

WATSON HEARING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, FEB. 26TH

Attorney Henry Hardison Notifies Georgia People Of Date for Plea

His execution date just two weeks away, Alvin W. Watson, convicted murderer of Thomas Holliday, young Robersonville man, last November, will have nothing said in his behalf before next Friday, it was learned today. Planning to address a plea for mercy to the parole commission in Raleigh today, his attorney, Henry D. Hardison, explained that the hearing had been postponed. Parole Commissioner Edwin Gill is ill, and some more work is yet to be done in preparing the plea, it was learned.

Late reports from Athens, Ga., where Watson's parents are known, state that interested friends there are raising funds to have a Georgia attorney assist Mr. Hardison in presenting the plea and urge the authorities to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment. The Georgia people have been advised when the hearing will be held, and it is thought that a review of the boy's life and that of the poverty-stricken family will be placed before the commission by the Georgia attorney.

A petition asking that the death sentence be commuted to life imprisonment is being prepared for members of the trial jury to sign, but early today all signatures had not been procured. The petition intimates that the jury did not believe Watson actually killed the man, that if it had been possible under the law the members of the body would have found the defendant guilty of a lesser crime and recommended life imprisonment. In the judgment of the court, the plea for mercy advanced by the jury at the conclusion of the trial is cited, and that will be called to the attention of the pardon board.

Aged Negro Beggar Finally Gives Up and Goes To Poorhouse

Abner Bennett Was First Believed Dead After An Absence of Few Days

Paralyzed, and without funds, relatives and friends, Abner Bennett, aged colored man, after dragging through the recent depression, finally surrendered the beggar's post and went to join 33 other inmates in the Martin County home a few days ago. While causing no alarm whatever, Abner's disappearance led those who had contributed dime after dime to help him keep soul and body together to think he had passed away. No such luck was Abner's. He is now enjoying life under the care of Keeper John Bland.

Old Abner had a standing invitation to enter the home year after year, but he deliberately refused to quit his begging post on the steps of a local bank for guaranteed keep at the expense of the county.

The old man, possessor of a record that is not at all good, practiced psychology in his begging. His victims, out of money because of the frequent donations, and almost out of patience with him because he refused to enter the county home after receiving special invitations, would shuck out a dime and even a quarter when cunning old Abner would explain that he was raising money to leave town. A quarter was considered a cheap price to be rid of the old codger for a while. He would raise fair sums of money, as far as money counts for beggars, and he would disappear, but never for longer than three days. At the end of that time Abner would come dragging back to his old begging post, declaring something had happened and he was forced to return. The old man would time these trips just far enough apart to get maximum returns, and if he had gone on half the trips he planned, there is no doubt but that the combined distances would have carried him around the world.

Abner Bennett may be lost in his new surroundings; his old victims are certainly lost without him.

The old negro is a hundred times better off now than when he begged for his daily bread and slept in coal bins or vacant houses by night. And if his admission to the county home is opposed by anyone, hundreds of his old victims, now his friends, can be depended upon to go before the honorable county commissioners to plead his case.

Poultry Car Will Be Loaded In County Towns Next Week

Martin farmers will make their second cooperative poultry shipment next week, beginning in Jamesville on Tuesday morning. Loadings will follow in Williamston on Wednesday, Robersonville on Thursday, and in Oak City on Friday.

The shipment next week faces a depressed market, but since there are no immediate indications pointing to improved conditions during the next few weeks, the office of the county agent decided to schedule

the loadings. Prices on colored hens are quoted at 14 cents, the market for other types of poultry remaining about the same. Last month, colored hens brought 16 cents a pound, but that price was considerably above the market at the time.

The county agent or no one else can tell what the market will do during March and April, but after a careful check, it is certain that the market quoted for next week is the very best available.

Health Service Likely To Be Discussed Soon; Program Is Explained

TOTAL SIX CASES TRIED IN COUNTY COURT MONDAY

Drunken Driver Given Suspended Sentence and Fined \$50

Judge H. O. Peel handled six cases in the county recorder's court last Monday, Senator R. L. Coburn prosecuting the docket for Solicitor W. H. Coburn, who was kept at home by illness.

