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Superior Court To Hold Short Term Beginning Monday

Criminal Docket Is Said to Be the Shortest in Many Years

Hardly before judgments could be entered from the special two weeks term, the Martin County Superior court is convening again next Monday. This time it will center its attention on the trial of criminal cases, but it is likely that a few civil actions will be handled during the session that is slated ordinarily to last one week.

The docket scheduled for consideration by the court next week is one of the shortest in many years, some stating that there are fewer cases set for trial during the term than in any other period they could remember. Unless there are additional cases between now and next Monday morning, it is likely the court will complete its work in a single day and adjourn for the term. There are no cases approximating sensationalism, and if crowds attend the court it will be more out of a habit than anything else, it is believed.

Wednesday morning there were only half dozen cases on the docket, as follows:

Roosevelt Taylor is charged with the forgery of a check on Will Hardison, Griffins Township farmer. Charlie Clark and S. T. Hunter are charged with larceny. S. Y. Young and Geo. Beck are facing breaking and entering charges, and Carl Lee Norman, young Robersonville boy, is charged with hit and run driving. Failing to comply with a judgment of the superior court in session last September, F. N. Caldwell, charged with embezzlement, is slated to appear before the court next week.

The case against Beck, Jamesville policeman, is said to have been the result of an investigation conducted by the officer in connection with the disappearance of a colored man in that section last October, and it is believed there is little to the charge.

The case charging young Norman with hit and run driving was scheduled for trial last September but was continued. Struck by Norman's car, near the county home last September, a colored man named Williams, was fatally injured. The youngster, unnerved and greatly excited, continued on his way, but later surrendered to officers.

It is not likely that the case growing out of the shooting of Willie Padgett by Clayton Beacham, near Jamesville, last Friday night, will reach the court next week. Action in the case is being delayed pending the outcome of Padgett's wounds.

Judge J. Clawson Williams, of Dunn, is scheduled to preside over his first term of Martin County Superior court starting next Monday, but it is possible that an exchange will be effected and another judge will preside.

During the two weeks special term of court ending last Saturday, only eight cases were cleared from the calendar and four of them were divorces.

Sizeable Robbery Reported In Bethel

Merchandise, valued at \$1,500 was stolen from the M. O. Blount store in Bethel early last Tuesday night, reports from the sheriff's office in Pitt County stating that no arrests had been made in the case at noon today.

Officers are making a wide search for the stolen goods, but as far as it could be learned here today no clue has been uncovered.

The robbers are said to have stolen 25 men's suits, 25 ladies' dresses, 60 dozen pairs of hose and many undergarments.

Openings For Martin Youths In CCC Camps

The Civilian Conservation Corps has openings for a number of Martin County youths in its service, and the department of welfare will receive applications during the next few weeks for places in the camps, Miss Mary Taylor, welfare head, announced today.

Any young man wishing to enter the service is directed to file his application with the welfare authorities as early as possible. No quota has been assigned this county, and it isn't likely that the service will be able to receive as many young men as it did last October. At that time, 28 young men, 17 white and 11 colored, entered the camps from this county.

Christmas Cheer Movement Gaining Momentum Locally

The Christmas Cheer movement gained momentum here this week as the sponsors virtually completed plans for handling the task. Headed by Rev. E. F. Moseley as chairman, treasurer, a committee composed of the ministers of the town and Messrs. C. B. Clark, Jr., Reg Simpson, Bud Crockett, D. N. Hix and J. C. Manning, swings into action to assure the movement's success.

Tentative plans are to collect discarded toys this afternoon; conduct a repair period by the members of the volunteer fire department; collect sufficient funds to finance the purchase of fruits and food, and assign the distribution task. Messrs. J. C. Manning and D. N. Hix are to investigate needs, and report their findings. They will be glad to have interested neighbors point out to

them needy and deserving cases. The county welfare department is to assist the preparation of the list.

The collection of toys gets underway this afternoon. Anyone who was not reached and who has old toys to give to the cause are asked to call 46, The Enterprise, for a messenger. Firemen and others have promised their services in handling repairs.

The urgent need now is the soliciting of donations. "We have made a preliminary investigation, and the need is great," a member of the committee said yesterday. It is not the desire to burden any one with appeals, but it is earnestly hoped that our people will participate willingly and liberally in the movement. It is a community undertaking in your community, and everyone is urged to support it.

WARNING

The promiscuous shooting of fireworks in the business districts and in local streets was warned against by Chief of Police W. B. Daniel here this week. Several youngsters have been carried before Mayor J. L. Hassell during the past day or two, but no fines have been imposed so far. "We are trying to play fair with the boys, and as long as they exercise care and discretion in shooting them, we will not make arrests," the officer said.

