

## 32 CIVIL ACTIONS SET FOR TRIAL IN SUPERIOR COURT

### \$65,000 Suit Against Corey Again Filed for Trial During Term

The Leavister - Andrews cases against J. Lloyd Corey have been booked for trial during the two-week term of Martin Superior Court convening next Monday, the county bar association placing 32 civil cases on the calendar for trial following the completion of the criminal docket next Tuesday. Judge Paul Fritzel, of Snow Hill, is scheduled to preside over the term.

Other than that centering around the \$65,000 suits brought by Administrators of John Leavister and Marshall Andrews, there is little interest in the civil actions scheduled for hearing, beginning Wednesday of next week.

The Leavister - Andrews cases against Corey have quite a long history, and they are not without high spots. Young Leavister and Andrews were killed instantly in a truck-car collision near Robersonville in September, 1934. Ollie Page, colored driver of the truck, was immediately charged with manslaughter but pending the trial of the \$65,000 suits, his case has never been tried. Hearing the civil cases against Corey in March, 1935, Judge Clayton Moore set the verdict aside when the jury allowed damages in the sum of \$400 after finding Page negligent. The case was continued for on reason or another until last September, when Judge Henry A. Grady called it for trial. Several hours were spent on the trial of the case at that time, but the judge, for some indefinite reason, ordered a continuance. The case was not set for trial last November and a heavy criminal docket crowded the action off the docket during the one-week term of mixed court in December. And there is some doubt now if the case will be cleared from the docket this coming term.

The civil calendar recently prepared by the county bar carries the following cases:

Wednesday, March 17: Long vs. Long; Smithwick vs. Waters; Rogers vs. Bailey; Matthews vs. James; Hyman vs. Matthews.

Thursday, March 18: Keel et al vs. Taylor; Bank vs. James; Griffin vs. Perry; Keel vs. Roberson.

Monday, March 22: Andrews, Administrator, vs. Corey; Leavister, Admr., vs. Corey.

Tuesday, March 23: Fertilizer Co. vs. Brown; Bank vs. Everett; Fertilizer Co. vs. Edwards; Fertilizer Co. vs. Bray; Roberson vs. Edmondson; Fertilizer Co. vs. Everett; Roberson vs. Town; Slade vs. Peterson.

Wednesday, March 24: Fertilizer Co. vs. Parker; Fertilizer Co. vs. Caraway; Fertilizer Co. vs. Mills; Fertilizer Co. vs. Lewis; Fertilizer Co. vs. Wingo; Winslow vs. Crisp; Rolax vs. Norman; Clemons vs. Coffield; Briley vs. Roberson.

Thursday, March 25: Hollis vs. Hollis; Shields vs. Johnson et al; Peterson vs. Peterson.

## Petitioners Oppose Anti-Trapping Law

A petition in circulation in this county yesterday and today will be filed in Raleigh tomorrow against a proposed law to stop all trapping in this county during the next four years. Only last week interested parties were circulating a petition in support of the proposed bill to outlaw trapping.

The counter petition pointed out that the bill, as proposed, would effect Martin County only, that trappers could continue operations in near-by counties and take considerable numbers of fur-bearing animals raised in this county. It was also pointed out that the trapping meant much to a number of people who followed that trade for a livelihood.

## Sparrow Wanders Long Distance From His Home

Tagged by M. V. Beak, at Elm-rust, Long Island, N. Y., in October, 1935, an English sparrow was recently killed by Maurice Roberson in the Farm Life section of Griffin Township a week or two ago. Several of the birds, tagged under the direction of the U. S. Biological Survey, have been killed in this section, but the Beak sparrow is believed to have established a record distance in his wanderings.

While the bird met with its own misfortune, it exercised rare judgment in locating in that district because knee-deep mud had stopped the modern auto and returned the "good old horse-and-buggy days."

## Liquor Stores To Retain Same Hours, Pending State Action

No immediate change is expected in the hours liquor stores stay open in this county, it was learned following a meeting of the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board here last night. While several counties are now holding their stores open until 9 o'clock each evening under the provisions of the recently passed county option liquor law, V. J. Spivey, chairman of the Martin County Board, explained that the meeting last night preferred to await uniform action by the State board, yet to be appointed.

