

Proceedings In Martin County's Superior Court

Criminal Docket Will Be Completed Possibly Late Today

With a large crowd milling in and out of the auditorium, the Martin County Superior Court under the direction of Judge Walter Bone met out justice slowly but steadily all day yesterday, the hot, sultry weather bringing forth a plea from Solicitor Don Gilliam to stop the proceedings after five o'clock.

The first-day proceedings of the two-weeks mixed term were considered of no great consequence, the court scheduling the trial of John Small, charged with first degree burglary, for this afternoon.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, C. J. Griffin, well-known Jamesville merchant, gained his freedom when the grand jury found no true bill in the case. The record of Arthur Harrison, colored man who was fatally shot while breaking into the Griffin store in Jamesville on August 7, is believed to have received much consideration. Harrison had served sentences in several cases charging breaking and entering.

The case charging Earl Taylor, 16-year-old boy, with seduction, was continued until December.

The case charging Joseph Gordon, colored man, with running over and killing Delmar James, colored child, near Dardens, several months ago, was not pressed. This action was taken after it was learned that a compromised settlement had been effected in a civil action brought by Thomas James, administrator, against Gordon and P. A. Bishop, owner of the truck that struck the child. The plaintiff received \$240 the court taxing the defense with the cost of the case.

Pete Bell, Plymouth colored attorney, was found not guilty by a jury after experiencing two defeats in the lower courts in a case charging him with reckless driving.

William Melton, charged with larceny, was sentenced to State's prison for not less than two and not more than three years.

Charged with breaking and entering, Lyman Britt was sentenced to the roads for 18 months, Judge Bone suspending sentence for two years upon condition that the defendant remain sober and law abiding during that time.

William Nelson Bland, charged with breaking and entering, was placed on probation.

Floyd Bell was sentenced to the roads for six months in the case charging him with larceny and receiving.

In the case charging Neal and W. T. Coburn and Wilmer Lee Williams with breaking and entering and larceny, the court ordered a mistrial as to Williams and remanded the case to the juvenile court for trial. Williams, it was pointed out, is under 16 years of age. The two Coburns were found guilty and sentenced to the roads for 12 months.

Barney Wynne, charged with false pretense, was sentenced to the roads for six months.

Charged with larceny and receiving, LeRoy Smith was sentenced to the roads for 18 months.

Martin Native Ends Life In Greenville

Greenville, Sept. 18. — Carl V. Croom, well-known Greenville man, committed suicide at his home today by asphyxiation. He was about 48 years old.

His body was found on the kitchen floor in front of the gas stove late this afternoon by a sister, Mrs. Bettie Davis, of Columbia, S. C., on her return from a trip to Gold Point with Mrs. Croom and a son.

Mr. Croom killed himself by covering his head with a heavy blanket and then turning on the gas. He left no explanation. It is understood he had been depressed for some time.

Deputy Coroner Ed S. Williams, who investigated, held an inquest unnecessary.

Mr. Croom was born and reared in Martin County. He moved to Greenville about ten years ago. Since that time he had been associated with the Standard Motor Parts Company of Greenville. He was a member of the Robersonville Christian church and was known among a wide circle of friends.

Best Sales of Season Are Reported on Williamston's Tobacco Market Monday

Handling in excess of 200,000 pounds of tobacco, the Williamston Tobacco Market had its best sale of the season yesterday, the price average comparing favorably with the opening-day figures of around 24 cents. Individual averages soared up to the 37-cent level yesterday, and numbers of piles commanded 38, 39, and 40 cents a pound.

Some are of the opinion that the prices have not changed materially, that better tobaccos are being offered for sale. However, it is agreed that the market is stronger, and it is not unusual to hear farmers state they are

receiving more for their tobacco than they expected.

Sales on the market for the season to date are right at the three and one-half million mark, conservative estimates maintaining that half of the crop has been marketed. The market continues to hold a lead over the record established during a corresponding period last season, but the marketing period is certain to end considerably earlier this year than last and a slight reduction in total sales is to be expected. However, it is quite apparent that Williamston is more than holding its own and

the total sales are certain to be larger than many expected they would be. The market is drawing tobacco from a larger territory than ever before, and first-hand surveys prove that it is commanding a prominent place in the price average.

Rains, falling intermittently this morning, held the offerings to around 100,000 pounds, but prices were said to be about the same as the sales continued.

The market here is attracting large numbers of tourists almost daily, several cars from Massachusetts and Maine stopping for a short while yesterday.

Burglary Case Set For Trial Today In Superior Court

John Small Maintains His Innocence As Time for Trial Nears

John Small, 30-year-old colored man, vigorously maintains his innocence as the State mapped its plans for placing him on trial in the Superior Court here this afternoon, for an alleged brutal assault on Mrs. Lyda Jenkins, aged white woman, near Robersonville, on the night of July 23.