Shooting of popcrackers and other fireworks in the business districts just will not be tolerated, the officers warn.

Funeral Services for Sylvester S. Davis Held In Jamesville

Farmer, 69 Years Old, Died Last Tuesday Evening

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the late home in the Poplar Chapel community of Jamesville Township for Sylvester S. Davis who died there Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock. Mr. Davis had been in declining health for a number of months, but pneumonia developing just a few days ago, was the immediate cause of his death.

The son of the late Ashley and Betsy Gardner Davis, he was born in this county in 1868, and was approaching the age of 70 years. In early manhood he was married to Miss Sarah Harrison and she with two children, J. H. Davis and Mrs. H. H. Holliday of this county, survives. He had farmed all his life, living peacefully among his fellowmen in the Poplar Chapel community where his father and his father's father lived before him. Mr. Davis had many friends in this section, and was held in high regard by all who knew him. He was a leader in his community for many years, and was unusually active until his health began to fail a year or more ago. He was the last member of a big family.

Rev. R. B. Hope, Washington minister, conducted the last rites which were largely attended yesterday afternoon. Interment was in the family plot on the old Davis farm, near his late home.

Officers Wreck Liquor Plants In This County

Special enforcement officers, headed by J. H. Roebuck, wrecked two liquor plants in the county this week. One plant, was wrecked and three barrels of beer were poured out in the Hassell section.

A hot time was reported Wednesday in the Free Union section when operators of a plant there were signaled the officers were on another ramp. The plant was running full blast, but the operators jerked the kettle from the fire and made a get away with the hot thing. The plant was wrecked along with nine barrels of beer.

Several Schools To Have Long Christmas Holiday

Several schools, Williamston, Everetts, Robersonville and Gold Point, will have a long Christmas holiday, according to information received here this week. These schools will close the 21st and reopen on January 3. Other schools plan to close the same day and reopen on December 29.

Eighty Workers Are Placed By Local N.C. Employment Office

District Lists 198 New Registrations for the Past Month

More than eighty people were placed in jobs by the Williamston office of the N. C. State Employment service during the past five weeks, in both public and private employment, in the five counties served by the office—Martin, Beaufort, Tyrrell, Washington and Tyrrell.

New registrations in the five counties, of men and women applicants actively seeking jobs, totaled 198, in the past month. More than 300 applicants renewed their applications and brought them up to date. When an applicant registers, his application remains in the active files for 60 to 90 days, during which time every effort is made to locate suitable employment for that person. He may then renew his application by simply coming into the office or notifying the office or the representative on such days as extension service is given at regular places and dates.

Active registrations in Martin county at present total 262, while in Beaufort county, 341 people are actively registered. The total active registrations for Washington county at present is 375, and for Tyrrell, 231 and Hyde, 224. Many more are in the inactive files.

Any citizen may register with the service at any time. When a person registers, he is notified of job openings as they occur, and directly referred to employers indicating need for qualified help. Citizens may register any day in the week at the Town Hall office in Williamston. In Washington, every Tuesday; in Plymouth, every Thursday; in Columbia, every other Tuesday; and in Swanquarter and Belhaven, every other Friday, according to dates posted in public places.

Job openings this week at the Williamston office of the State Employment Service include, cooks, maids, pipefitters, brickmasons, boilermen, store clerks and a few other occupational jobs. Often in the past few weeks, the local employment has been able to fill on very short notice, the incoming calls for help, but at this time, there appears to be no folks available to fill at least ten jobs open—some of them good, permanent places with good firms, according to reports from the employment office here yesterday.

"There is a great opportunity in the trades," stated Manager C. W. Bazemore of the Williamston office yesterday, in outlining some of the job opportunities that exist at present in this State, and in East Carolina, for qualified workers in the skilled trades. For example, four jobs are now open in this section that will pay from \$7.50 to \$9.00 a day, permanently, if the right men can be found to do the work—in a large establishment, the work being in care and upkeep of machinery.

Eyes 21 Children Examined In Clinic

The eyes of 21 Martin County school children were examined in a welfare clinic held in the offices of Dr. C. J. Sawyer here yesterday.

Everyone of the 21 children examined needed glasses, Miss Mary Taylor, head of the county welfare department, said. Most of the children will be depended upon donations for the purchase of their glasses, it was pointed out.

A first clinic was held in this county several weeks ago when the eyes of 33 children were examined. Various civic organizations in the county bought the glasses in most of those cases.

