

Lengthy Session of Recorder's Court Here Last Monday

Sixteen Cases Are Called By Judge H. O. Peel During Day

The Martin County Recorder's court in a lengthy session last Monday handling one of the largest dockets piled up in recent months. Judge Peel held the tribunal in session during most of the day calling sixteen cases, and then several were continued for trial at a later session.

The case charging George Walker with an assault with a deadly weapon was nolprossed when it was learned the defendant had returned to Georgia.

Charged with the larceny of a bicycle, Gaither Lock was placed on probation.

Dink Ward, George Ellsworth and Henry Andrews, charged with an assault and interfering with a Paramele officer, were adjudged not guilty.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Joe L. Godard was found not guilty.

Roy Lanier, colored, who is alleged to have on three occasions gotten drunk and wandered into homes of others and retired, was fined \$25, taxed with the cost and given a six months suspended road sentence in the case charging him with trespass. The defendant was in the courts for a similar offense about a year and a half ago.

Irving Simmons, charged with an assault, was taxed with the case cost and directed to pay to John Henry Ruffin \$10 for doctor's bill. Magnolia Simmons, co-defendant in the case, was found not guilty.

The Big Apple, Robersonville colored cafe, was the scene where several cases in the court Monday were laid. It offered a mixture of liquor fights and firearms, and Judge Peel really bore down in meting out justice. William Bellamy, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was sentenced to the roads for 60 days. Jesse Roberson, charged with carrying a concealed weapon, was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost. Mack Everett, charged with violating the liquor laws, was found not guilty. Jesse Little, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was fined \$50 and sentenced to the roads for twelve months, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court.

Charged with drunken driving, K. W. Copeland was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost. His license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for a period of one year.

A. C. Roberson, charged with public drunkenness, was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with larceny and receiving, Harry Wilson was adjudged not guilty.

Charged with non-support, Milton Barnhill was directed to pay \$3 each week to the prosecuting witness, Louise Braswell.

Cases, charging Lester Bailey with drunken driving, and James Whichard with public drunkenness were continued until next Monday.

The judgment meted out Monday before last in the case charging Lester McKeel with non-support was changed, the court sentencing the defendant to the roads for six months. The sentence is to begin at the direction of the court.

Sweet Potato Crop A Shock Absorber

The sweet potato crop in Martin County is expected to serve as an absorber for the shock that the short tobacco crop gave the farmers. Late reports indicate that the sweet potato is offering one of the brightest spots in the agricultural horizon this year in the county.

It is estimated that Martin farmers will produce in excess of 100,000 bushels, some say production will run as high as 150,000 bushels. The price look is encouraging, too, reliable reports maintain. "Your crop in Martin County this year will equal in quality that in any section of the nation," a representative of a large purchasing firm advised County Agent T. B. Brandon this week. "You can expect a fair price," the representative said, and when questioned as to what was a fair price, added, "Seventy-five to \$1 a bushel and possibly a fraction more for real fancy potatoes."

Farmers have just about completed digging the crop, and turned curing barns into potato curing houses. Favorable weather conditions and improved seed are given as the main factors supporting the increased production and improved quality this year.

Preliminary Plans Are Made For Annual Red Cross Drive

Preliminary plans have been completed for conducting the annual Red Cross membership campaign in the two chapters in this county, Harry A. Biggs, chairman of the Martin County unit, announced today. Complete details for handling the humane drive will be announced in time to launch the movement by November 11. Chairman Biggs said.

No definite quota has been assigned the Martin County chapter, but it is likely that citizens in the unit will be asked to contribute between three and four hundred dollars to the organization. The campaign is to continue until Thanksgiving Day.

Heretofore, the Martin County chapter included all that territory outside of Robersonville, the Robersonville unit successfully operating in that town and community.

CLOSING DATE

Williamston's tobacco market will close the season next Friday, it was officially announced following a meeting of the local tobacco board of trade yesterday afternoon.

In announcing the closing date, the market operators express their hearty appreciation for the patronage accorded them by the farmers of this and neighboring counties. And they cordially solicit a continued patronage during the next week and the season to follow.

