

Judge Peel Calls Eight Cases In Recorder's Court

Docket Considered Small in Face of Accumulation Over Two Weeks

Holding its first session since June 27, the Martin County Recorder's Court had a comparatively light docket last Monday considering the fact that there was an extra week for cases to accumulate. Nearly one-half of the defendants facing His Honor, Judge H. O. Peel, were found not guilty, the jurist continuing several other cases.

Charged with bastardy, Caswell Brown strenuously maintained his innocence but for the sake of having the matter disposed of he tendered a plea of nolo contendere. The prosecuting witness by and with the consent of her mother and representatives of the Martin County Welfare department agreed to accept \$150 in full settlement of all of defendant's liability for support of child and in full settlement of all civil liability arising by reason of alleged charge of bastardy against defendant. The court adjudged the defendant guilty and decreed that upon payment of \$150 he is to be forever discharged of any and all further liability either past, present or prospective to the child. The judgment was approved by Mrs. J. A. Powell and Vivian Powell.

Harry Duty, charged with drunken driving, was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost. His operating license was revoked for a period of one year.

The case charging John Pittman with reckless driving was continued until August 8.

Charged with drunken driving, Roland Eugene Thornton was found not guilty.

Henry Page, charged with disorderly conduct and disturbing religious worship, was found not guilty. Charged with violating the alcoholic beverages control laws, Pat Bell and Willer Gilliam were found not guilty.

Theodore Griffin entered a plea of not guilty in the case charging him with resisting arrest and assaulting an officer. Prayer for judgment was continued until the first Monday in August.

Charged with speeding through the town of Jamesville, Pete Bell, Plymouth's colored attorney, had his case continued until next Monday.

First Sizeable Suit Against Pulp Plant

The first sizeable damage suit against the North Carolina Pulp company in this county was filed in Chowan Superior court by Robert L. Chesson this week.

The lengthy complaint prepared by J. Henry LeRoy, of Elizabeth City, Chesson's attorney, asks a total of \$13,500 damages, \$11,000 for breach of contract and \$2,500 for wrongful and unlawful libel.

The papers set forth that the pulp mill failed to carry out a contract to purchase lumber from Chesson, after he contracted with land owners, thereby causing him a loss. The libel complaint developed when the pulp mill folks allegedly wrote one of the land owners: "We have definite policies which allow us to work with only experienced contractors and not with such men as Chesson."

Roy Tapp Released From County Jail Wednesday

After receiving treatment in a Washington hospital for injuries received in a fall from a beer truck on Washington Street here last Friday night, Roy Tapp, Virginia Negro, was returned to this county and placed in jail Tuesday. Investigating his case officers were advised no charges were pending against Tapp and he was released Wednesday.

While in the hospital, Tapp is said to have acted crazy. He tried to eat the glass knobs from bureau drawers there, but after a short stay in jail here he appeared all right and anxious to get out.

Gun Shot Victim Is Expected To Recover

Shot in the stomach by Bud Shank at a lumber camp in the old Dymond City section early last Sunday morning, Percy Pugh, colored man, is said to be getting along very well in a private home at Jamesville, late reports stating that recovery is possible. The pistol ball is still in his body, it was reported.

Shank, arrested for the shooting Sunday afternoon, continues in the county jail, officers stating that a preliminary hearing is being delayed pending the outcome of Pugh's wound.

Martin Farmers Complying With Soil Conservation Plan

That Martin County farmers are cooperating to the fullest extent with the soil conservation program is evidenced as the supervisors continue their work. An unofficial report today states that more than 1,000 acres of tobacco land had been measured and that the acreage was two per cent the allotment total. It was also pointed out that the first few farms measured and the records checked show hardly more than 80 per cent of the acreage actually allotted had been planted to cotton.

Indirect reports from surveyors maintain that the farmers have been unusually courteous in assisting them in making the surveys, that some made arrangements to complete surveys even on those days when tobacco harvesting work was underway.

