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PROCEEDINGS IN MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Criminal Docket Completed Late Wednesday; Begin Civil Calendar

The Martin County Superior Court, convening a two-weeks mixed term here last Monday, completed the criminal docket late Wednesday, resulting in a marked decrease in interest that reached a climax during the Ayers murder trial Wednesday afternoon. The trial of civil cases was started yesterday morning, the court grinding out solutions slowly but surely with Judge Walter Small, of Elizabeth City on the bench.

Hezekiah Briley, charged with assaulting one strong, robust man, Leroy Lloyd, was adjudged guilty and was sentenced to the roads for a period of from six to eight months. The trial of the case was started on Tuesday afternoon and completed Wednesday shortly before noon.

Willie Rollins, charged with larceny, was sentenced to the roads for a period of from 8 to 12 months.

Found guilty of receiving goods known to have been stolen, Harry James was sentenced to the roads for a period of 6 to 8 months and George W. Pope for a period of 8 to 12 months.

Found guilty of having carnal knowledge of a female under 16 years of age, Walter Gainer was fined \$150 and taxed with the cost.

Jeffery Taylor, guilty of non-support, drew from 20 to 24 months on the roads, the judge later suspending the road sentence upon the condition that he pay his wife and children the sum of \$6.50 each week during the next two years. Under the first provision, the court ordered the county to pay the defendant's wife \$7.50 each week. Bond in the sum of \$250 was required of the defendant.

Prosecutions following Judge Hunt Parker's investigation into the accounts of guardians, were closed this week when judgment was suspended in the case charging M. L. Bunting with embezzlement. The indictment against Bunting was about the only one that ever reached maturity as a result of Judge Parker's order for an investigation a year ago.

The case charging Jesse Hooker with bastardy was continued to the next term of court under the condition that the defendant pay to the court the sum of \$75 for the prosecuting witness.

The sentence of 3 to 5 years on the roads for John Whitefield, 16-year-old white boy, was altered, the judge ordering him entered in the Eastern Carolina Training School at Rocky Mount. Capias is to issue if the boy attempts to escape.

Completing the criminal docket Wednesday, the court called the civil action of A. D. Griffin, sr., and W. M. Hardison against F. L. Savage. The court ruled that the plaintiffs were not entitled to the possession of certain lands in question during this year.

A similar judgment was recorded in the action of Will Huff, agent, against Sam Moore, the defendant continuing in possession of certain lands this year.

Hervey Jenkins, colored, was granted a divorce against Essie Jenkins. The action was supported on two years of separation.

The court is now working on the case of Taylor against Hadley, involving a deed to certain property.

Spending more time than was expected in handling the criminal docket, the court is running behind its schedule.

Soon Comes Easter

By E. F. MOSELEY
If Easter doesn't mean more to us than parading our new clothes, or taking a holiday, we have misused it, even though we have not abused it.
Easter signifies victory! It marked the greatest victory in the life of Christ, and Christians celebrate that victory every year. But to get the most from Easter, every Christian must win the right for a celebration of victory by overcoming selfishness and sin in his own life. Christ's victory over temptation, over the evils of His day, over death itself, gives us in-

spiration and strength to do what we otherwise could not do.
The churches of Williamston cannot conquer you sin for you. But they do offer the aid of corporate worship and fellowship, thus making it easier for you to obtain a victory. This Sunday is Palm Sunday, and Holy Week follows. This is the most significant season in the Christian year. Attend the services in the Watts Theatre every day next week at the hour of noon, and finish the day by attending the night service in your church. Then Easter may mean more than a fashion parade, or a victory that you have not helped to win.

COTTON CONTROL

The Bankhead bill, a measure to control cotton production, passed the House of Representatives this week by a 251 to 114 vote. The bill levies a tax of 50 per cent upon the sale of all cotton not produced in accordance with reduction agreements. The bill is now awaiting Senate action.

Present indications point to the acceptance of the peanut as a basic crop and the compulsory control of tobacco production. A tax of 25 to 40 per cent, as compared with the 50 per cent for cotton, is being discussed today for tobacco.