Judge Peel "tightened down" on drunken automobile drivers, when he sentenced Mancy Doggett to the roads for three months for alleged drunken automobile driving. The sentence is to begin at the direction of the court and is suspended upon the payment of a \$50 fine and case costs. License to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for the usual period, one year.

Tom Jackson, charged with assault with a deadly weapon, was directed to pay a \$100 fine and costs or go to the roads for six months. He appealed to the higher courts, Judge Peel requiring bond in the sum of \$250.

Elisha Evans and James Slade, charged with carving Lazarus Williams, Williamston negro deaf mute, with a pocket knife, were found not guilty. According to the evidence, Williams forced his way into the home of his assailants.

The case charging Leamon Taylor with an assault was heard and continued under prayer for judgment. Taylor is alleged to have brutally assaulted Walter Bailey, Bear Grass man, the court continuing the case pending the outcome of the victim's injuries.

Bennie Franklin Currie pleaded guilty in the case charging him with drunken automobile driving and was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his operating license revoked for one year.

Failing to comply with a former judgment of the court in the case charging him with non-support, Mack Lewis, jr., was sentenced to the roads for a period of four months.

The court will not hold a session next Monday, Washington's Birthday, but will meet for the dispatch of business on March 1.

Sandy Ridge Citizens Add \$15.25 To Red Cross Fund

The Sandy Ridge Community over in Williams Township chalked up quite a record in raising funds for the relief of flood victims in the Ohio Valley. Contributing \$15.25, citizens of that community increased the total collection for the county chapter to \$627.83.

Names of those making donations are: Mr. and Mrs. Joshua L. Coltrain \$5; J. B. Lanier and sister, Miss Mamie Lanier, \$7; G. A. Williams, \$1; Grover Godard, L. G. Godard, Mr. W. W. Roberson, and W. L. Manning, 25c each.

Williamston All Stars Win Over Plymouth Five, 30-15

Williamston's All Stars last night defeated the Plymouth All-star aggregation in the Washington capital by a score of 30 to 15. Manning with 12 points, and Hopkins with 10 points, led the winners' attack, while Jimmie Brown paced the losers with 9 points. The victory last night was the fifth for the locals out of six starts.

Plymouth plays a return game here next Tuesday night, and on the following Friday night, the Norfolk Texaco Fire Chiefs come here to do battle with Ham Price's five. No admission will be charged for the Plymouth game.

Public Meeting May Be Held by Board of Health Next Week

All-time Health Program Will Make Available Needed Services

The establishment of a full-time health department for Martin County will be discussed at a meeting of the county board of health and interested citizens within the next few weeks, probably on next Thursday. The meeting will be open to the public, and present indications are that much interest will be shown in the proposed health service.

A county public health department program as outlined and approved by the State Board of Health would supply to the citizens of Martin County the following essential services:

1. School health supervision, including physical examination of school children for defects.
2. Immunization service will be offered by the county health department, providing for the control of smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever.
3. The perfection of an organization for the correction of physical defects, such physical defects to be corrected by competent physicians of the county.
4. The department will conduct an organization program to reduce maternal and infant deaths.
5. An adequate venereal disease and tuberculosis program will be carried out with the cooperation of the local medical profession.
6. The health department will conduct an educational and supervisory program which will go far toward correcting environmental sanitation, with particular emphasis on safe excreta disposal, malaria control, providing a pure and wholesome water supply, a pure milk supply, and pure food within the county.
7. The department will conduct epidemiological investigations and institute adequate, intelligent, and effective measures for the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases.
8. The public health nurses will visit homes of school children who are absent because of communicable diseases and in whom physical defects may be found, take such steps as may be necessary to prevent the spread of disease, and encourage the correction of physical defects. The nurses will also visit homes in the

(Continued on the back page)

Report Record Hog Shipments Recently

Hog shipping records reached an all-time high here during the past 10 days, Mr. D. M. Roberson, of Roberson's Slaughter House, stating today that the breeders were just about to flood the markets. The ninth carload of the porkers moved out of the local rail yards for the Richmond markets yesterday, the first moving out Monday of last week. Several additional carloads were slaughtered at the local plant.