In only one case has a surveyor

been ordered from a farm, and in that case the name of the farmer was not revealed. No threatening action accompanied the order for the surveyor to leave the property, and the order was indirect, it was learned. A few farmers maintain they will not participate in a control or soil conservation program another year, that they are through. However, the large majority of Martin farmers have no complaints to offer, and voluntarily state that they believe they are better off under the present program than under the do-nothing program back in the dark Hoover days.

Official reports from the county agent's office show that the surveyors are doing a good job this year, that their measurements in those cases where checks have been made were found nearly 100 per cent perfect.

SALES QUOTAS

The force in the county agricultural office is working overtime this week preparing farmers' applications for tobacco marketing allotments. Nearly 90 per cent of the farmers in this county have submitted the required information and the applications will be sent within a short time to Raleigh where the poundage allotments will be determined and released to the farmers some time about the middle of next month.

Farmers filing applications for poundage allotments after tomorrow will have to wait their turn for marketing cards, some reports indicating that late applications will mean late distribution of cards.

Season For Taking Quail Is Cut Short

There'll be little hunting in Martin County this coming Thanksgiving if rules and regulations advanced by the State Department of Conservation and Development at a meeting in Morehead City this week go unchallenged by the sportsmen.

The quail and turkey season will begin December 15 and extend until February 20 instead of the previous November 20-February 25. No extra lay days were decreed, except Sundays as at present.

A 30-day period from December 15 to January 15 was set for ruffed grouse, and the season for opossum and raccoons with gun and dog was set for October 15 to February 15. Decision as to the shad season was postponed until an October meeting to be held in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the exact time and place to be named later. Various local fishing matters were settled, following Monday's public hearings.

Announcement was made that the department is working out plans for trying to employ more and better paid fish and game protectors.

As for water pollution by pulp mills, it was voted to have the water resources division engineer, T. S. Johnson, study the situation, and report at the next meeting. Johnson reported that the federal government will bear half the cost of study of determining commercial possibilities.

Funeral Held Tuesday For Mr. Carl W. Keel

Funeral services for Carl W. Keel, 66, of Vance County, were held yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the residence on Route 2, Henderson. The services were conducted by the Rev. J. T. Biddle and the Rev. D. A. Petty. Interment was at Elmwood Cemetery in Henderson.

Mr. Keel died Monday morning at Maria Parham Hospital. Surviving are his widow and four brothers, John Keel, of Cornelia; Jesse Keel of Everetts; Roy Keel of Robersonville and Wiley Keel of Scotland Neck; and three sisters, Mrs. J. A. Powell, of Robersonville, Mrs. Ruth Grimes, of Halifax County, and Mrs. Mary Rieves, of Enfield.

Capture Large Still In Bear Grass Last Tuesday

A large liquor plant, equipped with a 100-gallon capacity copper kettle and large beer containers, was wrecked in Bear Grass Township last Tuesday by special enforcement officer, Joe Roebuck, and deputies. Approximately 1,000 gallons of beer were destroyed along with the plant.

One Of County's Oldest Residents Dies Wednesday

Funeral Held in Bear Grass For Mrs. Martha P. Gurganus

One of Martin County's oldest citizens, Mrs. Martha Peel Gurganus, died at her home in Bear Grass Township last Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock following a long period of declining health. She would have been 90 years old the 28th of next October, but despite her advanced age she was very active until she suffered a slight stroke about a year ago. However, she was able to be up most of the time until recently when the infirmities of age forced her to bed, the end coming gradually.

