

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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W. O. SAUNDERS, NATIVE PERQUIMANS, DIES IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

Editor, Author, Legislator Drowns in Dismal Swamp Canal as Car Leaves Road

STORY OF LIFE

Newsmen View Saunders' Death as Distinct Loss to All Counties of the Albemarle

W. O. Saunders, 56, former Elizabeth City newspaper editor, who gained national fame for his individualism in deed and writing, was drowned in the Dismal Swamp Canal last Thursday afternoon when his car plunged from the George Washington Highway nine miles south of Deep Creek.

Funeral services were held Saturday morning at the graveside in Hollywood Cemetery, Elizabeth City, as thousands of friends and admirers paid final tribute to the man who made his weekly newspaper, The Independent, a household word in Eastern Carolina.

Such was the influence of his individualistic nature that even daily newspaper reports of his death and funeral were inspired writings of editors and newsmen who had known and respected him through more than 35 years of an outstanding newspaper career.

Born in Perquimans

W. O. (Will) Saunders, author, editor, journalist and legislator, was born in humble surroundings in Perquimans County on May 24, 1884. When his family moved to Hertford, W. O. was still a child. At 17 he got his first newspaper job, a profession he was destined to stick with, on the Star Heel, a weekly newspaper in Elizabeth City.

Later, and after his sensational reporting of the Wilcox murder trial in Elizabeth City for Norfolk daily papers which got him his first "break" on the "big time sheets," Saunders established his Independent.

During the thirty years of The Independent's life, Saunders, its editor, was a storm center in this community and time and again was involved in libel suits. Usually he walked away from the court rooms exonerated, but he stayed in hot water. His humorous and frank presentations of the news gained for The Independent much more than a local circulation; his papers went to the far corners of the United States and were in demand at all newsstands.

One-Man Pajama Parade

In 1929, Mr. Saunders gained nationwide publicity as he strolled down Main Street in Elizabeth City clad in white pajamas and bedroom slippers, advocating the ensemble as sensible attire for men in the summertime. Pictures snapped by news cameramen there and in New York, appeared in papers all over the country.

In Elizabeth City he was arrested for his one-man pajama parade, but was immediately freed by the mayor, who ordained that people could dress as they pleased there so long as they stayed in the bounds of decency. The fad spread and other parades broke out; one here in Hertford.

Associate Editor Collier's

Mr. Saunders once worked on the New York American, and for a time was also associate editor of Collier's Magazine. He was a member of the State House of Representatives in 1918, and drew notice there for his unique presentation of bills without the usual red tape.

The old weekly Independent went into the daily field in 1937 and went into bankruptcy the same year. In the meantime its editor had written several articles for national magazines, including his "Autobiography of a Crank" which appeared in the American Magazine back in the 1920's. Also among his contributions was "I Feel Like a Man Again," which appeared in the December, 1937, issue of Nation's Business, written some time after the collapse of The Independent when Saunders said he felt like a new man "with a freedom from the multitudinous cares of business ownership and management that have plagued me for nearly 30 years."

He went to Washington then and became a free-lance writer, still contributing to national magazines. In 1938 he established a news and feature service in Washington.

It failed after a time, and at his death he had a position with the WPA and was secretary of the Greater Albemarle Association.

What Other Writers Said

Said the Virginian Pilot Friday: "W. O. was born in humble sur-

(Continued on Page Five)

Coach Johnson Makes Athletic Awards At Student Assembly

Letters for participation in athletics for Perquimans County High School boys were given this week by Coach Jimmy Johnson. The presentations were made at student assembly.

Football letters were awarded to Zack Harris, Clarke Stokes, Bill Cox, John Wood, Richard Spivey, Douglas Elliott, Emmett Landing, O. B. Winslow, Guy Webb, D. J. White, Matt Spivey, Percy Byrum and Manager Harrell Johnson.

Basketball awards were made to George Fields, Zack Harris, Clarke Stokes, Joe Nowell, Francis Nixon and Billy Blanchard.

Jack and Alton Munns were awarded letters for boxing.

The following boys, Worth Dail, Jimmy Felton, Dan Berry and Preston Copeland were eligible for boxing awards but will not receive them until next year.

Local Politics Now Wallowing in Low-Pressure Area

Campaign Managers, However, Holding Public's Feet to the Fire as Primary Election Looms

Interest in local politics has hit the seasonal low pressure area between the final filing date and the first of the usual series of rallies.