REPORT MADE BY GRAND JURY

Quarterly Inspection of All County Property Made This Week

Making the quarterly investigation of county affairs and public affairs, the Martin County grand jury found five guardians and six justices of the peace failing to make necessary reports. According to the report of the jury, Guardians Sarah P. Roberson, George R. Roebuck, Alonza Gray, D. A. Moore, and W. V. Ormond had failed to make reports. A. Corey, C. L. Nelson, Pleny Peel, H. U. Peel, B. L. Gardner, and W. T. Meadows had not reported as justices of the peace, the report showed. Reports were listed from Justices of the Peace C. B. Riddick, N. W. Johnson, J. A. Davenport, N. S. Riddick, L. J. Hardison, C. M. Hurst, J. W. Hines and Mayo Grimes, and Mayors J. L. Hassell and N. W. Johnson.

Special Service in Local Methodist Church Sunday

C. T. Rogers, Pastor.
"Heaven in the Negro Spirituals," a special service, will be rendered at the Methodist church Sunday night by the chorus of the colored high school, led by Professor Hayes. You will enjoy this service.

This coming week should mean a great deal to Williamston. With all the churches holding services every night, services at the school every day and at the theatre at the mid-day hour, a feast of spiritual things is in store for all. Every member of the church must make an extra effort to attend church, for in so doing, not only you but others will be blessed. Don't make excuses this week, but let's all rally to this effort to help our community, home, and individual life. Don't lose what God has in store for you, for only a little while and you are going to need this blessing. Our slogan, "Every member present every night."

FISHERIES OPEN

Starting operations at noon on Wednesday, the Fleming Fishery at Jameville was said today to be making fair-sized catches. From 100 to 300 herring were caught each trip, it was reported.
The fishery had one of the best days for ahd yesterday it has had in several years for the early part of the season, Wendell Hamilton, Jameville merchant, said this morning. From 5 to 12 were taken each haul, he said.
A strong wind was backing the tide up the Roanoke this morning and operations may be suspended a while. Plans are now being made to start operations at the Camp Point plant next Monday.

FIRST SERVICE IN CHURCH WILL BE HELD TOMORROW

Hayes Swamp Primitive Baptists Complete New Structure

Recently organized, the Hayes Swamp Primitive Baptist congregation will hold its first service in the new church in Griffins Township tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock, followed by a second service on Sunday morning at the same hour, the members of the church extending a cordial invitation to be present upon these services and others to follow.

Elder B. S. Cowin, prominent minister of the Primitive Baptist faith, will occupy the pulpit, it was announced.

Following differences in the Smithwick Creek church and voted out by a margin of 1, seventeen members peacefully withdrew and organized a congregation of their own and immediately advanced plans for a house of worship. Selecting a site near the home of Messrs. W. E. and N. T. Tice, the little handful of members readily accepted the task of building a house of worship. By their own gifts and services, with the cooperation of others, the little group last week completed a sizeable church just a fraction smaller than the one at Smithwick Creek. From 8 to 10 men reported for work during 12 days, and the house was completed. And tomorrow the few members with friends will worship, holding malice against no one, but with the one aim of worshipping according to their own dictates.

Services will be held by the Hayes Swamp group each fourth Saturday and Sunday. The majority group of the old church will worship at Smithwick Creek at the same time, the conflict of services being unavoidable as the pastor was available only at that time. The minority faction of the old group will continue its worship each second Saturday and Sunday, it was learned.

The Hayes Swamp membership includes the following: J. J. Manning and Sam J. Lilley, deacons; Pleny Peel, W. E. Tice, Alonza Roberson, Byrd Ballard, N. T. Tice, Ephraim Peel, Mrs. Cornelia and Mrs. Rhoda Lilley, Mrs. Martha Rogerson, Mrs. Hattie Ballard, Mrs. Mattie L. Jenkins, Mrs. Barbara C. Roberson, Mrs. Mamie E. Roberson, Mrs. Laura M. Hadley, Mrs. Lydia M. Peel. The members are located in four townships, Griffins, Bear Grass, Williamston, and Cross Roads.

Jamesville Boys Form Junior Baseball Team

Last week, several days before spring officially started, Jamesville's young red-blooded boys were talking arrangements for a junior baseball team there for the fast-approaching season. Calling a meeting by the old grapevine method, the leaders discussed plans with fifteen boys.