While the pork supply for the nation as a whole is below normal, farmers in this section report the greatest number of hogs in half a dozen years or more. Profits have been above the average, present prices ranging around 9 1-2 cents f.o.b. Williamston. Reliable reports indicate that the hog market will hardly get back to normal before 1940, giving promise of an attractive business this year and possibly next in that field.

COURT DOCKETS NEARLY CLEARED HERE THIS WEEK

Justice J. L. Hassell Spent Most of Week Clearing Crowded City Docket

Court dockets, badly congested following the arrest of 22 persons during last week-end, are just about cleared, Trial Justice J. L. Hassell said this morning. The last of the cases will be heard today and tomorrow, making room for another deluge this week-end. When numerous law infractions take place all at one time, they ball the wheels of justice up, working the officers and courts overtime following periods of almost complete idleness.

Cases handled by Justice Hassell this week include the following:

James Eason and Ben Carr, charged with an affray, were released upon payment of the costs. Gus Knight, third defendant in the case, was found not guilty.

Drunk and disorderly. Jumbo Whitley, Burt Russell, and Walter Anderson were each fined \$2.50 and taxed with the costs.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of the costs in the cases charging Ronald Biggs, J. D. Ward and Teddy Jackson with being drunk.

Eli Evans was fined \$2.50 and costs in the case charging him with an affray.

A 30-day road sentence was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging Lester Williams with trespass.

Frank Mitchell, going to the court in an intoxicated condition to enter a complaint against another man, was picked up and ordered jailed.

Sam Hardison, charged with petty larceny, was given a hearing and bound over to the county court. Hardison, alleged to have taken about 7 pounds of meat from a store here, explained that he was hungry. Apparently the several hundred dollars received as a soldier's bonus is no longer.

Apparently directing a clean-up drive in the town, Mayor Hassell is said to have issued last warnings in several instances, but no charges were made, it was learned.

Robersonville Man Suicide Thursday

John W. Bailey, prominent Robersonville merchant, was found dead in a small outbuilding at his home there yesterday afternoon about 1:30 o'clock, death coming by his own hand. Mr. Bailey was last seen about 10 o'clock that morning, his daughter finding the body with a pistol bullet hole in his forehead. Following an investigation officers are said to have reported there was no doubt but that the man had taken his own life.

Mr. Bailey had been in failing health for several years, and the tragic act was attributable to that.

A native of Pitt County, Mr. Bailey, 47 years of age, moved to Robersonville about 18 years ago. He was in the Ford business for a few years, quitting that work to accept a position in Wilson. He later returned to this county and opened and operated a market in Robersonville. Besides his wife, he leaves three children.

Funeral services were conducted this afternoon by Rev. J. M. Perry.

District Bankers To Meet Here Monday

An interesting program for the annual meeting of the Group I bankers of the state bankers' association here next Monday afternoon and evening has been prepared, C. D. Carstaphen, cashier of the Branch Banking & Trust Co. here, said this morning. More than 100 bankers are expected from the counties in eastern Carolina, and a number of prominent financiers from other parts of the state will attend and take part in the program, it was announced.

A feature of the afternoon meeting in the high school auditorium at 3 o'clock will be an address by Dr. John B. Woosley, economics professor, University of North Carolina. Professor Woosley will have as his topic, "Recent Trends in Bank Assets."

Brief talks will be made by Mr. E. G. Flanagan, chairman of the state senate banking committee; Mr. E. Kerr, president of the North Carolina Bankers Association, and Mr. Paul P. Brown, secretary. The visiting bankers will be entertained at a banquet in the Woman's Club Hall that evening at 6:30 o'clock, with Mr. Edmund Harding as toastmaster.

MRS. H. ARCHIE JOHNSON DIES AT GOLD POINT

Funeral Services Held for Beloved Citizen Monday Afternoon

Mrs. H. Archie Johnson, greatly beloved citizen of Gold Point, died at her home there Sunday afternoon at 5:45 o'clock, following an illness of only a few days.

