

## Convicted In The Courts Of County, Five Ask Paroles

### Commissioner of Paroles Is Now Considering Requests

Few persons sentenced to prison from this county in recent years have shared in the parole blessings that have been bestowed so freely upon prisoners from other counties, but the requests from former Martin citizens for their freedom are being filed thick and fast with the commission these days.

Four of those seeking paroles were sentenced to prison for murder and a fifth one was sent to the pen for manslaughter. Edwin C. Gill, commissioner of paroles, has the records of each of the five prisoners before him and he is said to have already sounded out public sentiment in at least four of the five cases. It could not be learned whether any opposition had been directed against the prisoners' pleas for parole, but it was learned that several would not recommend paroles in all the cases. "I am taking no part in the movement to give any of the five prisoners their freedom," one man was quoted as saying. "I am expressing no opposition, but at the same time I am not placing myself on record as recommending a parole in any of the cases," he added. The commissioner's letter went unanswered in that case.

Sentenced to serve from three to five years in prison for hit-and-run driving and manslaughter, James Moore, colored, is seeking a parole. Moore ran down and killed Robert Coltraine, white youth, on Williamston's Main Street on February 19, last year, and was sentenced to prison last March. Commissioner Gill reports that Moore has made a splendid record, that during much of the time he has been in prison, the prisoner operated a truck between Raleigh and the State farm at Caledonia.

Phoebe Moore, colored woman who shot and killed Sam Simmons, colored man, here in July, 1934, is the second of the five prisoners applying for a parole. Sentenced to prison for twenty years, she will not likely return to this county if she is given her freedom, Gill pointed out in a letter to Sheriff C. B. Roebuck.

Old Man Joe Davenport, the old codger who shot and killed his wife in 1934, wants to come back to Martin County after serving four and one-half years of his 15-20 year sentence.

Frank Cox, convicted of the cold-blooded murder of Farmer Henry Jolly in Cross Roads Township ten years ago, has his application on file for a parole.

## Floating Theatre Here Next Week

Reconditioned at a cost of several thousand dollars after going to the bottom of the Roanoke near Jamesville early last November, the Original Floating Theatre will again attempt to ply the stream Sunday for a two-day engagement here next Monday and Tuesday. It was announced this week by the management.

Repairing to their home in almost a dozen states following the sinking of the boat, members of the cast were recalled several days ago. Making short stops at towns along the streams in this section of the State, the show boat will start moving to southern waters soon.

The management announced this week that the floating theatre had been extensively renovated and modernized at a cost of several thousand dollars.

The stop here is one of the few the show boat will make before going south.

## May Let Farm Life Road Contract Soon

A contract for the surfacing of a farm-to-market road from the Old Mill Inn to the Farm Life school, via Lilley's store and Smithwicks Creek church, will possibly be let in early March, according to unofficial information reaching here this week.

Engineers have completed a survey of about one-half of the project and representatives of the federal government were in the county this week reviewing the survey.

## New York and San Francisco Fairs Forbid Sale of Peanuts

Without assigning any reason whatever, the New York and San Francisco world fairs getting underway this year have placed a ban on the sale of peanuts at the two events according to unofficial announcements coming from the fair authorities a few days ago. The announcement, puzzling peanut growers of this area, merely stated, "Peanuts won't be sold at the New York and San Francisco world fairs."

"But evidently they are being and will be sold in plenty of other places," John Craddock in his "Behind the Scenes in American Business," commented. Craddock continued:

"Making precaution the watchword in its operations day in and day out, the Williamston district of the Virginia Electric and Power Company last year earned the company's annual safety award for the third time and led the entire industry in the prevention of accidents.

Winning the award for the first time in 1934, the Williamston district of the company next gained recognition for its accident prevention work in 1937 when the employees scored a perfect safety record. The record was maintained last year, and by winning the award three times, the district is to receive a handsome bronze wall plate in recognition of the care exercised by the large list of employees in handling the company's work. It is one of the few cases in the history of the company where a district has earned a bronze plate bearing out an unusual safety record.

Since locating here in October, 1932, the district office employees have worked a total of 453,713 man hours without a lost-time accident. Last year the company's cars and trucks were driven 276,648 miles without an accident of any kind. Holding sixth place among other companies in the industry throughout the nation a few years ago, the Virginia Electric and Power Company as a whole, forged into first place with its safety record last year. Since the V. E. P. system led the entire nation, the district office here has every reason to feel proud of leading the company in 1938.