Mrs. Gurganus was a direct descendant of one of Martin County's oldest families. Her grandfather fought with George Washington at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War, and her husband was a soldier in the Civil War. The daughter of the late Craven and Hannah Woolard Peel, Mrs. Gurganus was born in Pitt County where her parents migrated from Martin just a short time before her birth. She spent only a few years in the neighboring county before moving to Martin and locating in Bear Grass where she lived until her death. When a young woman she was married to Daniel Gurganus who died a number of years ago. The several children born to the union preceded her in death and she is survived by only one brother, Church Peel, of Atwood, Tenn., and four grandchildren, Mrs. Willie Whitehurst, of Bear Grass; Mrs. Gladys Taylor, of Williamston; Craven-Gurganus, of this county, and Marvin Gurganus, of Norfolk.

Mrs. Gurganus was a devout believer in the Primitive Baptist faith and held membership in the church at Bear Grass for a long number of years. Funeral services were conducted at the home yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Elders B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers. Burial was in the Biggs Cemetery, near the home, in Bear Grass Township.

Officers Installed By Local Lions Club

New officers of the Williamston Lions club were installed at a regular meeting of the organization in the woman's club hall last evening when D. V. Clayton made a farewell address and turned the duties of the office over to Judge H. O. Peel.

In his talk, Mr. Clayton reviewed the activities of the club during the past year and stressed the importance of wholehearted cooperation by all members in promoting worthy undertakings. He urged a renewed interest in Lionism and support for the new officers.

In appreciation of their work in the recent white cane drive, the club had as their special dinner guests, Misses Nancy and Millie Biggs, Virgil Ward, Reid White, Mary Helen Boykin and Marjorie Dunn.

Officers of the club now are: President, H. O. Peel; first vice president, J. H. Edwards; second vice president, K. P. Linsley; third vice president, K. D. Worrell; directors for two years, Fred Taylor and Irving Margolis; directors continuing in office, S. A. Maxwell and J. W. Manning; secretary-treasurer, E. R. Fronberger; assistant secretary-treasurer, Bill Howell; lion tamer, D. L. Hayman; tail twister, Eugene Rice. The meeting was then turned over to President Peel, and he delivered a very inspiring talk on Lionism and cooperation in club activities.

Miss Keel Named Deputy Clerk Of Martin Court

Miss Mary Elizabeth Keel, of Bear Grass, was named deputy clerk of the Martin County Superior Court here this week. She has been employed in the clerk's office during the past several months.

DELAY

The letting of a contract for the construction of an addition to the George Reynolds hotel here was temporarily postponed following the receipt of bids from a number of contractors yesterday afternoon. "We will wait a few days before taking further action in connection with building an addition to the hotel," Mr. E. P. Cunningham, owner, said.

Martin Hospital Savings Celebrates Anniversary

Today is the first anniversary of Martin County's representation in the North Carolina Hospital Savings Association. Mrs. Eloise Bennett has enrolled nearly 2000 members within the county for membership and there are approximately 70,000 members in the two-year old project for the State. Mayor John Hassell was the first member to enroll for Martin County.

Martin County Tax Rate for 1938 Is Tentatively Fixed at \$1.41 by Commissioners Here Wednesday

Postal Receipts in Past Three Months Set New Mark Here

Postal receipts in the local office for the second quarter reached an all-time high this year, Postmaster L. T. Fowden stating today that the stamp sales passed the \$5,000 mark this year for the first time in the particular period.

The receipts, \$5,005.31, were \$350.49 greater than those reported in the corresponding months of April, May and June, a year ago. First quarter receipts this year were \$4,724.61.

Ending the first quarter with a decrease, the postoffice here started climbing last April when the income for the single month totaled almost \$2,000. May, with only \$1,305.54, was a lean month, but June came back strong with a gain of more than \$400 over the income of the previous month.

Money order business continued about the same at the local office

during the first six months of this year, the postmaster's report showing that \$46,950.25 was handled by the office during the period. During the first six months of last year, the money order business handled through the local office amounted to \$50,970.33 as compared with \$46,950.25 during the first half of the current year. The trend during the second quarter was downward for money orders, while stamp sales increased. In January and February of this year, the money order business was considerably ahead of that for the corresponding months in 1937, but during the past four months sizeable decreases are noted in the postmaster's report.