Children were here yesterday from four schools for the clinic as follows, Hamilton, 1; Oak City, 6; Robersonville, 7, and Williamston, 7.

Robt. Swindell Is Now With Machine Shop Here

Mr. Robt. Swindell, formerly associated with the Beaufort Iron Works, has purchased the interest of J. J. Street in the Williamston Machine Works here, and will operate the business as a partner with Mr. G. P. Hughes. Mr. Street will enter private employment shortly.

The machine shop will be operated as Hughes and Swindell. The new partner is known to the people of this section as an able machinist. He will be joined by Mrs. Swindell and their young daughter the early part of next month.

Continue Plans For Library Fund Drive Here December 15th

Public Library Day Will Be Proclaimed by Mayor

Arrangements continue underway here for starting a drive for \$1,500 public library fund in this community, late reports from the civic organizations and interested citizens sponsoring and leading the movement stating that a concerted drive would be conducted next Wednesday, December 15. Mayor J. L. Hassell is proclaiming that day as "Public Library Day in Williamston," and the leaders of the undertaking are looking for earnestly and hopefully that the canvass for the founding fund will be with marked success.

The people of this community are urged to pledge liberally in founding and supporting the one institution that possibly offers a greater return than any other.

It has been said by educational leaders who have happened this way in recent months that the people of Martin county have, according to reports reaching them and through their own observations, persistently and shamefully neglected and overlooked the finest agent for a happy, intelligent and cultured citizenship—to wit, the public library. This is a condition, they agreed, that should be remedied.

The roots of our civilization are not in its steam engines, dynamos and skyscrapers, but are between the covers of books. If all our culture were destroyed except books, it would not be long before science, religion, law and art would spring again from those undying roots. If the whole temple of our civilization were destroyed, excepting one good public library, men would quickly build it back again, because they would have before their eyes 'the very blue prints of their civilization.'

Accident Victim Is Still Unconscious

Little Harris, 42-year-old Martin County farmer injured in an automobile accident last Sunday morning, continues unconscious in a Rocky Mount hospital, according to late reports reaching here early last night. His condition was described as critical.

Walking along the road between Oak City and Speed last Sunday morning, Harris waved to Tom Braswell, Tarboro man, and asked for a ride. Harris was not going very far and said he would stand on the running board. When he reached his destination and without waiting for the car to stop he stepped from the running board. He was thrown to the ground, his head striking either the rear bumper of the car or some object on the ground and causing a bad injury on the temple. The man was said to have been drinking and Braswell and his companions carried him home. Later that day they inquired about the man and when it was learned he had not regained consciousness arrangements were made for his removal to a Rocky Mount hospital.

Harris lived on the farm of Roy Edmondson, near Oak City.

Local Girls Defeat Washington Sextet

The Williamston girls launched their basketball season with a fine victory over Washington High School's girls' quintet last night. The game was played in the local gymnasium. E. Mishoe scored all ten of Williamston's points in a game in which play was so close that the quarter ended 3-0 in favor of Williamston, the half by the same score, the third quarter 10-6, and the last quarter 10-8. Splendid defensive play and pass work marked the play of both teams. Tripp and Baughan scored Washington's eight points. The entire Williamston lineup including Helen Mishoe, Marjorie Dunn, Margaret Jones, Frances Humble, Elva Mae Mishoe, Bernice Ward, Rachel Keel, and Marie Hardison performed well. The local girls are being coached by Mary Fort Carroll and Rebecca Harrison.

Regular Services Sunday At Piney Grove Church

Rev. W. B. Harrington, pastor, will hold the regular preaching services in the Piney Grove Baptist church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The public is invited.

Prizes Offered for Best Christmas Decorations

12 MORE DAYS

There are just 12 more days to handle that Christmas shopping—a long time for the kiddies but a short time to buy, wrap, mail and deliver all those Christmas presents. Additional holiday goods are being placed in Williamston stores daily, making shopping here a real pleasure. And the prices are very reasonable. Plan your holiday shopping tour in Williamston stores now. Williamston merchants have never offered a greater array of holiday merchandise than they are now offering to the people of all this section.

Martin Tenants Will Not Participate In Farm Purchase Fund

Loans Will Be Made to Tenants in Seventeen Counties

Martin County farm tenants will not be eligible to participate in the Farm Security Administration land-purchase fund during the next year, according to Mr. D. G. Modlin, county rehabilitation supervisor for this and Edgecombe County. Tenants in seventeen counties will be eligible to participate in the fund, however. Edgecombe, one of the counties in Modlin's division, is in the list to receive loans for tenants who wish to purchase and operate their own farms.