Roy Bowers To Go On Trial In Pitt County Next Week

Alleged to Have Criminally Assaulted Martin County Girl

Roy Bowers, young Pitt County white man, is slated to go on trial in the Pitt County Superior court next Wednesday for an alleged criminal assault on a young Martin County white girl near Parmele on the night of October 1. The young man, arrested in this county early last spring for participating in a dynamite escapade in Parmele, Robersonville and Bear Grass, stands charged with rape.

Bowers was arrested in this county shortly after the alleged crime by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck who was told that the scene of the attack was in this county, near Parmele. He was given a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell here the following morning, the court denying him bond. Later investigation proved that the crime was alleged to have taken place just across the line in Pitt County. Habeas corpus proceeding were brought following Bower's transfer to Greenville, and he was released under a \$3,500 bond.

The attack victim was riding with Bowers in the company of two friends, a girl and a boy named Dixon. The names of the girls have not been disclosed by officers. At the first preliminary hearing, the evidence offered by the State tended to show that Bowers stopped the car, forced the girl, 17 years of age, out, and threatened the lives of Dixon and the other girl if they attempted to interfere. Dixon was quoted as saying that he heard the victim calling for help, that he was afraid to interfere.

New Volumes Added To Library Here Recently

The following books have just arrived at the Williamston Public Library and will be available Saturday, Oct. 29:

- Rawlings, The Yearling.
- Spring, My Son, My Son.
- Bottome, The Mortal Storm.
- Hertzler, The Horse and Buggy Doctor.
- Halsey, With Malice Toward Some.
- Armstrong, Fanny Kemble.
- Bromfield, The Rains Came.
- Keys, Honor Bright.
- Gouge, Towers in the Mist.
- Lincoln, A. Hall and Co.

TO SPEAK

Attorney I. T. Valentine, well-known Nashville attorney and prominent east Carolina citizen, will address a Democratic rally in the county courthouse next Friday evening at eight o'clock, it was announced today by E. S. Peel, chairman of the County Democratic Executive Committee.

The public is cordially invited to hear Mr. Valentine.

The territory embracing Hamilton and Goose Nest Townships has been added to the Robersonville chapter this year, and the leaders of the unit will formulate plans to handle the membership canvass there.

The Martin County chapter has been divided into two departments, the senior and junior units. Mr. Biggs will head the senior department and J. C. Manning, superintendent of schools, will handle the junior department drive, it was announced.

With Mrs. V. A. Ward in charge, the Robersonville Chapter started its drive yesterday. Last year, the Robersonville unit held 14th place among the 119 chapters in the State.

While the Martin County chapter has not actively started its drive, Miss Annie Glasgow, of Jamesville, has already enrolled for the year.

High Spots And Hindlights on the Democratic Meet

Loyal Party Members Enjoy Opportunity For Fun Making

Loyal party members, meeting here last Tuesday to bray over their enviable position as Democrats in the First Congressional District, did not hesitate to "crack" a joke or jest with party leader—the rally being crowded with high spots that brought hee-haw from the several hundred who crowded into the courthouse auditorium.

Warned that the registration book was opened that the party might know who to write to for campaign, and other funds, the party members were advised by Chairman Gregg Cherry that the "gentleman from Pitt" was all wrong. "Those names are being gathered for use on absentee ballots," Cherry jokingly explained. Mention of the Eighth District was in low tones, very low, in fact.

The Eighth District controversy, incidentally settled while the rally was in progress here, was soft-pedaled, but the feeling that things did not look so well in the Eighth District battle ground for the Democrats was apparent.

It was agreed that the First District with its prominent leader, Hon. Lindsay Warren, is safe for Democracy this year, next and the years to come.

Lindsay Warren received many fine tributes, not only from leaders prominent in State politics, but the least of the county and precinct leaders were liberal in praise of Mr. Warren. The meeting was agreed that Mr. Warren deserved every tribute paid him.

A bit bashful of his position, a mugwump slipped into the meeting for a little old-time Democratic religion. And he offered, on the side of course, some advice to his old party friends. "You had better be working on the election two years hence, for it will take just about that long to get these WPA workers to the polls," he said, explaining how slow they moved when they did move.

In the hindlights were heard rumors that the party leaders mopped up on the dinner, a rumor that was quickly denied. The party leaders vow and declare that they were left holding the bag—an empty bag. Officially, the Martin Democrats fed 380 visitors.