She was born in Pitt County 70 years ago, the daughter of the late John F. Whichard and wife, prominent family of eastern Carolina. She had lived in this county a long number of years, gaining the respect and high esteem of everyone with whom she came in contact. A devoted wife and mother, Mrs. Johnson was a good neighbor and citizen. She was long a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist church.

Besides her husband, who is quite ill, she leaves four daughters, Mrs. Minton Beach and Mrs. Marcellus Roberson, of Hobgood; Mrs. R. E. Turner, of Robersonville; and Miss Ernestine Johnson, of Robersonville; and five sons, Henry, Arthur, Paul, Joe and Jim Johnson, all of this county.

Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the late home by Rev. E. C. Shoe, pastor of the Robersonville Baptist church, Rev. J. H. Smith, pastor of the Williamston Memorial Baptist church; and Elder B. S. Cowin, of Bear Grass. Interment was in the family plot in Gold Point.

New Economy Auto Supply Store Opens For Business Today

Curtis Leggett Manager of New Firm Carrying More Than 2,000 Stock Items

Handling a complete line of automobile accessories, embracing approximately 2,000 separate items, the Economy Auto Supply, opened for business in the Staton Building on Main Street here today, three doors from the post office and next to Clark's Drug Store.

The store, one of several new business enterprises opening here in recent weeks, will be under the management of Mr. Curtis B. Leggett, until just recently connected with the Economy Auto Supply in Rocky Mount. He will have Bob Brown, jr., as his assistant.

The store will deal exclusively with a complete line of high quality auto accessories, tires, batteries and radio equipment. More than 1,600 items, covering every conceivable need in the automotive line, are carried in stock at all times. Mr. Leggett has just been appointed for Goodrich tires, batteries, and accessories; and these lines will be featured.

A feature of the set-up is the modern manner in which all merchandise is displayed. Every item is classified and so arranged as to make it as easy and convenient as possible for the patron to shop.

The management has extended a cordial invitation to the public to visit the store during the grand opening today and Saturday and inspect the attractive display arrangements and most unusual stock of merchandise found in this section of the county.

Resettlement Group In District Meet Here Today

A district meeting of the Resettlement Administration is in progress in the county courthouse here today with Geo. C. Wood, of Edenton, district farm supervisor, in charge.

Application blanks for loans are being studied, and other matters are being discussed, it was learned. Representatives are here from seventeen counties in this section.

State-Wide Bills Introduced By Legislators From County

State sterilization laws will be made more flexible if bills introduced yesterday in the state senate by Senator Robert L. Coburn are enacted into law, it is believed here. One of the two bills introduced by Mr. Coburn is to allow temporary admission of person into state institutions for sterilization of such persons. The second bill would make it permissible to sterilize persons in state institutions or on parole from them by petition of the county superintendent of public welfare.

In a bill introduced in the house

Large Tobacco Crop Is Forecast This Year If Compacts Are Failure

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO GET UNDERWAY HERE

Parents Are Invited To Be Present For Lectures To Begin Next Tuesday

By MARGARET OWENS
The mental health program, approved, sponsored and made possible by the cooperation of the local parent-teacher association and the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, begins next Tuesday morning in local schools. Mr. Harry V. Bice, psychologist, of Chapel Hill, will conduct the classes, beginning in the sixth grade and continuing on thru the high school.

Parents are invited and urged to be present during the entire course of lectures. The latter will be given for the sixth grade in room 6-A at the grammar school, and for the other grades in room 3-1 at the high school. Schedules will be given to the children so that parents will know what time to attend.

Williamston is fortunate in having such a program of mental health education launched in its schools and community. The entire phases of life and their interrelationships will be given scientifically and by one who is especially trained to do it. The physical growth and development, adolescence and mental development, attitudes toward sex, and other definite problems of a physical, mental and social nature will be discussed. It is hoped that these lectures will enable our boys and girls to meet their problems more successfully and prepare them for life's future demands.