In selecting the counties where these purchase loans are to be advanced to farm tenants, the government considered the number of tenants. Edgecombe has 79 per cent of its land cultivated by tenants. Martin has 61 per cent of its land cultivated by tenants. Greene has the largest percentage, 82, in the State, and Dare with 7 per cent has the lowest. Over in Pitt tenants cultivate 71 per cent of the land. In Halifax the percentage is 64. In Bertie it is 63 and down in Washington tenants cultivate just about half the land.

A county advisory committee will examine applications for loans, appraise farms applicants propose to purchase and recommend applicants who have the character, ability and experience deemed necessary for successful farm ownership. Money will be lent to aid tenant families to buy and improve family-sized farms and to make a better living by the use of good farming methods. Borrowers will have the help of Rehabilitation Supervisors in building or repairing their houses, barns and other outhouses, and in making their plans to do better farming. Land purchase loans may be equal to the full value of the farms and borrowers may have up to 40 years in which to repay. Interest charged is 3 per cent. Other things being equal, preference will be given to tenants owning their own livestock and equipment.

Mr. Modlin emphasizes the fact that only a limited number of loans for the purchase and improvement of farms can be made during the present fiscal year ending June 30, 1938.

The tenant land purchase program is being administered in connection with the rehabilitation program and, although those land purchase loans are limited, regular rehabilitation loans for crop production, and the purchase of livestock and equipment needs, are available in every county to eligible farmers and tenants who cannot obtain suitable credit elsewhere, the supervisor said.

Airplane Kills Hog In Farm Life Section

Operating from a temporary landing field on the field of Farmer J. Rome Corey in the Farm Life community last Sunday, Tom Crawford, Martin County's first barnstorming pilot, struck and killed a hog in landing his plane there last Sunday. The hog ran under the back end of the ship as it neared the ground. No damage was done to the plane.

Crawford plans to fly in that section again during the week-end.

Municipal Building Is Now Gaily Attired For Holiday Season

Added Interest Reported as Civic Clubs Sponsor Prize Contest

Added interest in Christmas decorations was reported yesterday following a meeting of special committees of the Lions, Kiwanis and Senior and Junior Women's clubs earlier in the day. The action to advance holiday decorations on a greater scale than ever seen before in Williamston has already brought results, and it was reliably learned today that some very keen competition in Christmas decorating could be expected between now and Christmas. Orders are being placed for more Christmas trees already than usual, and the keen rivalry carried on by the town hall group and the courthouse gang year before last is again in the offing.

Sponsored by the four civic organizations, the decoration contest will be centered around home decorations, outdoor and doorway or porch arrangements. Prizes will also be offered for the best window displays and interior arrangements. Decorations on municipal and county buildings or structures will come under observation of special judges. The list of prizes will be announced within the next few days.

Street decorations are a week old tomorrow, and the water department and police force are busily engaged adding to and arranging attractive lighting equipment on top of the water tower and on the municipal building around the town clock and steeple.

Indirect reports state that the courthouse gang will come to life later on, but they are a bit afraid to compete with their friends up the street, it was hinted.

Individual decorations are certain to outnumber those of a year ago, and some of those with an artistic touch are turning over and over in their minds schemes that will place them in position to cop prizes offered by the civic organizations.

Fire Damages Home On Church Street

Fire, starting when an oil heater went out of control, caused considerable damage to the home of Mrs. Bettie Gurganus on Church street here early last evening. No accurate estimate of the loss has been advanced, but the damage will exceed \$200, it is believed. Several pieces of furniture, including a costly mattress, were ruined and the entire house was blacked by smoke.

Apparently the oil supply overflowed and caused the fire to spread over the floor. The smoke made it difficult for firemen and others to bring the fire under control, but the blaze was confined to the one room.

The fire truck driver got the wrong address and the apparatus was carried out West Church street before it was called back and directed to the scene of the fire on East Church street.

Few Farmers Apply For Soil Payments

Early reports received here from one or two districts indicate that comparatively few farmers are applying for benefit payments under the soil conservation program. It was learned unofficially that less than half the farmers in one district had entered their applications, and that little interest was being shown in others.

Applications have been received in Cross Roads and Bear Grass Townships, and the work is underway in Griffins. Next week farmers in Williams Township will be asked to apply for any payments due them.

The farmers apparently believe they will receive small payments, if any, because they did not comply with the requirements or they are waiting direct to the county office for their payments.

Just when applications will be received in this district has not been announced, but it is likely that the farmers will be asked to apply for their payments some time before Christmas.