But to climax the hindlights was a report of the meeting carried in a State paper one column removed from a scorching attack upon the State sales tax and the methods employed by the revenue department in collecting it.

Library To Observe National Book Week

Beginning Monday, October 31st, and extending through Friday, November 11th, a poster contest will be sponsored by the Public Library to call attention to National Book week November 13-18. There will be two separate contests, one for the grammar school and one for the high school students. Prizes will be given for the best poster illustrating the value of reading good books and for the best one illustrating some book the student has read. Each contestant may enter one poster in each class.

Helpful suggestions and ideas may be found in the high school library and the grammar school office. The completed posters are to be turned in at the Public Library by eight o'clock Friday evening, Nov. 11th.

Commission Again Delays Action On Claims To Refund

Martin Authorities Hopeful Their Claim Will Get Consideration

Passed back and forth by the law-makers, committees, and commissions, the claims of 81 counties to \$53,000,000 road refunds remain unsettled, the highway commission now holding the hot potato, again delaying action in the matter yesterday until November 17. A final decision is expected at that time.

Unofficial reports coming from the meeting of the highway commission yesterday were considered favorable by Martin authorities. "We believe we have a valid claim to several hundred thousand dollars, while it is understood that a number of counties are asking the State to accept its bonded debt created for the construction and upkeep of all types of roads within their boundaries," a Martin official explained.

Martin is asking that its obligations created for the construction of main highway routes be taken over by the State, the records showing that close to half a million dollars were spent in the construction of three main routes in this county.

The reports released following the meeting indicated that the commission had dismissed quite a few claims, that it was still considering others apparently having a foundation. Martin authorities can't help but believe that this county's claim is still before the commission and that it will receive due consideration.

Yesterday's meeting had been billed as providing a possible end to the controversy, which has raged for nearly a decade and which has bounced from legislature to legislature and special commission to the highway commission.

The 81 claiming counties contend the States owes them money for roads they built and which the State took over in 1931.

The day's discussions brought this statement from Chairman Frank Dunlap:

"After full discussion of the many features of the matter, the commission came to the conclusion that it did not care to make a final decision at this time because there are a few claims the commission wished to give further consideration. The commission wanted to go deeper into some claims the commission was not fully decided about."

Dunlap added the commission did not want to announce action on any claims until it was ready to give its decision on all 81.

Asked if he could say which counties the commission still is studying, Dunlap replied:

"No, sir, I can't."

Asked to elaborate on the difference between the claims still being studied and the others, Dunlap replied:

"The commission felt like possibly there might be some different status in those counties from others."

Dunlap did not indicate whether the claims not included, in those still being discussed had been dismissed or allowed.

Effect Shift In Patrol Personnel

H. W. Rothrock, who has efficiently served the highway patrol in this district since entering the service more than a year ago, has been ordered to New Bern, the order becoming effective next Tuesday. Patrolman W. D. Kinsey will succeed Mr. Rothrock here, it was reliably learned today.

Patrolman Rothrock was out of town and Patrolman Hunt could not be reached for a statement today, it was rumored that the change was the work of politics in Jones County and Raleigh. Unofficial reports coming from reliable sources indicated that the politicians were "rail-roading" Kinsey out of the New Bern district. The change was ordered by the head of the State patrol after Patrolman Kinsey arrested a Jones County official a few days ago for alleged violation of the traffic laws, the reports received here indicated.

Kinsey was said to have asked for a hearing in the case, but as far as it could be learned here none has been held.

Patrolman Rothrock received his transfer orders yesterday.

Return from Honeymoon

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Peele have returned from their honeymoon to northern points.

Farmers May Get Five Cents A Pound for Tobacco Surplus

The sale of surplus tobacco marketing quotas is encountering a wide speculative movement throughout this section, according to unofficial reports heard here today. Farmers are offering their surplus for as little as three cents, one or two having sold for less. The story that there will be no further demand for the cards has been told, and farmers are jumping at the chance to sell their surplus poundage at whatever price they can get.

Unofficial but reliable reports maintain that one section in a nearby state can use at least 100,000 pounds and pay five cents a pound. Producers in the old belt are said to have a larger yield than they anticipated and it is quite certain that they will be in the market for possibly several hundred thousand pounds.