Half a dozen campaign managers (official and unofficial), however, are keeping the more prominent issues foremost in the public's mind. Any gathering of more than three people (of which two are campaign managers) is a large enough audience to bring on the extolling of virtues and comparative merits.

If more than the three outstanding gubernatorial contestants for the Democratic nomination; namely, Horton, Broughton and Maxwell, have appointed field representatives in the Precinct of Perquimans this paper has not been notified.

Each of the three appears to have one official manager; Charles Johnson, T. B. Sumner and J. E. Winslow, respectively, and two or three unofficial (though equally enthusiastic) supporters.

Most any store on Church Street, and the Idler's Bench on the courthouse green are the storm centers . . . where the merest mention of one candidate is the signal for a heated defense on the part of another.

Until the township rallies take a definite place in the menu of political courses, the quintet of candidates for Perquimans Place in the House are more or less in the background. The time-worn query "Who do you think will be in the run-off?" is simply grounds for a question in reply—"What do you think?"

As to Perquimans County's nine candidates for the five places on the County Board of Commissioners, all is quiet on the Western and Southern and Eastern and Northern Fronts. While two members of the incumbent board will not be contested, the remaining seven, with fights on their hands, have brought forth no issues to tempt the interest of the public.

They're running for office, and that's all there is to it. Those close to the political front when the races finally get underway in earnest, are looking forward to one of the warmest primaries in history . . . seven candidates for governor, five for representative and nine for the county commission.

Two Rabies Inspectors Handling Vaccinations

This is dog vaccination season in Perquimans County.

G. C. Buck has been officially appointed as Rabies Inspector to vaccinate all dogs in Hertford and on the south side of the Perquimans River.

Notices will be posted at different places as to when and where Mr. Buck will be for the purpose of vaccinating dogs.

Anyone on either side of the river wishing the services of the other Rabies Inspector, A. A. Noble, may secure his services by making arrangements with him or bringing dogs to him. Mr. Noble is at Winslow's Store in Hertford on Saturdays.

New President Of County Council HDC Named Saturday

Mrs. L. J. Winslow Is Elected to Replace Mrs. J. M. Fleetwood, Resigned

Mrs. L. J. Winslow of Belvidere, was elected president of the County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs at a meeting held in the Agriculture Building last Saturday afternoon. She succeeds Mrs. J. M. Fleetwood, who resigned last month because of illness in her family.

All twelve demonstration clubs were represented at the meeting, according to Miss Frances Maness, demonstration agent; Balahack, Belvidere, Bethel, Chapanoke, Durants Neck, Helen Gaither, Home and Garden, Whiteston, Winfall and Burgess being present one hundred percent. Mrs. J. B. Basnight presided in the absence of Mrs. Fleetwood.

A report from the Health Leader of each club was heard and the Council decided to sponsor a moving picture show in the near future.

Plans were also laid for a tour to Old Williamsburg during the summer, and it was decided that if enough members were interested in the trip, they would visit the Caverns of Virginia in the fall.

The Home and Garden Club gave a program. Mrs. Norman Elliott gave a talk on "Hobbies," and Mrs. Wilson Reed talked on "The Golden Touch." Mrs. William Tucker sang.

Miss Alice R. Tudor, director of the Virginia Electric and Power Company's Home Service Department, discussed Kitchen Arrangement with Council members.

Will Open Bids On Grammar School Work Saturday

The County Board of Education will open bids at two o'clock tomorrow (Saturday) on construction of the Hertford Grammar School alterations and auditorium addition.

Bids will be received until two o'clock on that day on three distinct jobs; (a) The General Construction and Electrical work. (b) The installation of the Heating System. (c) The installation of the Plumbing System.

According to Superintendent F. T. Johnson, secretary of the board, construction work will probably start at the Hertford Grammar School the following week, as soon as the school closes for the season.

TAKE 'EM TO PRISON AFTER DARK

First-Termers should be committed to the State's Prison only after dark.

To all outward appearances, Dock Phelps, Joe Roughton, Oscar Bogue and Shelby Casper, sentenced to serve not less than nine years among them, were average young men last Thursday afternoon—like the kind you see everywhere—until the forbidding walls and towers of the Central Prison in Raleigh came into view.

Then all kidding conversation among the four youths expired like a last drawn breath.