Chairman Spivey stated, however, that the longer working day would be considered by the board in a special meeting if stores in all adjoining wet counties adopt the longer schedule before uniform action is directed by the State commission.

The board chairman also explained that it might be possible to limit the longer schedule to the two stores in Williamston and Robersonville, and add no additional hours to the schedule at Oak City and Jamesville, where each store has only one employee.

## Legislature Plans To Adjourn Next Week

### TAKE ACTION

While Martin County people and others are talking about condemning Senator Josiah W. Bailey's stand against President Roosevelt's court plan, Bertie people last week took action. Petitions, circulated in sections of the county across the way, carried hundreds of names and made it plain that the people there think little of the Senator's actions against Mr. Roosevelt and his proposed plan for reorganizing the United States Supreme Court.

Senator Bailey's office is two weeks behind in acknowledging complaints made by people all over the State. He is hiding behind something he claims is in the "platform."

## Seniors of Oak City Planning Trip Soon; Other School News

### Coach C. R. Edwards Starts Spring Baseball Practice There This Week

The senior class of Oak City High School will present its play, "Crashing Society," there Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock. The play, getting its foundation when a small-town family inherits a fortune and goes to the city to break into society, has the promise of being one of the most entertaining ever presented there. A small admission will be charged to offset expenses. Plans have just been completed by the seniors for an annual trip, the pupils, after giving much time and thought to the event, agreeing to march on Richmond the 2nd of next month. Other points were considered, but to keep the expenses within the reach of everyone, the seniors agreed to visit the historic points in and around Richmond.

Members of the home economics classes are making rapid progress in their work, which is now centering around the kitchen, the pupils of the eighth grade preparing breakfasts and turning the kitchen over to the ninth graders for the preparation of luncheon. Both grades are aiding the hot-lunch program in cooperation with the WPA.

Coach C. R. Edwards is now busy shaping up his baseball prospects for the coming season, and is anxious to effect a complete schedule with teams in near-by centers. The basketball season was virtually ruled out this year by weather conditions, but the athletic program promises to create interest.

## Four Persons Hurt In Accident Sunday

Their car wrecked beyond repair when it turned over several times on a curve near George Williams' filling station between here and Jamesville early Sunday evening, Joe Clark, Junior Godley and Misses Louise and Lillie Jane Latham, all of Chocowinity, were painfully bruised but not seriously hurt. Godley suffered a bad cut on his nose and Louise Latham was said to have suffered a slight fracture of the skull. The four young people were brought here, where they were treated by Dr. W. T. Winn.

Clark, owner and driver of the car, stated he was blinded by the lights of another car and ran off the concrete, losing control of his own machine when it struck the soft shoulder. The four people were thrown from the car at the same spot where little Peggy Hardison was run down and killed about two years ago.

## Work Is Completed On Most Important Bills Before Group

### Homestead Exemption Is Voted Down Monday By Committee

North Carolina's legislature struck a real relief note last week when it virtually agreed to quit Raleigh on Thursday of next week. There are many who believe the state would be better off today if the politicians had not met at all. With few exceptions, the legislature was just another "yes" group, baited along with an occasional and insignificant pet issue that meets with general approval of a sucker public.

All the major bills have been handled or are in the process of handling, and the lawmakers are faced with the task of cleaning up their desks and learning what they have and haven't done since back yonder in early January. Some are of the belief that the people are going to wake up and learn they have not been treated so well, that a continued sales tax and a tax on land will remind them of that fact.

A flood of local bills filled the hoppers to overflowing in both branches of the assembly during the past few days, most of them passing without notice.

The North Carolina divorce law, based on two years' separation was liberalized, and under the new ruling mutual consent is not necessary. A large percentage of the divorces granted under the old two-year plan are not legal as mutual consent was never mentioned, it is understood. Complete terms of the new bill are not known here, but it is not believed that any effort was made to validate the divorces.

Representative H. G. Horton plans to introduce the educational omnibus bill this week, appointing members of county boards of education.

A reduction of 10 cents a hundred weight in the cost of licensing automobiles is being considered, the bill placing the new rate at 30 cents.