There has been no noticeable decrease in the size of the mails handled this year compared with last, the office here handling an increasing amount of franked mail.

Oak City Faculty Positions Filled

Appointments to the Oak City school faculty were announced complete this week by Principal H. M. Ainsley, who is attending the first session of the University Summer School, Chapel Hill. Finishing the term there next week, the professor will return to Oak City and formulate plans for operating the school the coming year. Tentative arrangements have been made to offer instruction in twelfth grade subjects there this year, the principal stating that quite a few students have already registered for the special courses.

Only two changes have been made in the school faculty there this year, Principal Ainsley stating that Miss Helen Watkins, of Hattiesburg, Miss., will succeed Miss Ethel Cole in the home economics department, and that H. J. McCracken, of Clyde, Haywood County, will succeed Randolph Chandler as science and mathematics teacher and athletic coach.

The names of the teachers are: Elementary department: First grade, Miss Mildred Smith; second grade, Miss Myrtle Price; third grade, Miss Adeline Tew; fourth grade, Miss Louise Minton; fifth grade, Miss Elizabeth Greenlee; sixth grade, Miss Ernestine Johnson; seventh grade, Miss Mary Everett. High School: H. M. Ainsley, principal; mathematics, Miss Beatrice Stalls, English, library, and French, Miss Mildred Eyerlet, history and English, Miss Helen Watkins, home economics and general science; Mr. H. J. McCracken, mathematics and science; Mr. J. E. Mullen, agriculture and rural economics; Miss Dorothy Flanders, music and expression.

Thieves Raid Chicken Coop In Bear Grass

Raiding the chicken coop of Mr. and Mrs. H. U. Peel the early part of this week, thieves stole between 25 and 30 nice pullets. The steal was not discovered until the owners were feeding the chickens Wednesday morning and noticed the decrease in the ranks of the barnyard fowls. No clue to the theft has been established.

Chicken raids have been fairly numerous in this county during the past several months, one or two farmers losing more than a 100 chickens in a single night.

Pantego Christian Church Begins Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Pantego Christian Church will begin on Monday evening, July 18th with Rev. John L. Goff, of Williamston, as the evangelist. Rev. Joseph A. Saunders is the pastor of the church.

Third Death In Same Family In Three Weeks

The third death within three weeks in the same family was reported here this week when the month-old son of the late Mamie Clyde Woolard died Tuesday. The child's mother died about three weeks ago and his aunt died just a day or two later.

Burial was in the Odd Fellows cemetery here Wednesday.

New Rate Remains The Same As One In Effect In 1937

Increase of \$12,000 in Budget Requirements for Fiscal Year

Martin County's 1938 tax rate was tentatively set at \$1.41 the \$100 assessed property valuation by the board of commissioners in special session here Wednesday, the authorities studying closely the proposed figures that at first indicated an increase of two cents in the rate would be necessary to care for the budget requirements for the current fiscal year. The rate is the same as that in effect last year.

With increases necessary in every single department except two — health fund and debt service for schools — and with the virtual loss of income from intangible properties, the commissioners found a reduction in the rate impossible and the task of holding it to the same figure exceedingly difficult. Preliminary figures submitted to the commissioners for consideration indicated that a 2-cent increase would be necessary to meet the new budget requirements. After a long session, the commissioners shaved one cent from the county's general fund and decreased the proposed raise of two cents for the school fund to one cent.

Considerable uneasiness entered into the task of determining the rate when the commissioners found that the property valuation this year will hardly exceed one quarter of a million dollars. They had hoped and expected that the valuation increase would approximate a million or one and one-half millions.

Income from other sources than the tax levy especially the liquor profits fund saved the day, making it possible in the final analysis to hold the rate to the same old figure.