Mr. Bice will be at the high school next Monday afternoon from 1 to 4 o'clock to have consultation with parents on any problem they may wish to talk with him about or to advise them more fully of the work to be done in the school for the week.

Setting Up Bases For 1937 Soil Plan

The task of setting up soil conserving bases for individual farms by townships and the county, as a whole, was started in this county today when community committees from Bear Grass and Hamilton Townships started a review of the records for their respective districts. Other township committees will handle the work next week, it was learned. Messrs. A. B. Ayers, Sidney Beacham and H. U. Peel, representing Bear Grass, and Messrs. C. L. Nelson and D. R. Edmondson, representing Hamilton, are here today working on the bases for their districts.

Just as soon as the base figures are definitely determined, farmers will be notified directly the minimum requirements for maximum participation in the program, it was learned. At least three weeks will be required to handle the work, it was unofficially learned.

Bear Grass Teams Win 16 Of 17 Games This Season

Bear Grass boys and girls won a double header from Aulander Wednesday night to end this year's schedule. The girls won, 25-13, with Rawls and Britton playing best.

The boys won, 46-8. Rawls led with 20 points.

Out of 17 games played this season, the boys have lost only one, that to Hobgood 24-17. The girls have won 13 out of 14, losing only to Robersonville, 20-18.

Congressman Kerr Forecasts Billion Pounds Bright Leaf

Ten-cent Tobacco Certain Is Effected This Year

"Unless the main producing states effect control through interstate compacts, there will be a billion-pound tobacco crop raised in the bright leaf belts this coming season," United States Congressman John H. Kerr predicted this week. Despite gloomy prospects of Georgia passing a compact law, efforts are still being made to save the tobacco farmer.

Growers in this county are uncertain in their plans for the 1937 plantings. If the compact control is effected, most of them will go in for it. If there is no compact control, a goodly number will participate in the soil conservation program, but there will be others who will increase their acreages and tend to cause an overproduction of the crop.

Kerr addressed a letter to Representative Braswell Dean, Alma, Ga., expressing concern about the attitude of the Georgia legislature toward enacting compact legislation similar to Virginia and North Carolina statutes.

He called upon Dean, whose congressional district produces the largest amount of flue-cured grown in Georgia, to use his influence with the state legislature.

Kerr said he had been informed "the reason the Georgia legislature hesitates to enter the proposed compact is that no restraint would be placed upon the Florida growers of flue-cured tobacco."

"In my opinion, this need not be seriously considered, for the reason that the growers of flue-cured tobacco have never produced more than 1 per cent of this type of tobacco," Kerr wrote.

"Should the four large producing states, namely Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia go into this compact and regulate production to the industry's demand the Florida growers of tobacco for the next 10 years could not materially affect the results of this proposed legislation."

Predicting a billion pound crop, which he said would not bring more than 10 cents a pound, Kerr said:

"It would be a disastrous mistake for the state of Georgia to break down this compact and impoverish farmers who, through their unselfish cooperation and the assistance of the federal department of agriculture, and these compact statutes could regulate their production and vouchsafe for themselves a profitable price for one of the great industries of our republic.

"To break down this compact will cost the Georgia tobacco growers \$15,000,000, and that is nearly 10 times as much as the Florida crop is worth."

Woman Hog Thief Is Latest in Crime

Five hogs, weighing about 100 pounds each, were killed and stolen from the barn of Arthur Shaw, farmer living a mile from Williamston on the Everett road some time during Wednesday night.

Parking their car at the edge of a field more than 300 yards from the barn, the thieves went to the barn, where they apparently killed the five hogs with an axe. The hogs were then carried about half the distance back to the car and dragged the remainder of the way. At least two persons, one a woman with a petite foot, helped drag the dead hogs to the car.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, called to investigate the case, was completely baffled when he found the tracks made by a small woman's shoe. Several suspects have been examined, but no arrests have been made as yet.

Methodist Church Society To Meet Next Wednesday

The meeting of the Methodist Woman's Missionary Society scheduled for next Monday afternoon has been postponed and will be held next Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the church, Mrs. J. W. Watts announced this morning.