It is possible that supply and demand for the cards will not balance to a pound, but reliable information points to the fact that farmers in this and other counties, too, may still receive five cents a pound for any surplus they now hold.

County agents have been authorized to collect any unused cards and send them to county agents in those areas where they are needed and will be bought at five cents a pound. With these facts before them, Martin farmers may find it to their advantage to make further investigations before offering their unused cards for sale at less than five cents a pound.

It is estimated that farmers in this county will have sold within the next two or three weeks nearly one and one-half million surplus pounds from their marketing cards.

Farmers In Cross Roads Will Likely Vote For Control

Cross Section Opinion Indicates Strong Support There

Will the farmers of the nation vote for control for 1939? That question is often asked throughout the farming areas, some of the answers indicating the vote will favor a continuance of the AAA program and others indicating the measure will go down in defeat.

December 10 has been definitely set for the cotton referendum, and it is almost certain tobacco farmers will vote the same day. However, the date for holding the tobacco vote has not been definitely determined. Present plans of AAA authorities call for an announcement of quotas before the farmers vote, and until those quotas are definitely determined the date for holding the tobacco referendum will hardly be fixed, some think. The tobacco quota, 750,000 pounds for 1938, will likely be unchanged, it was announced a few days ago following a two-day conference between grower representatives and Department of Agriculture officials.

Reaction following the release of individual quotas is expected to influence the vote in the tobacco territory. If a farmer's poundage comes up to his expectation or if he was satisfied with his allotment this year, that farmer will likely support control when the referendum is held. Farmers, while thinking the program is a good thing but who are dissatisfied with their individual allotments, are almost certain to vote against control. The merits of the program, as a whole, will not enter into the referendum to any appreciable extent.

Asked their opinion this week, a group of forty farmers in Cross Roads Township stated they believed that district would give a large majority to the control program in the referendum. Very little opposition is evident in that territory, and there are some ardent supporters of the program there. Mr. John Bailey, eighty-year-old farmer, explained that he would hate to see the farmers abandon the organized program. Control opposition, while believed not so powerful, is centered in the lower part of Jamesville Township, it was learned Wednesday evening when a group of eighty farmers meeting in the Jamesville school, offered their views.

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Farm Agency Gets Loan Applications

Looking forward to another year, a number of farmers in this county are already filing applications with the Farm Security Administration for loans to finance their operations in 1939.

A preliminary study of the financial status of farmers in this county shows that the number of applications will possibly be greater for the coming year than they were for 1938. The Farm Security Administration, it is understood, will be able to handle equally as many loans for next year as it did this and possibly a fairly sizeable increase.

Approximately 83 loans were advanced by the agency for financing 1938 farm activities, incomplete reports stating that many of the loans have been retired and that collections have been up to expectations in this county.

Applications are being received by Supervisor D. G. Modlin in the office of the Farm Security Administration in the courthouse.

Farmers Showing Much Interest In The AAA Elections

Few Changes Are Made in Personnel Handling Soil Program

The series of meetings being held in the county for the election of community committeemen and delegates to the county convention under the agricultural administration act is fast drawing to a close, the office of the county agent announcing today that the elections would be completed in Williams Township next Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Considerable interest is being shown in the elections this year, farmers in several of the districts where the meetings have already been held endorsed the old committee except in a few instances.

"Farmers are more interested in the soil program than ever before," Agent T. B. Brandon said today.

"They are attending the meetings in large numbers, and they are asking questions," he added.

Tuesday, forty Cross Roads farmers met in the Everetts school and effected a slight change in their representation on the AAA community board. Willie Ausbon was named chairman of the community committee, Herbert Roebuck, an alternate last year, is now vice chairman and L. A. Clark, member. Messrs. Henry D. Peel and Marion Griffin are first and second alternates on the community committee respectively. L. A. Clark was named delegate and Herbert L. Roebuck alternate to the county convention. The group offered quite a few farmers for the positions, including Messrs. Jesse Keel, John H. Wynne, Garland Forbes, George Taylor and Gordon Bailey. Not one was reported to have voted for himself.

Down at Jamesville last Wednesday evening, eighty farmers attended the community meeting and participated in the election. J. L. Knowles led the ticket with 56 votes, followed by Arthur Modlin with 48 votes. C. C. "Frosty" Martin was third with 46 votes. P. J. Modlin fourth with 39 and John A. Gardner fifth with 36 votes. The first three form the community committee and the last two are first and second alternates, respectively. Mr. Knowles and Mr. Arthur Modlin were chosen as delegate and alternate to the county convention.