John Leary Hassell was named to head the baseballers, and Luther Hugh Hardison was appointed to assist him as secretary. U. S. Hassell is captain and Eugene Ange is field captain. The boys are expecting a good season.

Program of Services At Baptist Church

Sunday morning the Baptist church, in cooperation with the other churches of the town, launches a series of services which terminate on Easter Sunday morning.

In addition to two services this Sunday there will be an evening service every night next week, except Saturday night. All evening services begin promptly at 7:30 o'clock, adjournment within the hour. And the public is most cordially invited.

Serve Hot Lunch To 55 Undernourished Children

Approximately 55 undernourished children are being served hot lunches daily in the lunch room operated in the local high school building. The project is being carried out by the Williamston Parent-Teacher Association with financial assistance from the welfare department and several individuals who have kindly made cash donations. During the first week of operation, March 12-16, two hundred and fifty-three meals were served at a cost of 9 cents per meal. Three hundred meals were served this week at a cost of approximately 5 cents per meal.

Trying To Secure Farm Colony For This Section

A committee from the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce is in Washington, D. C., this week appearing before the subsistence homestead division in an effort to have two or more of their homestead projects located in this section. W. C. Manning, a member of the committee, left here yesterday and is expected home tonight or tomorrow.

Program of Services At Hamilton Church Sunday

E. F. Moseley, rector.
Church school, 10 a. m.
Holy Communion and sermon, 11 a. m.
Evening prayer and sermon, 7:30 p. m.

Sam Ayers Is Acquitted of Murder Charge Wednesday

Seed Loan Applications Will Be Received Here Monday

The Enterprise has just received word that an emergency crop loan office will be opened in the courthouse here next Monday for the advancement of emergency (seed-feed loans), and farmers desiring loans should apply between the hours of 9 a. m. and 5 p. m.

Field Inspector Roy Hearn has made arrangements for the handling of applications, he said this morning.

HIGH SPOTS OF COURT WEEK

County Citizens Turn Out In Large Numbers for Proceedings

Martin County's citizens turned out in great numbers here the first three days of this week to hear and take part in the superior court proceedings, officers stating that the crowds were the largest to attend court here in several years. All available seats were taken and the aisles were filled much of the time during the time the criminal docket was being cleared.

While curiosity carried many spectators to the courtroom just to see the notorious criminal, Worth Proctor, an apparently interested crowd was on hand for the Sam Ayers murder trial Wednesday afternoon. Cars lined both sides of the narrow street for nearly two blocks, and pedestrians crowded the sidewalks from the court house to the business district.

The week had hardly started before a "medicine man" appeared on the scene with an overabundance of burnt cork on his face offering at sacrifice prices his cure-all. And he offered the court keen competition as an interest getter in that he, too, attracted large crowds. His sales were not so many, however, it is understood.

Market Variations In The Weather Experienced Here

Market variations in weather conditions in this section continue unabated, even though spring is here. Temperatures below 40 were reported at noon today, with indications pointing to rain or snow. Snow was said to have fallen this morning in Elizabeth City and other centers just to the north of here.

Announce Birth

Mr. and Mrs. George Hatton Gurganus announce the birth of a daughter, Barbara Hatton, on Monday, March 19, 1934, at their home here on Watts Street.

To Check Home Grown Against Foreign Seed

Home-grown Irish potatoes will be tested for seed in Yalick County again this season against Maine grown seed. The difference in yield, time of maturity, and other characteristics will be observed.

\$80,000 in Cotton Checks Delivered in Edgecombe

Over \$80,000 was delivered to Edgecombe cotton growers last week on their option contracts secured when they plowed up cotton last summer.

Anti-Rat Drive Here Begins To Show Effectiveness Signs

That Williamston's anti-rat campaign is progressing rapidly is evidenced by numerous attacks made by the rodents on lead-water pipes in many homes. Apparently suffering stomach agony, the rodents are said to have cut as many as 30 or 40 holes in one pipe for water.