A proposed amendment to the state constitution, which would have abolished capital punishment in North Carolina, was killed by the senate Monday.

Contrary to the action of the people when they favored a homestead exemption last November, the exemption of \$300 was voted down in committee, and a governor-appointed commission was asked to "study" the question.

## Funeral for Prominent County Man Saturday

Funeral services, attended by nearly 2,000 people, were held for R. A. Bailey, retired Robersonville tobacco warehouseman and business man, in the Primitive Baptist church in Robersonville last Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Bailey, 66 years old, was found dead in a small woods near Robersonville last Friday afternoon, a bullet wound in his throat. "My troubles are more than I can bear," was written in a small memorandum book, the note bearing his signature. Mr. Bailey had been in declining health ever since his wife died some time ago.

## Make Plans to Beautify County Building Grounds

Miss Pauline Smith, acting specialist in landscaping the home grounds, was in the county last week assisting the home and farm agents in the planning of the grounds in front of the courthouse and agricultural building. Plans were drawn up with suggested placing of shrubs and trees.

## MAN SERIOUSLY INJURED WHEN TRAIN HITS AUTO

### Nathaniel Coltrain Suffers Three Breaks in His Back Saturday

Struck by an Atlantic Coast Line freight train as he was driving a truck across a little-used grade crossing just this side of Gardner's Creek early last Saturday afternoon, Nathaniel Coltrain, young white boy, is in a Washington hospital with his back broken in three places and other less serious injuries. Last reports from the hospital state the boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Horton Coltrain, of Williams Township, is getting along as well as could be expected. Chances for his recovery were considered doubtful soon after he was struck by the train.

The train, traveling toward Williamston, plowed into the truck, striking the door at the side of the boy and whipping the machine into a V-shape before knocking it into a grass field on the side of the track. Witnesses stated the engineer apparently sensed the collision and applied the emergency brakes on the engine, stopping the train in a comparatively short distance.

Coltrain, complaining with his back when members of the train crew and others started to lift him into a car for removal to a doctor here, asked them to stop and he crawled into the car on his hands and knees. After receiving first-aid treatment here he was carried to a Washington hospital.

The truck, said to have belonged to the W. I. Skinner & Co., was demolished.

## Hauger's Contract Received by Local Baseball Officials

### Reorganization of Team In Arkansas Not Likely To Affect Contract Here

Art Hauger, Minnesota man and old baseball hand, was officially announced under contract to manage the Martins here this coming season, R. H. Goodman, president of the local baseball club, stating that he believed the Bentonville (Ark.) club had surrendered its contract with Hauger. The contract was signed by Hauger last Saturday, and in letter to the club president here he stated that contracts could be expected with at least six members of the Bentonville club.

After surrendering its franchise several weeks ago, the Bentonville club reconsidered and is planning to support a team again this season. The action gave rise to the question as to whether Hauger would be released. The contract with the Martins was signed by Hauger after Bentonville merchants announced their plans to support a team this coming season.

Contracts with other players are coming in almost daily, and the team personnel will be contracted in its entirety within the next week or 10 days, it is believed.

President Goodman has been named a member of a committee to prepare a schedule, the season to open on or about May 10.

## Picture Exhibit at School Next Week

An exhibit of 150 of the finest reproductions of recognized masterpieces of art will be placed on display in the Williamston High School building next week, Principal L. W. Anderson announced today. The exhibit will be open to the public at a small admission, Mr. Anderson stating that instructors will make available descriptive material.

In making the announcement, Mr. Anderson said "It has been the privilege of students and the general public to enjoy the masterpieces of music and literature for generations; but an enjoyment of the masterpieces of art has, until very recently, been restricted to those who were wealthy enough to travel throughout the world, visiting the museums in which the original paintings hang."

"Recent improvements in color photography and printing now make it possible to bring the art of the world to even our smaller towns and villages through the medium of faithful reproductions. These reproductions are true to the originals in all respects, with the possible exception of size. Even the most delicate variations in color are maintained. In most instances the brush-strokes in the original picture are clearly discernible."