Out in Farm Life the same evening, fifty-seven farmers selected their committeemen and delegates, as follows: Committeemen, George C. Griffin, 43; J. C. Gurkin, 39; A. J. Hardison, 34; first alternate, A. C. Roberson, 33; and second alternate, L. H. Roberson, 32. George C. Griffin was elected delegate and L. H. Roberson alternate to the county convention.

Sixty farmers at Oak City last evening elected the following community committeemen: J. F. Crisp, 37; J. C. Ross, 33; first alternate, W. Z. Wilson, 32; second alternate, L. H. Hux, 29. J. C. Ross was named delegate and Julian Mizelle alternate to the county convention which convenes here next Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Hamilton Township farmers meeting in Hassell at the same time, showed considerable interest in the election and the soil conservation program. The following were elected community committeemen: D. R. Edmondson, 34; C. L. Nelson, 31; J. H. Lillard, 22; first alternate, Woodrow Purvis, 20; second alternate, K. B. Etheridge, 15. Mr. Edmondson was elected delegate and Mr. Nelson was chosen alternate to the county convention.

Elections will be held in the agricultural building and at Robersonville tonight and in Williams Township next Monday night at 7:30.

Meeting here next Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the county delegate will elect a county committee.

Burns Prove Fatal To Small Colored Child

Burned when he fell into a pot of hot grease about five weeks ago, Clarence Johnson, four-year-old colored child, died in a Washington hospital the early part of this week. The child was playing in the kitchen of his grandmother, Anna Mason, when he accidentally fell over backward into the pan of hot grease.

Firemen Get First Call In Nearly Two Months

Local firemen were called out this morning at 10:20 o'clock to the home of Dealia Allen, colored, on East Main Street. Soot in the chimney caught fire, but no damage was done.

The call was the first received by local firemen in nearly two months.

NEW ELECTOR

It does not necessarily mean that the Democratic party is losing out in Martin County, but the fact that only one person has registered for the election next month clearly shows that there isn't a great deal of interest in the approaching event.

All the precincts in the county have not been heard from, but reports coming from a majority of them state that only one name has been added to the registration books during the past two Saturdays. Tomorrow is the last day for registrations.

No New Evidence Found In Murder Case At Tarboro

Hearing For Three Men To Be Held in Tarboro Next Monday

Mystery continues to surround the killing of James Monroe Everett, 33-year-old Robersonville man, in this county or near Tarboro during the early part of last Sunday evening. Everett was found dead in the back seat of Paul Bullock's car near Tarboro about 9:30 Sunday night. He was said to have left Bullock's filling station between Parmele and Bethel and gone to the California Inn, near Tarboro some time during the early part of the evening.

His companions claim they went into the inn and when they returned they found Everett shot in the forehead. The theory of suicide was advanced, but officers believe the man was killed, according to reports reaching here.

Learning that a poker game was alleged to have been in progress at Bullock's filling station possibly a short time before the man was found dead, officers are of the belief that Everett was murdered in this county, and that his body was carried to Edgecombe County. They discount the suicide theory, reports stating that there were no powder burns on the man. It was also pointed out that blood was found on the running board of the car, indicating that the man was shot outside and then dragged into the machine.

No new evidence has been disclosed in the case, and the facts surrounding the killing remain as much a mystery at this time as they were soon after the three men found him dead.

Violent Blanton Hall, claiming she saw the three companions in the car and did not see Everett, was released Wednesday by Edgecombe officers following her arrest the night before. Investigations showed that the woman was in Ayden that evening.

A hearing has been scheduled in Tarboro for next Monday morning. Bullock, Ayers and Whitehurst continue in the Edgecombe jail.

RECOGNITION

Martin County has gained much recognition because it is one of the best balanced agricultural units in all the world, but other factors have entered upon the scene to carry Martin's fame to the very steps of the nation's capitol.

Speaking to a district Democratic meeting here last Tuesday, Congressman Lindsay Warren said that Vice President John Nance Garner looked forward to Martin County hog killings each fall when several farmers favored him with a mess of chitterlings.