It was reported at noon today that the State will not try Small for burglary in the first degree, but will ask that he be found guilty of second-degree burglary, a crime that carries a penalty of a term of years in prison or life imprisonment. The court yesterday appointed Attorneys Carter Studdert and Clarence Griffin to represent Small. After conferring with the small and apparently mentally weak Negro for several hours, his counsel is expected to plead him not guilty at the opening of the trial some time this afternoon.

Small, apparently unaware of the seriousness of the crime with which he stands charged, alleges that he has been made the victim of a frame-up. He is said to have admitted taking a small drink of liquor on the evening the crime was committed, but denies he was drunk at that time. It was reported that Small had some trouble with his common-law wife, and officers thought it was possible that he left home, got drunk and returned with the intention of beating his common-law wife, that he went to the Jenkins home by mistake. Small's claim that he was not drunk that night merely adds to the confusion surrounding the case.

The grand jury yesterday returned a true bill in the case charging burglary in the first degree. Calling the case just before lunch the State agreed to try Small on the lesser count, and a jury was drawn in a short time.

Church Group To Meet At Bear Grass Thursday

Approximately 150 representatives from ladies' auxiliaries in Eastern North Carolina are expected to attend a Presbyterian group conference in Bear Grass on Thursday of this week. The conference will last all day, the host church having made extensive arrangements to entertain the delegates from churches as far away as Elizabeth City on the east and New Bern on the south.

Local Man Attending Hearing In Raleigh

A claim for damages to the ferry line forced out of operation by the construction of the Albemarle Sound bridge is being reviewed in Raleigh today. Mr. G. H. Harrison, a member of the committee to investigate the claim, is present.

Local Parents and Teachers To Hold Meeting Tomorrow

The Williamston Parent-Teacher Association will hold its first meeting of the new school year on Wednesday afternoon of this week. The meeting is scheduled for 3:30 p. m. in the high school auditorium, and all persons interested in the welfare of the local school are urged to be present. Officers for the year will assume their duties and, with the help of the membership formulate plans for parent-teacher activities during the coming months.

Officers and committee chairmen for the new term are as follows: President, Mrs. A. J. Osteen; vice

BILLY WOODS



Billy Woods, featured artist of the very difficult Xylophone with the National Barn Dance appearing at the Williamston Fair the week of September 27, is known as one of the foremost Xylophonists of the country. Not only does he have this enviable reputation as a performer, but he is given credit for the designing of one of the most popular model Xyloimbas (a combination of Xylophone and Marimba) of the country's leading maker of these instruments.

Billy specializes in playing "rhythm." That is the term used among musicians to describe a number that has a good strong, swingy melody, and in which the performer improvises at will. In fact, the many melodies and harmonies which cascade from his Xyloimbas have earned justly for him the title of "America's Rhythm Xylophonist."

Little Something About Everything

Growers in Georgia are harnessing electricity to remove the fur from peaches. 76-year-old William C. Durant, former president of General Motors and reputedly worth \$100,000,000 at the peak of his career, will sell at auction his \$500,000 summer home in New Jersey and his \$250,000 art and furniture collection; he plans to live the rest of his life on proceeds as his "business days are over." A three ton elephant can stand supported on a half-inch sheet of a new tempered plate glass, called tuf-flex, without breaking it. A drug store in Dallas, Tex., has been closed only six hours since its original opening in 1908, once during a funeral of owner's relative, once during a World War parade, and recently because of a Go to Church drive.

Mrs. Irving Hull, of Petersburg, is spending several days here with her mother, Mrs. G. W. Hardison.

Arnold Modlin and James Holliday were home last week-end from A. C. College, Wilson.

Release Two Men In Hit-Run Case

Homer Glasson, charged with hit-and-run driving, was released in \$1,000 bond last Sunday. Virgil Griffin, colored man arrested along with Glasson, was given his freedom yesterday after officers failed to connect him with the case.

Glasson and Griffin were arrested early last Thursday morning in Griffin Township after Isaiah Hardison, 30-year-old colored man, was found fatally injured on Highway No. 64, near Dardens. Hardison died late Thursday afternoon without regaining consciousness.

Glasson's mother, Mrs. Ada Glasson, came here Sunday from her home in Chatham County to arrange bond for her son. The case will not be called during the present term of court, Patrolman W. S. Hunt stating that it will be scheduled for trial next December.

The two men came to this county several weeks ago for employment in a logging camp in Griffins Township.

Students Propose Change In Council

In a meeting held in the high school auditorium last Friday morning students proposed several changes in the constitution of the Williamston High School Student Council, and made plans for holding the election of officers and representatives. A president and secretary will be elected by secret ballot on Friday of this week and the membership of the council will be determined by elections held on the following Monday. The eighth and ninth grades each elect two representatives while the tenth and eleventh grades choose three each.