## Home Is Destroyed By Fire At Farm Life

Fire, said to have started from a spark on the roof, destroyed the two-story country home of Mr. Jas. A. Roberson in the Farm Life section of Griffins Township about one o'clock Wednesday morning. A piano and most of the other contents were removed from the first floor, but most of those on the second floor were burned.

A truck driver in the employ of the Gaines Lumber Company discovered the fire as he passed the home on his way to Jamesville with a load of lumber from the old Dymond City sector. Sleeping soundly, members of the family were long in hearing the man's call. A comparatively small portion of the roof was burning when the fire was discovered, and occupants of the house almost brought it under control, but before another bucket of water could be passed up the ladder the fire would break out and gain more headway.

Summoned by telephone, neighbors in large numbers hurried there and with a favorable wind from the west held the fire to the home. Outbuildings, fifty yards away, and the woods across the highway caught fire several times, but the flames were quickly extinguished. The local fire department received a call about one o'clock, and several carloads of firemen and others went to the scene to offer any assistance they could.

Only a small amount of insurance was carried on the home, it was learned.

## Lawyer Carter Studdert Is Home From Hospital

Attorney Carter Studdert, after spending several weeks in a Raleigh hospital, returns home today. Mr. Studdert was quite ill for several days following an operation there.

"Delving into government figures on the peanut industry brings to light some amazing facts. For instance, in 1938 there were 1,887,000 acres in the U. S. planted to peanuts, and a total of 1,424,825,000 pounds were produced, or 11 pounds for each man, woman and child in the country—and the largest yield on record. Value of the crop to the farmer was over \$50,000,000. With the aid of modern chemical research, the lowly peanut has proved its usefulness in insulating material, as a base for fine face powder and as breakfast food, in addition to its more common appearance at circuses and ball games."

## CONTEST

The drive for Farm Bureau members is waxing warm in this county, preliminary reports from the field indicating that the team of Charlie Daniels is slightly leading the Van Taylor forces.

With a goal of 500 members before them, the two teams are canvassing the entire county, and while the drive proves disheartening at times, the canvassers are making progress, it was learned.

At the end of three weeks, the team procuring the most members will be guests of the losers at a supper.

## Mrs. Joseph Warren Dies At Home Here

### Funeral Service To Be Held At Rosen of Sharon in Bear Grass

Mrs. Joseph Warren, highly respected local citizen, died at her home on North Houghton Street last evening at 8:30 o'clock following a stroke of paralysis suffered last Tuesday afternoon. Apparently enjoying good health, Mrs. Warren was taken ill suddenly and never regained consciousness following the paralytic attack.

The daughter of the late W. Riddick Roberson and Aena Roberson, she was born in Bear Grass Township 53 years ago. In 1920 she was married to Joseph Warren, of this county, and she survives with two sons, Joseph, Jr., and Henry Riddick Warren. She also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Fannie Mizelle, of Beaufort County, and Mrs. Rome Rogers, of Bear Grass; and two brothers, Messrs. William Alfred Roberson, of Williamston, and Tommie Roberson, of Bear Grass.

Mrs. Warren, a thoughtful wife and a devoted mother, was a member of the Rosen of Sharon First Baptist church in Bear Grass Township for a long number of years. She was a loyal follower of that faith, and enjoyed a large circle of friends in her native and adopted communities. She and her family had made their home in Williamston during the past five years.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Rosen of Sharon church tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by her pastor, the Rev. Mr. Abrams, of Edgecombe County. Interment will follow in the Bailey cemetery in Bear Grass Township.

## Aid For Libraries Asked Of Assembly

Urgent appeals are being directed to the State Legislature, now in session, urging the passage of an act authorizing sufficient appropriations of state funds for public library work in the counties of the State. Representative H. G. Horton will be asked to support the measure.

The 1937 assembly passed an act authorizing state aid for public libraries, but no appropriation was made available and the work continued at a standstill in most of the counties in the State.

The primary aim of the proposed bill is to equalize library service by establishing and maintaining public libraries in this and other counties which have none, and by helping all libraries to provide more adequate service.

Other than a limited service offered by the Williamston public library, there are no other public library facilities available to the people of this county. Twenty-three counties in the State have fairly complete library facilities for its people, and sixteen others have a partial library service.