From the scene of their crime and the place of their trial in Perquimans County to the site of their new home in Raleigh is a four hour ride, but if morbid thoughts disturbed them, or if pangs of remorse stung them, Phelps, Roughton, Bogue and Casper are well served. Or rather, they are well served with the Prison after dark.

Then all pretense of bravado, if it was acting, was gone, and at that moment they conjured up nothing but pity in the two men whose duty it was to deliver them to the warden. At that moment they were nothing more than four scared youngsters getting for the first time the real significance of "two to three years at hard labor."

The first sight of the prison did it. Phelps, Roughton, Bogue and Casper, all between thirty and thirty years of age, were convicted of breaking and entering. Judge John J. Burney pronounced the sentence in Perquimans County Superior Court early in April, ten days after the crime took place.

The trip to Raleigh was a lark; they ate 25 hot dogs and four big apple-jacks at Bethel, washed down with four big bottles of soda pop; all of it bought by Sheriff J. Emmett Winslow of Hertford, who humanely saw no need to curb their spirits. He knew the let-down would come soon

Pavilion Nearing Completion; Soon Ready For Some Use

Sewer Line Still Where It Was; Pavilion Is Much Larger Than Appears From Distance

As soon as the paint dries in the pavilion out at the end of the boardwalk the new recreation pier will be ready for use. That is, it will be ready to walk on and sit down on and look at the river. The sewer line is just where it was at first—under the bathhouses and shore end of the pier.

River scenery enthusiasts have remarked that the harshness of the barn-like structure at the shore-end will probably be softened by weather after a spell, and then will fit better into the picture of the river.

Fixtures have not been installed in the bathhouses and locker rooms and shower rooms, but the shell of the whole layout is completed. The handrails are up, the stairways are down to the river at two different levels, attractively-arranged piles at the deep end jut up above the boardwalk floor inviting boats to tie up.

The open air pavilion at the far end is equipped with benches all around the four sides. It is much larger than it appears to be from a distance.

Electrical fixtures have not been installed, and steps leading to the pier from Grubb Street have not been built. It is understood that the river end of Grubb Street where it slopes down to the river shore will be filled in level with the boardwalk. The shallow levels of the river-bottom, two feet and less, are part sand base and suitable for bathing if one can ignore the presence of the sewer line. The river-bottom, where the water is deeper, is very muddy.

Attend Funeral Services Held In Elizabeth City

A number of people from Pender Road section attended the funeral services for Raymond Henderson, held in Elizabeth City, Wednesday.

Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Stallings, Mrs. R. A. Perry, J. B. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Harrell, Willie Manning Harrell, J. E. Eaves, Mrs. C. M. Umphlett, Louis Eaves and Miss Adelaide Eaves.

Burial was made at Wilson and was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Stallings, Mrs. Umphlett and Miss Eaves.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. William Overton announce the birth of a son, Luther James, on Friday, April 19th.

VACATION FOR TWELVE HUNDRED WHITE SCHOOL CHILDREN BEGINS NEXT FRIDAY

County Farmers Order 57,000 Pounds Austrian Winter Peas, Last Week

Orders went in last week for 57,000 pounds of Austrian Winter Peas, according to L. W. Anderson, county agent. That's 570 bags to cover individual orders for 225 Perquimans County farmers.

The peas will arrive here in May or June to be planted next September by farmers carrying out the soil-building program in order to get their conservation payments.

Perquimans County farmers, Mr. Anderson added, have used 2,100 tons of lime in meeting the requirements of the program. Lime was furnished by the Triple-A and amounted to between 40 and 45 carloads.

Low Income Farm Grower To Get Free Bed Mattresses

Part of Plan to Do Away With Nation's Cotton Surplus; Idea Started In Texas

Perquimans County is now included in a project to reduce the cotton surplus and provide free mattresses for farm families in the low income group.

The project, according to L. W. Anderson, county agent, started in five counties in North Carolina as an experiment. Launched originally in Texas by a home demonstration agent several months ago, the project is now expanding throughout most of the United States and through most of the counties of North Carolina.

Here is the way it works: When orders amounting to 120 mattresses are placed by farm families whose gross income totals less than \$400 a year, fifty percent of which is gained from direct agricultural pursuits, the Surplus Commodities Corporation will recognize an order from Perquimans County for 1,200 yards of ticking and 12 bales of cotton.

Miss Frances Maness, demonstration agent, and Miss Ruth Davenport, county welfare officer, according to Mr. Anderson, who is working on the project with the Triple A and the Extension Service, will handle the applications for free mattresses. They are not ready to receive applications yet, but probably will be within the next few weeks, Mr. Anderson said.