Under the plan of student government which the students instituted last year, the student council assumes the supervision of certain school activities and seeks to develop a greater amount of student responsibility in the conduct of school affairs. The efforts of the council last year resulted in considerable improvement, particularly in the field of hall traffic and care of the classrooms. Six committees, with a council member as chairman of each, will carry on the council's work during the school term: hall traffic, study halls, lunch room management, school grounds and property, athletics and publicity.

Students are taking a lively interest in the elections and all indications point to a year of greater service by the student council.

Farmers Training Steeds For Race At Fair Here

With a number of entries already signed, the mule race at the fair here next week is already creating much interest among farmers. Three boys, Sam, Herbert and Billie Williams, are training their animals for the race, it was learned yesterday. The three youths who live in Beaufort County are planning to do their own driving.

RAINFALL

The long dry season experienced in this section up until last week is bowing before heavy rains, reports from the weather station on Roanoke river here stating that more than twice as much rain has fallen in this area during the past few days than was recorded during the entire month of August. Up until noon today, 4.25 inches of rain had fallen here since early last week.

Nearly two inches fell last Friday, Hugh Spruill, keeper of the station, said.

Judge Walter Bone Urges Increasing Respect For Laws

Nashville Jurist Opens Superior Court Term in County

Addressing the Martin County grand jury Monday, Judge Walter J. Bone, of Nashville, reviewed the duties of the body and pointed out that it was the duty of everyone to help increase the respect for law. The jurist's instructions to the jury were brief and dealt with a few of the specific duties, including the bringing of bills of indictment and inspection of county properties and offices. The jurymen were instructed to check reports of guardians and cite to the court any apparent violations of guardianships.

Calling to the attention of the jury a report by a committee of the American Bar Association, Judge Bone said that the crime bill in the United States was figured at fifteen billion dollars annually, that two hundred thousand people will, according to the study, commit murder before they die. "We have the greatest prison population in the world," the jurist said, asking "What are we going to do about it?" There's no use, according to Judge Bone, for us to surrender in despair. "The situation should make us more interested in law enforcement," he declared. "We should recognize the necessity of law, to understand that adjustments are necessary in an intricate society. Our's is a democracy. We select representatives to make laws and have agencies to enforce them, and it is the duty of every citizen to help increase respect for law."

Bringing his address to a close, he pointed out the duty of the grand jury to report any law violations escaping attention of regular officers.

Headed by John A. Manning as foreman, the grand jury repaired to its room and immediately started work. Names of those called for jury service are, as follows: J. S. Cullipher, Donald Griffin, J. W. Gurganus, W. G. Peel, Harrell Everett, George Ross, John A. Manning, R. H. Smith, L. L. Harrell, Urban Lilley, Henry D. Harrison, Hoyt Cowen, J. Edwin Manning, Ralph Davenport, J. S. Wynne, W. H. Hardison, Frank Weathersbee and H. G. Hardison.

Cotton Ginners Repairing Scales

Early tests of cotton gin scales for accuracy reveal that a general scales clean-up and repair program has been adopted by ginners, weights and measures inspectors of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture report.

Meanwhile, a special truck loaded with 11,000 pounds of checkweights, is being routed throughout the state on a two-year program to test all heavy duty scales. Ginners' scales will be the first to be tested.

A random scales testing tour of 30 counties last year, using testing equipment loaned by the U. S. Bureau of Standards, revealed that approximately 87 per cent of the heavy duty scales in the state were inaccurate.

Meeting To Begin Monday At Pentecostal Church

Miss Fanny Mae Morris, of the Holiness Bible and Missionary Institute, will conduct a series of revival services in the local Pentecostal Holiness church beginning next Monday night, it was announced today. She will be assisted in the services by the pastor, Rev. J. G. Crocker, during the second week.

Secretary Names Committees To Review Quota Complaints

Committees made up of farmers to hear applications for review of cotton and flue-cured tobacco marketing quotas in North Carolina have been announced by E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer at State College.

The committees, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, are composed of a chairman, vice-chairman, one other member and an alternate. Each committee will serve a county.

The establishment of review committees is authorized under the marketing quota provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment act of 1938. It will be their duty to pass on applications for review of cotton and flue-cured tobacco marketing quotas, when properly presented, and

Plans Go Forward For Fair Here Next Week

SURPLUS

The sale of surplus tobacco pounds is becoming a fairly big business for Martin County farmers. Complete records are not available, but it is estimated that approximately 150,000 surplus pounds have been sold by Martin farmers to others in Wilson and Lenoir Counties. A total of about \$7,500 has been received for the surplus. Most of the sales, handled through warehousemen, were made to Lenoir County farmers.