This year the county is to raise \$222,248.17 to meet its budget requirements as against \$210,466.65 a year ago. The total amount raised by taxation increases from \$160,841.65 to \$162,998.17, the budget estimate showing that the remainder or \$59,250.00 is to come from other sources than by tax levy.

Reductions in the various departmental rates are as follows: county general fund, 2 1/2 cents; health fund, one-half cent; school debt service one and one-quarter of a cent, a resulting decrease of four and a quarter cents. Increases in the various departmental rates are, as follows: poor fund, 1 1/2 cents; county debt service fund, one-half cent; eight months school term capital outlay fund, two and one-quarter cents, a result increase of four and one-quarter cents. The departmental increases and decreases offset each other.

The budget requirements for 1937 and 1938 are offered for comparison as follows:

County:	1937	1938
General fund	\$44,544.00	\$46,752.00
Poor fund	21,258.00	25,490.00
Health fund	7,800.00	7,400.00
Debt service	61,236.65	62,636.17
School:		
Current exp.	22,128.00	24,490.00
Capital outlay	6,500.00	9,650.00
Debt service	47,000.00	45,830.00
Totals	\$210,566.65	\$222,248.17

Registration For Bond Election Is Increasing

The number of citizens registering for the special bond election to be held here on August 9 is increasing daily, Registrar C. B. Hassell stating that more than 25 names have been placed on the books since last Monday. Quite a few people are expected to register tomorrow at the town treasurer's office in the city hall.

The registration books will continue open through the 30th of this month.

Stop Light Installed In Town Of Jamesville

A stop light, the second one in Martin County, was installed in Jamesville yesterday. Robersonville installed the first stop light at its busy intersection several years ago.

Unofficial reports state that it will cost \$36 a year to operate the light in Jamesville.

NO CHANGE

Efforts to alter the tobacco marketing dates as set by the United States Tobacco association in annual session at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., the early part of this month have come to naught and auction sales on the Williamston warehouse floors will get underway as scheduled on August 25. The decision to leave the opening dates unchanged was officially announced by a representative of the association after East Carolina warehousemen had asked the date be moved up to August 18.

Mother Calls For Missing Daughter

Held in the Martin County jail since Thursday of last week at the direction of welfare authorities, Constance Saunders, bright-eyed, 14-year old girl, was turned over to an anxious mother late last Wednesday night, the reunion marking the end of a hectic period for the daughter who had run away from her home in Norfolk and wandered over parts of two states before falling into the hands of the law and welfare authorities here.

Mystery still surrounds the case as far as local officers are concerned, and once the child was back in the care of her mother, Mrs. Kathleen Saunders, they considered the case closed and no further investigation was made.

Picked up by Patrolman W. S. Hunt on Williamston's East Main street late last Thursday afternoon, the girl claimed that she ran away from Norfolk with two older girls whose names were not revealed. The girl's companions are said to have deserted her in Washington and she began wandering around eastern North Carolina. She is known to have visited Greenville and was picked up by a motorist and brought to Williamston. She told several different stories, but finally explained where her mother and step-father could be reached. They were notified immediately, but the message was misunderstood and her parents are said to have looked for her in Wilmington, Windsor and several other towns before finally coming to Williamston.

Everetts School Faculty Named For Coming Term

The faculty for the Everetts school was completed at a meeting of the board Monday night. The following teachers were elected to teach for the year 1938-1939:

First grade: Miss Cassie Williams, Ocracoke, N. C.
First and second grade: Miss Mary Belle Edmondson, Williamston.
Second grade: Miss Margaret Palmer, Gulf, N. C.
Third grade: Miss Doris Everett, Robersonville, N. C.

Fourth grade: Miss Frances Itez Smith, Mecklenburg County.
Fifth grade: Miss Lucille Hunter.

Sixth grade: Miss Ora Kate Turner, Halifax, N. C.
Seventh grade and principal: C. R. Simpson, Peachland, N. C.