## County Board Orders Complete Revaluation of All Property in County at Special Meet Monday

### Sheriff Finds Want Ad Very Effective Medium for Results

Advertising last Friday for one or two old hounds for fox hunting, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck woke up early Saturday morning and was firmly convinced that advertising pays when he looked out on his front porch and found a half dozen or more hounds tied to the railing. Just a three-line want ad was used, but that was sufficient to get enough dogs for the sheriff to use a fresh one each week-day morning.

The want ad was mailed in,

and the officer declares he knew nothing about his need for more dogs. The sheriff believes "Toodle" Holding wanted the dogs, but was ashamed to advertise for them in his own name because he had about half hundred on hand already.

Sheriff Roebuck and Holding enjoy fox hunting something terrible, but common thieves in the county don't rest long at a time, and the officer seldom finds time to indulge in the sport.

## List Takers Named For Each Township; Start Work April 1st

### List-takers, Assessors And Commissioners To Hold Meeting Monday

A revaluation of all real property was ordered for Martin County by the board of commissioners in special session here yesterday, the authorities reserving rights to make final adjustments and consider a horizontal reduction or horizontal increase in values when they convene as a board of equalization and review.

The commissioners first considered ordering a horizontal increase in all real property values and effecting equalizations on that basis. The method of procedure now is to revalue, using present values as a working basis for any changes. The official order of the commissioners reads as follows: "Re-list all real estate on revaluation sheets and to appoint three men in each township to examine the list and to equalize values, using the present standard of values, the commissioners reserving the right, when sitting as a board of equalization and review, to make any final adjustments and make horizontal reductions or increases in total valuation of real estate as, in their discretion, to be to the best interest of the county."

Uncertain that a horizontal increase in values would include corporation properties, the authorities at the Monday meeting, ruled against the first plan to order the increase and adjust values on that basis. And no such increase is expected, which means the tax rate will not be affected other than possibly by a slight gain in values.

The personnel for handling the listing and revaluation, by townships, is as follows, the names of the list-takers coming first and those of the assessors following:

- Jamesville: O. W. Hamilton, Linwood Knowles and J. F. Martin.
- Williams: Lucian Hardison, Joshua L. Coltrain and C. L. Daniel.
- Griffin: George C. Griffin, Sylvester B. Lilley and James L. Coltrain.
- Bear Grass: A. B. Ayers, W. O. Peel and C. U. Rogers.
- Williamston: H. M. Burras, John D. Lilley and Luther Peel.
- Cross Roads: G. G. Bailey, H. D. Peel and J. S. Ayers.
- Robersonville: H. S. Everett, J. R. Winslow and T. L. Roebuck.
- Poplar Point: L. G. Taylor, W. S. White and Mayo Hardison.
- Hamilton: L. R. Everett, F. L. Haislip and D. R. Edmondson.
- Goose Nest: J. A. Rawls, J. T. Daniel and H. A. Early.

The list-takers and assessors are to meet with the tax supervisor and county commissioners next Monday, when plans will be formulated for handling the work.

Considerable attention is being given the task, and, while it will be next to impossible to handle the work in perfect fashion, the commissioners have shown that they plan to do all in their power to improve the system and eliminate many inequalities that have existed for several years.

A casual review of the present values on the books shows some startling inequalities, and there is no doubt but that some townships have a higher valuation than others. In one township, plows and all the farming implements were valued at less than \$50 on a 10-horse farm. In another district a piece of property valued at approximately \$1,500 sold for \$5.00 cash, and another piece, valued at more than \$5,000 on the tax books, and sold on the same day and in the same section, brought around \$1,750. It is the purpose and aim of the commissioners to eliminate such apparent inequalities in taxable values.

## Local Attorney Recovering In a Richmond Hospital

His right leg amputated just below the knee a week ago last Saturday, Attorney W. H. Coburn was able to be up in a rolling chair last Sunday, reports stating that his condition was much improved and that he was recovering rapidly in the Richmond hospital, where he has spent considerable time. Doctors started closing his leg wound yesterday, and he is expected home in about two weeks.