W. E. Dunn, plumbing contractor who is said to have educated the rats in doing the common stunt, installed plumbing fixtures in a resident on Main Street last Saturday, and the following Monday he found it necessary to replace the lead piping. The rats had cut a number of holes in the pipe, some of which were large enough for the rodents to crawl through.

Reports from the wholesale rat killing drive indicate a thorough work, Mr. Carson, who is in charge of the work, stating this week that large quantities had been planted here and there throughout the town and that dead rats had been seen in large numbers.

WAS ACCUSED OF KILLING FARMER LAST DECEMBER

Jury Given Case Late Wednesday and Is Out Only Few Minutes

Sam Ayers, Martin County white farmer living in the Flat Swamp section, was acquitted in superior court here last Wednesday of the murder of Lyman Jones, Pitt farmer, near a Holiness church just a short distance from the Pitt-Martin boundary line last December.

The case, one of rather peculiar circumstances, placed little value on a dying man's declarations, the testimony of the defendant and his eight witnesses apparently receiving more consideration and this resulting in Ayers' acquittal. Relying mainly on the statements told Dr. J. E. Ward, Robersonville's Chief of Police William Gray and Thurman Williams, the State asked for a verdict declaring the defendant guilty of murder. There was little other evidence the State offered, the evidence of Ayers and his witnesses clearly branding Jones as a liar at death's door.

Removed to the doctor's office in Robersonville a short while after the shooting, Jones, apparently sober and in his right mind, told that Sam Ayers shot him. However, he explained there was no hard feelings toward one another as far as he knew, and Jones died declaring he held no malice for his alleged killer. Chief William Gray warned Jones to tell the truth as a false statement might send an innocent man to the electric chair. Jones reiterated the statement, claiming he was shot by Ayers.

The defendant had a great number of witnesses, but only eight were used. Taking the stand in his own behalf, Ayers made a fairly good witness for his cause. Although he did not appear to be of any too strong mind at the time, his answers were direct on both direct and cross examination, the man showing no excitement. While some of the man's actions on the night of the shooting sounded a bit peculiar, his explanation doubtless convinced the jury of his innocence.

The defense evidence was offered by eight witnesses in support of the statements of Ayers. According to the testimony of Jones' 12-year-old brother-in-law, Ayers was talking to him when the shot was fired 75 yards away. The boy stated that he noticed nothing peculiar in the actions of Jones, but that he could smell liquor on his breath. Other witnesses maintained that Jones was in a drunken condition, and that there was much excitement under way when they were trying to make arrangements to remove Jones from the churchyard and carry him home. A few minutes later Jones was found shot, and the theory of suicide was advanced, the solution being sustained in the court.

The suicide theory was further substantiated by the fact that Jones had one shoe and sock off, the defense maintaining that he removed the shoe and sock so he could work the trigger and fire a load of shot into his body from a small gun. Jones, just before he died, is said to have explained that he had the shoe off because his foot, injured in a motorcycle accident some time before, was hurting him.

Following the assumption of the defense that Jones was in a semi-conscious and dazed condition when he made the statement purporting that Ayers had shot him, Judge Small charged the jury for about five minutes and turned the case over to them. After deliberating for about 18 minutes, the body returned its verdict declaring Ayers not guilty.

Shaw Choral Society Pleases Large Crowd

Appearing in a concert in the colored high school auditorium here last Wednesday evening, Shaw University's Choral Society offered a very entertaining program made up of choruses, solos, and spirituals.

38 More CWA Workers To Be Dropped Today

Thirty-eight more men will be dropped from CWA rolls in the county after this week, it was learned this morning. The payroll this week will be about \$1,500, it is understood.

Postpone Appearance of Magician To Later Date

The appearance of Wallace the Magician, originally scheduled for March 27, at the high school auditorium, has been postponed due to conflict with church activities. Wallace, one of the best magicians and illusionists, will visit Williamston under the auspices of the Junior Class of Williamston High School as soon as a satisfactory date can be arranged.

L. T. Fowden Appointed To Postmastership Here

Leslie T. Fowden, acting postmaster here since last May, was appointed to the office yesterday by President Roosevelt. His name will be sent to the Senate in a few days for confirmation, it was stated.