A review of the library facilities clearly shows that an appropriation by the State is badly needed for expanding those facilities.

## Death Loosens Its Grip On Highways In Martin County

### Death Toll Drops From 13 In 1937 To Four Last Year

Death loosened its grip on traffic on the highways of Martin County last year, a comparison of the 1938 record with that for the previous year shows. The decrease in number of deaths was accompanied by a lower property damage resulting from motor vehicle accidents.

Four lives were claimed on the highways in this county last year as compared with thirteen the year before, the number of fatalities in 1938 running eight behind the five-year average. There was a 68 per cent decrease in the number of deaths compared with the record for 1937, and 75 per cent of the victims were pedestrians.

There were around 48 accidents during the year with resulting property damage of \$50 or more each. During the last eight months of the year, the property damage was estimated at \$4,135. With nearly 5,000 motor vehicles registered, Martin County made one of the best safety records in this section of the State. Patrolman W. S. Hunt pointed out.

During the past five years, fifty-eight lives have been lost in highway wrecks in the county.

The names of those falling victim last year to the modern system of transportation are as follows: Robert Coltraine, young boy who was killed on Williamston's West Main Street; Delmar James, colored child who was killed near Dardens; Isaiah Hardison, colored man who was killed near the scene where the James child lost his life; Arthur Jeffries, young white man, who was killed in October near Oak City. The first three victims were pedestrians.

While Martin County reported a 68 per cent decrease in its highway deaths for 1938, the State, as a whole, reported a decrease of only 20 per cent.

## Guaranty Closes Successful Year

Out of a total of 2,375 shares of common stock in the Guaranty Bank & Trust company, 1,832 were represented in person or by proxy at the 38th annual meeting of the stockholders, held in Greenville Tuesday afternoon. The meeting was presided over by E. G. Flanagan, who has served as president of the institution since 1912.

J. H. Waldrop read a report as of December 31, 1938, showing total assets of \$8,371,279.95, an increase of \$300,000 over the corresponding date of the preceding year.

After making substantial additions to surplus, undivided profits, and reserve accounts, the stockholders were paid a ten per cent cash, and ten per cent stock dividend.

An amendment to the charter was passed providing for the increase of the capital stock from \$437,500 to \$500,000, but no additional stock is to be offered at this time, except the stock dividend, amounting to \$23,750, which would bring the total paid-in capital to \$461,250.

W. H. Woolard, executive vice-president, made interesting remarks with reference to the growth and expansion of the bank, and made comparisons between conditions now and in 1929. He stated that the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company now had in cash and in banks more than twice as much as all ten banks in Pitt County had on December 31, 1928, and he also stated that it was the policy of the officers of the bank to keep same in a sufficiently liquid condition to meet a recurrence of emergency. He commended and thanked the directors and committees of the home office and branches for the aid they have given the bank.

## County Officials Guests Of Pulp Plant Owners

Martin County officials and a few special guests were highly entertained at the plant of the North Carolina Pulp company in the lower part of this county Wednesday. Following a detailed inspection of the huge plant, the group was served dinner in the country club house.

Those attending from this county were: Messrs. L. B. Wynne, J. Sam Getsinger, C. B. Roebuck, J. L. Hassell, N. C. Green, C. A. Harrison, Drs. E. W. Furgurson and Frank E. Wilson, Charles Leonard, Bill Peel, S. H. Grimes and Commissioners C. C. Fleming, J. E. Pope, C. Abram Roberson, R. A. Haislip, J. C. Manning, V. J. Spivey, Dr. J. S. Rhodes, and S. R. Biggs.

## Health Officials Plan Series of Examinations

### To Examine School Children Of County Beginning Monday

### Physical Examinations Will Be Limited To Three Grades

The Martin County Health Department will begin the physical examinations of school children throughout the county on January 16th.

There are three objectives which the health authorities are striving to reach: (1) to stress the importance of periodic check-up, even in the absence of suggestion of disease; (2) to stimulate the children to more healthful living, and (3) to detect common and often over-looked defects which may seriously impair his health in the future. It is impossible to make a complete examination on each child due to the limited time and facilities at the disposal of the department.