Reports have been received maintaining that some farmers had been asked to sell their surplus poundage for less than five cents a pound. The farmer may dispose of his surplus in any way he chooses, but if he wants the maximum price he should deal through a warehouseman or at the office of the county agent.

Improvement Noted In Tar Heel Cotton

Improvements made in North Carolina cotton since 1928, may be worth around \$3,500,000 to Tar Heel growers this year, in the opinion of Glenn R. Smith, cotton marketing specialist at State College.

Ten years ago, he said, 80 per cent of the crop was of 7-8 inch staple length, or shorter, while 18 per cent measured from 15-16 to 1 inch. Last year, only 15 per cent of the crop was short staple, and fully 80 per cent ranged from 15-16 to 1 inch.

Smith said that no other cotton-growing State has made as great an improvement in the staple length of its lint crop during the same period. This means that Tar Heel cotton bears a more favorable ratio to other cotton than it did 10 years ago.

By comparing the average price paid for North Carolina cotton in 1928 with the price of middling 7-8 inch staple on the central market, and then making the same comparison for last year, Smith calculated that cotton from this State sold for \$5 a bale more in 1937 than it would have if it were of the same kind that was produced in 1928.

There is still much room for improvement in the grade of North Carolina cotton, Smith added. Many growers are not getting the full premium prices for the longer staple lint that they would if the grade of their cotton was better.

To produce high grade cotton, Smith pointed out that the lint should not be allowed to hang in the fields long after the bolls have opened, as it weathers rapidly. Keep it free from trash, and pick only dry cotton is possible. If it must be picked while damp, give it a chance to dry thoroughly before it is taken to the gin.

Thirty-five Youths Seek Places In CCC Service

Thirty-five Martin County youths have applied for places in the government's civilian conservation corps, it was learned today from the welfare office. The applications came from boys in all parts of the county.

The county quota has not been released, and it isn't likely that more than half of the applicants will be accepted. The successful applicants will report for service some time between the first and middle of October.

Accepts Position With County Welfare Board

Miss Audrey Williams, of Orange County, is now associated with the Martin County Welfare Department as case worker. She is making her home with Mrs. L. B. Harrison on Haughton Street.

Highly Respected Colored Citizen Dies Sunday Night

Hattie Everett, highly respected colored citizen, died at her home on the railroad here Sunday evening at eight o'clock of cancer with which she had suffered a long time. Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon, and interment will follow in the Odd Fellows Cemetery. She was 63 years old, the wife of Jack Everett.

Big Street Parade To Mark Opening Fair Tuesday Noon

Schools of County Will Have Half Holiday That Day

Plans were announced virtually complete today for opening the Williamston fair next Tuesday. Resident Manager Harvey Walker stating that extensive preparations had been made in an effort to offer the people of this section a good exposition. The entertainment program this year is the most elaborate ever planned here, preliminary reports indicating that there'll be an increase in the number of exhibitors and individual displays.

The fair gets underway next Tuesday noon when a parade will form possibly at the grammar school building and travel to Main Street and on to the grounds. The Robersonville High School is sending its popular band to participate in the parade. Higgins' famous band will also be in the march along with representatives from Hoaglan's Combination, the Continental Revue, Art Lewis shows, bicycle and pony race entrants and others. "The parade will be one of the longest to mark the opening of a fair here," Resident Manager Harvey Walker says.

Tuesday has been designated as children's day at the fair, arrangements having been made by the management with the authorities to have a half holiday for school children. "We are expecting more than 2,000 kiddies that afternoon, and a children's day program will feature the entertainment bill," Manager Walker said. Day-time fireworks, bicycle and pony races will be added features on the grandstand program. All white children under 16 years of age will be admitted to the grounds free of charge until four o'clock that afternoon.

The Art Lewis shows, one of the largest amusement units, to play this section this season, will be on the midway. The show management is bringing several rides new to this section. There are 20 rides and fifteen shows in the group.

A farmer's day program is expected to attract a large crowd Wednesday, the management announcing that several unique features will be added to the program that afternoon and evening. The National Barn dance will be on the evening program, the schedule of afternoon events including a complete grandstand program, an address to farmers, mule show and mule races. The Farm Bureau is sponsoring several events on the Wednesday program, the fair management having made concessions to the Bureau officers.

Exact plans have been made to offer a changing and varied program daily, the management announcing that "Suicide" Wilson, daredevil driver will be on the Friday afternoon program. The act is similar to the "Lucky" Teeter show.

War Fears Lessened As Nations Bow To Germany

War tension at a breaking point for several days in Europe was relieved yesterday when Great Britain and France yielded to Hitler and agreed to the annexation of a large part of Czechoslovakia by Germany.

Reports out of the little nation at noon today indicated that a change in the Czechoslovak government is likely. The greatest opposition to the annexation came from the militarists, the common people, while expressing regret, being agreed that the action taken is preferable to war.

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