Nannie P. Willis became the bride of John H. Deppe. The ceremony was performed in the presence of a few relatives and friends. Mr. and Mrs. Deppe left on the midnight train for a honeymoon in Northern cities.

## Keith's Vaudeville at The Athens Tomorrow

### Rogers and Borman a comedy act Irene and Walter Henry Singing Musical Specialty

### Rogers and Borman.

A comedy act.

### Irene and Walter Henry.

Singing Musical specialty.

These acts are up to the Keith Standard.

Our picture program tomorrow embraces one of the best sent over the circuit, as follows:

### "Tony, The Fiddler." (S. and A. 2 Reel Special Feature.)

A tale of the Canadian borders in the early eighties, containing many adventurous and romantic scenes and featuring Francis X. Bushman.

### "Her Sick Father."

### One of Lubin's roaring comedies "The Lost Switch."

Another very funny comedy. Everybody is delighted with Keith's vaudeville. We are giving them the best that money will secure.

Matinee daily at 3:45, two shows at night, first starts at 7:30, second about 9 o'clock. No advance in prices.

## THE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED MONDAY

### Chamber Of Commerce To Be Enlarged.

### ORGANIZATION GROWING

### J. Leon Williams Has Resigned As The Secretary.

Tomorrow night at the Court House there will be launched a movement to put the New Bern Chamber of Commerce on an equal foundation with commercial organizations of cities like Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte. The New Bern Chamber of Commerce has been gradually growing in usefulness. The time has arrived when it should be placed on a solid foundation so that it can pursue its work, day after day, unhampered by lack of finances.

I trust that what I am about to say will be considered in the light of the fact that I have already announced that I shall not be a candidate for re-election as Secretary of the New Bern Chamber of Commerce.

Jefferson said, "To lay down a public charge at the proper period is as much a duty as to have bourne it faithfully."

I think we have now reached the "proper period."

The time, in my mind, has come when the Chamber of Commerce of New Bern should have an annual income large enough to employ an expert commercial secretary who shall devote his entire time to this work. It is time that New Bern, and this vicinity should make a "Big Noise" in other words, Advertise.

North Carolina has as much (if not more) to offer the home-seeker, as any State in the Union, yet these facts are practically unknown outside of our State. The commercial organizations have a great deal of hard work before them along this line.

New Bern should not lag in this onward march of progress. The time has come when every live, energetic citizen should wake up to the fact that he is living in the finest section of the country—should wake up and join the procession.

Join the Chamber of Commerce and be an active member. If you have an idea, give the organization the benefit of it. It will do no good buried in your brain.

The membership campaign will begin tomorrow night at the Court House. Cigars and refreshments will be served to everybody.

Music by the People's Concert Band. Come out and help the movement to give New Bern one of the strongest commercial organizations in the State.

J. LEON WILLIAMS, Sec., Chamber of Commerce

## TELEPHONE POLE BLOWS DOWN.

During the high wind which prevailed for a time early yesterday morning a telephone pole on George street was blown down. Fortunately no further damage than the destruction of the pole was done.

I. W. Medlin, of Durham, formerly a resident of this city, is here for a visit of a few days.