The purpose of carrying out physical examinations in school children is not to teach the children and their parents to turn to the school as the source of all health guidance and counsel. This would be assuming a burden in the school far too great to carry. For the child's own happiness and health, physical defects must be discovered and corrected early. But, granting that periodic physical examinations are advisable and necessary, we must admit that the child's own physician, who is ready to carry out any corrective procedure which might be indicated is the best source to secure such an examination.

The school is no place for a sick child, and those who attend school with any kind of sickness merely reflect a family who has little or no perception of the proper care of the child and how to act best to protect the health of the public. These children should be taken home, the mother informed as to what she should have done in the way of calling in medical advice before sending a manifestly sick child to school, and she should be advised to call in her own physician for examination and treatment.

The students in the first, third and sixth grades will be examined. In this way we hope to examine a little more than a third of the school population annually, a different third each year, thus providing for three examinations during the elementary school life of each child.

Examinations will be held in both white and colored schools throughout the county. Doctor Furgurson and Doctor Wilson will work together in the schools until about February 1st. The complete schedule has not been perfected but the tentative plans will be to begin in the following white schools as listed below:

- Robersonville: January 16th and 17th.
- Everetts: January 19th and 20th.
- Oak City: January 23rd and 24th.
- Hamilton: January 26th and 27th.
- Gold Point: January 30th.
- Hassell: January 31st.
- Jamesville: Jan. 16th and 17th.
- Farm Life: Jan. 18th.
- Bear Grass: Jan. 20th and 23rd.
- Williamston: Jan. 24th and 25th.

## Skewarkey Lodge Here Installs New Officers

The installation of new officers featured the activities at the regular meeting of the Skewarkey Masonic Lodge here last Tuesday evening. Past Master S. H. Grimes, assisted by Past Master V. J. Spivey, had charge of the installation service.

Names of the new officers are: Charles Davenport, worshipful master; R. H. Goodman, senior warden; C. B. Clark, Sr., junior warden; Carter Studdert, senior deacon; Clarence Stallings, junior deacon; R. L. Perry and Bill Harrison, stewards; J. D. Woolard, treasurer; K. D. Worrell, secretary, and S. S. Brown, tyler. Mr. Brown, now over 70 years of age, has been a member of the lodge for more than forty years.

## Grows Unusually Large Turnip In Griffins

W. Dave Daniel, Griffins Township farmer, placed on display here yesterday afternoon an unusually large turnip. The purple top vegetable weighed five and one-half pounds and was perfectly shaped. "We have found numbers of others almost as large," Mr. Daniel said, finally admitting that Mrs. Daniel grew the turnip.

## EJECTMENTS

Unwanted and friendless in many cases, six Martin County families have been ordered to vacate their homes. Some white and some colored, the six tenant families have been given an extension of a few days to locate homes and vacate their present places of abode, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck issuing a warning that unless the orders are complied with at the expiration of the time extension he would have to place their earthly belongings in the public roads.

During the first half of January, a year ago, the sheriff was directed to eject six families.

## Judge H. O. Peele Calls Thirty-One Cases During Day

### Fines Totalling \$450.00 Are Imposed; Long Road Sentences Given

Judge H. O. Peel started the new year off with a bang in the county recorder's court last Monday when he imposed fines totalling \$450 and meted out road sentences aggregating three and two-thirds years. All day long, the jurist and the solicitor, D. Elphonsa Johnson, worked on the docket, clearing the accumulation of 31 cases that had been placed on the docket during the holiday season. The session constituted an all-time record when its activities of the day were combined.

Judge H. O. Peel announced in open court that while the court would continue to hold to its main duty of administering justice to all alike, he was going to "tighten up" on violators of the liquor laws in this county. "I have tried to be fair. I have tried to temper justice with mercy, but I give everyone warning that leniency is not to be expected by those who flagrantly continue to violate the laws," Judge Peel was quoted as saying in his warning.

Proceedings in the court Monday: Charged with non-support, Leon Sykes was directed to pay \$5 a month for six months for the support of his child.

Failing to comply with a former judgment in a case charging him with reckless driving, Lenon Gray Moore was sentenced to the roads for three months.

Charged with non-support, Doe Whitfield was ordered to pay into the court \$45 for Dr. E. E. Pittman and \$10 for Undertaker Harden. He appealed and bond was fixed in the sum of \$100.

The case charging Marshall Burns with bastardy was nolprossed. David Simpson was sentenced to the roads for three months in the case charging him with non-support.