## New Bill Is Introduced For Highway Refunds

### Is Almost Certain To Meet Opposition of Road Commission

### New Bill Is Compromise In Claims Formerly Filed By This County

Still working for refunds due this and other counties by the State Highway and Public Works Commission, Senator R. L. Coburn now has a bill before the legislature directing the commission to reimburse the counties for all the money advanced for highway construction after the commission took over the highways. The opposition has effected some clever maneuvers, however, and there is little hope for the passage of the bill or any other bill that is advanced to correct an apparent injustice.

This and other counties first entered claims for all money advanced the highway commission, but getting nowhere with those claims, Senator Coburn and others decided to push for a refund of those moneys advanced after the commission took over the highways. In other words, Martin County first asked for a refund of approximately one-half a million dollars. Under the terms of the present bill, the county considers it will do well to get a little over half the amount, or around \$300,000.

The bill, introduced by Senator Coburn, was placed before the governor, and it was reliably learned that he expressed no objection to its passage. There is doubt, however, if he will lend the measure any material support. It is certain, however, that the commission will oppose the bill.

Carrying their claims to the commission and gaining hardly more than recognition at the hands of that body, the people of the counties having what they earnestly believe to be valid rights to refunds are expected to make a political issue out of them unless the commission changes its attitude.

## Begin Operation of Seines Next Monday

Plans are going forward rapidly for starting seine fishing operations at Jamesville next Monday, Mr. C. C. Fleming, owner and operator, said today. Prospects are brighter now for a successful season than in several years, the large-scale fisherman explained. Last year, operations did not get underway until the 27th day of April. A late spring and high water all but wiped out the season.

The spring-like weather prevailing for the most part during the past week is bringing the fish up the stream in fairly large numbers for this early period of the season. Several shad have been taken from the waters at Jamesville, and herring are now going on the market.

## Firemen Called To Home Foot River Hill Today

The local volunteer fire company was called out at noon today to the home of Bessie Simmons at the foot of the river hill. Starting from sparks, the fire burned only a small hole in the roof, causing little damage. The house is owned by Colfax Speller, colored man.

## SUIT FOR \$50,000 IS OUTGROWTH OF AUTO ACCIDENT

### Case of Windsor Road Accident Victim Is Moved From Pasquotank

A damage suit for \$50,000 was filed in the Martin County Superior Court a few days ago by R. Howard Stone against Walter Fisher, colored truck driver, and W. I. Skinner & Co., Inc. The suit, first filed in the Pasquotank County courts, was moved here upon petition of the defense, it is understood, and is likely to be calendared for trial next month.

The complaint maintains that Stone, a Charlotte young man, was critically and permanently injured early Sunday evening on March 1, 1936, when a truck of the defendant crashed into the car in which Stone was riding between here and Windsor. One eye of the plaintiff was torn from its socket by a board ripped from the side of the truck trailer, the board, after striking Stone, who was riding in the rear seat of the car, passing out the back window.

Represented by Worth and Horner, the defense maintains that the driver was operating the truck without its knowledge and without permission, that no cargo was carried for the company at the time of the accident.

## Negroes Engage in Free-for-All Fight

Mayor J. L. Hassel issued an open warning in his court last night to the operator of Payton's poolroom (colored) on Washington Street here, stating that the place would be closed if any more trouble takes place there. The warning was issued following a free-for-all fight there last Saturday night. James Ruffin, Harvey Bryant, Brad Bagley and George Ruffin, all colored, fell victims of the law and were fined \$2.50 and taxed with the costs for participating in an affray.

William Smith, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon on Fannie Purvis, both colored, was bound over to the county court for trial under a \$50 bond. Evidence offered at the hearing last night was that Smith drove a knife blade into the woman's shoulder and then broke the blade from the knife-handle.

Charged with public drunkenness, Galvin Hyman was fined \$2.50 and taxed with the cost.

## Free Movies for Farmers Here Saturday Morning

An entertaining and highly interesting talking picture will be shown free to farmers of this and surrounding counties in the Williamston High School auditorium at 10:30 o'clock Saturday morning. Brought here by the Lindsley Ice Company, John Deere dealers, the picture centers around the following topics, "The Blacksmith's Gift," "Her Husband's Choice," "From One Anvil," and "What's New in Implements." Tickets are issued free by the Lindsley Ice Company, and all are invited to see the picture.