Accepted applicants will make their own mattresses; the sponsors will provide quarters, material and supervision and instruction. An expert in the mattress-making art will give instructions to the leaders in several nearby counties, who, in turn will instruct those to be in charge of the project.

Five or six NYA employees will be connected with the work; partly in instruction and partly in clerical work connected with the project.

The County will probably be asked to help with rent and lights and storage and other incidental expenses the project will incur, but the mattresses will reach the low income farm class at certainly no more than a dollar each, Mr. Anderson said, at no cost whatsoever, if possible.

Fifty pounds of surplus cotton will go into the making of each mattress.

One Hundred And Fifty Voters Registered

Mrs. B. G. Koonce, registrar for Hertford Township, had registered 150 eligible voters at noon Tuesday. One hundred and thirty of these had called at the courthouse and declared their party affiliations on Saturday. The other twenty had registered on Monday.

Mrs. Koonce is in the courthouse on Saturdays only, but says she will be glad to register anyone at any time and she can be reached at her home.

She says she is expecting to make a canvass of the part of Hertford Township outside the city limits. Hertford Township has been known to cast 800 or 900 votes; at the present rate, it is likely that considerably less than this number will register between now and the primary.

Mrs. W. E. White's was the first name registered.

Graduation Week Exercises Get Under Way With Baccalaureate Sermon Sunday Night

69 GRADUATES

Broughton Will Deliver Graduation Address; Negro Schools Closed Yesterday; Class Day Exercises Thursday

Twelve hundred Perquimans County schools children more or less, including little Vera Bright, who did better than ninety-five on every subject, and Joe Dope, who made the lowest averages ever recorded, will troop homeward May 10th to the usual four months vacation that leads back to the usual next term.

The baccalaureate sermon, to be preached by the Reverend R. F. Munns, pastor of the Hertford Methodist Church, will be delivered in the high school auditorium on the coming Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

School does not close then; the session is not officially ended until Mr. J. M. Broughton, Raleigh attorney, delivers the graduation address on the following Friday night, May 10th, also at 8 o'clock, according to Superintendent F. T. Johnson, head of all the county's schools.

Note that it's "J. M. Broughton, Raleigh attorney," not "J. M. Broughton, candidate for governor." It is the same Mr. Broughton, but this isn't a campaign speech.

This is the night of the graduation exercises, when Mr. T. S. White, chairman of the board of education, hands out diplomas and the speaker of the evening shakes hands with all the graduates. Last year it was Professor J. L. Memory of Wake Forest.

Class Day exercises are on Thursday night, May 9th. Diplomas have been ordered for 69 graduates. It isn't the largest graduating class in the school's history, it has graduated more than seventy, but it is one of the largest, according to Mr. Johnson. The number includes 42 girls and 27 boys.

The colored schools, the Hertford High School and the Winfall Training School, ended the current season last night (Thursday).

Eleanor Roosevelt To Talk (Over Radio) At P. T. A. Dinner

Dinner at Woman's Club House May 20 to Inaugurate Week of Project Visiting

The WPA dinner in Hertford, one of several thousand such dinner to be held throughout the United States on the evening of May 20th, will be served in the Woman's Club House on Academy Street at 7:30 o'clock.

A radio receiving set will be installed in the Club House for the occasion and tuned to a national chain hook-up for a speech by Mrs. Roosevelt, wife of the President, and other national figures who will speak at nine o'clock.

Mrs. B. G. Koonce is in charge of the program committee, and a short talk, it is understood, will be given by Mayor Vivian N. Darden. Every one is invited to attend the dinner. Mrs. P. H. Small is in charge of the ticket committee and has already placed the tickets on sale.

Among those who are especially invited to attend, are WPA workers, their families and friends, those who have sponsored WPA projects, and particularly, the community's merchants who feel that the program is benefitting the county.

May 20th and the dinner at the Woman's Club House marks the beginning of WPA Homecoming Week which closes on the 25th of May. During this week, it is understood, the WPA wants every one to visit the projects and to see just what is going on.

HELEN MAE WHITE CHOSEN MAJORETTE OF H. S. BAND

Miss Helen Mae White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. White of Hertford, was selected majorette of the Perquimans High School band on Monday.

Helen Mae is a member of the junior class. Selection was made by members of the faculty.