The cases charging W. J. Thompson and Furnie W. Sparrow with incest were continued.

## Drive Is Underway To Defeat New Deal

Apparently making secondary efforts to advance a constructive program, some law makers in the National Congress are biding their time to attack the president and defeat the New Deal.

The first blow against the administration was landed this week when a House Appropriations sub-committee slashed \$150,000,000 from President Roosevelt's \$875,000,000 emergency relief request, and proposed legislative restrictions to thwart the chief executive's plan to place 32,300 relief officials under civil service.

The attack against the president and the New Deal, however, will be centered around other issues. The opposition, including those conservative Democrats who were invited out of the party by the president at his Jackson Day speech last week, are scanning administration measures in an effort to brand them as of dictatorial leanings.

It is apparent that the drive is on, and the opposition now proclaims that it is not a question of whether there'll be a split but just when the split will come.

As the second week of Congress comes to a close, nothing tangible has been done, but observers point out that the ground work for a great battle is being handled.

## Thirty-Seven Pupils Move From Here and Thirty-Five Move In

### Local Student Council Gives Chapel Program This Week

With more turnover in school population than at any one time in recent years, school enrollment remains nearly the same in the local schools. A check through class rolls reveals that 37 children have moved from the school district during the past two weeks while only 35 new students have been enrolled. This leaves a net loss of two students. Most of the transfers took place in the elementary school where in the first six grades twenty-nine students moved away and were replaced with exactly twenty-nine newcomers. Parents of one of the newcomers, Bessie Spruill, moved from near Emporia, Va., late Wednesday, enrolling the child here yesterday morning without missing any schooling. The child has four years of perfect attendance.

The membership for the elementary and high schools will total approximately eight hundred and fifteen during the four months of the second term.

Parents-Teachers The executive committee of the Parents-Teachers Association in session at the high school yesterday afternoon decided to postpone the regular meeting of the association until February 3 in order to secure Clyde Erwin, State Superintendent of Schools, as its principal speaker. Mr. Erwin was expected to be present for the meeting next Wednesday but wrote that he would not be able to be present.

Plans were perfected for the association's annual bridge tournament which will be held in the Woman's Club next Wednesday afternoon and evening. The hours scheduled for play will be three and eight o'clock. It is hoped that all bridge players will make plans to attend, insuring for themselves an enjoyable session and at the same time benefitting the organization's work in the local schools.

## Council Holds Program

The student council of the local high school reviewed its work of the fall months at an assembly held in the auditorium last Tuesday morning. Arranged in the form of a council meeting with President Doris Moore presiding, the program took the form of reports and summaries of activities by committee chairmen whose terms of office expired this week. Outstanding work was reported by the student committees on hall traffic, cafeteria management, school building and grounds and athletics.

Elections to replace the retiring members were held Thursday at activities period and the following students were chosen for council membership during the spring term:

- Seniors: Louise Melson, Virgil Ward, Martha Rhodes Ward.
- Juniors: J. E. Boykin, Stuart Critcher, Martin Anderson.
- Sophomores: Roosevelt Coltraine, Susie Griffin.
- Freshmen: Evelyn Griffin, Emma Belle Ward.

Doris Moore, president, and Marjorie Grey Dunn, secretary, were elected in September for the school year.

## Anticipate Heavy Poultry Loadings

Starting the cooperative shipment of poultry from the county next week, the county farm agent is anticipating fairly heavy loadings at the four points, Jamesville, Williamston, Robersonville and Oak City. The first stop the cooperative car will make will be at Jamesville next Tuesday morning. On successive days, the car will be stationed at Williamston, Robersonville and Oak City.

A preliminary survey of the farms in this county indicates that Martin farmers have established a new record in poultry raising. Thousands of chicks purchased last year are now ready for the markets. Last year, Martin farmers sold cooperatively 63,586 pounds of poultry and received \$11,872.55. The sales this season are expected to exceed that of last year.

## Officers Capture Liquor Plant In County Yesterday

Two 100-gallon capacity copper liquor stills were captured, one in Poplar Point and the other in Bear Grass Township, by Special Officer J. H. Roebuck assisted by Roy Peel yesterday. One of the plants was new. The raiders poured out approximately 1,000 gallons of beer. Alphonsa Ewell and Richmond Milton, both colored, were captured