

Dozen Cases Are Called In County Court Last Monday

Judge Warns Prosecuting Witness Against Bad Practice

The bad practice of procuring warrants while the griever person was made and then for them to refuse to offer testimony for the State in its prosecution of those cases was attacked by Judge H. O. Peel in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday. Often prosecuting witnesses called for warrants and then fall down when the defendant faces the court, causing the general public to wonder how this person or that person could gain his freedom after a flagrant violation of the peace.

Clyde Silverthorne, a more-or-less frequent defendant in the county court, was found not guilty by Judge Peel in the case charging him with an assault on a female. The judge incorporated in the case judgment a warning to the prosecuting witness, Mrs. Silverthorne. The court ruled that if Mrs. Silverthorne procured another warrant for her husband and came into court asking for withdrawal of the charges or failed to give evidence to substantiate the charges, then the court costs would be assessed against her or a jail sentence imposed.

With an even dozen cases on its docket, the court was in session after the lunch hour.

A big fight reaching serious proportions on December 20 at Gold Point was aired in the court Monday. Harry Bell, charged with throwing a pop bottle into the store in Linwood Johnson and temporarily "knocking out" Mr. W. A. Vanderford, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs in the case. Leo Bell, a second defendant in the case, was found not guilty. Entering the Johnson store allegedly with a pocket knife ready for an assault, Charlie Bell, father of Harry and Leo, was shot by Mr. Johnson. The ball struck Bell on the chin and followed the skin around the bone, down his neck and lodged in his shoulder. The case was scheduled for trial on January 9, but Charlie wasn't doing so well and the case was postponed until last Monday when Charlie, apparently in good health but a bullet heavier, appeared in court. Mr. Johnson was found not guilty.

Robert Harrell, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was adjudged not guilty.

Pleading his innocence, Walter Hester was found guilty in the case charging him with bastardy. The court directed him to pay \$5 a month for the upkeep of his alleged illegitimate child during the next year, and offer bond of \$100 to guarantee the monthly payments. He appealed and the court required bond in the sum of \$100.

The case charging James Lilley with reckless driving was continued by agreement. Young Lilley, it will be recalled, was returning on the Washington Road to his home after reporting the fatal attack made upon his father on the morning of December 24 when he fainted and his car crashed into another.

Dawson Council, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was found not guilty.

Charged with larceny, John Henry Ruffin pleaded guilty of simple assault, Solicitor Elphonsa Johnson accepting the plea. The case was continued under prayer for judgment.

Sam Moore, colored, charged with drunken driving and operating a car without a driver's license, was fined \$85 and taxed with the cost.

James D. Oakley, colored driver of a coca-cola truck, was found not guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving.

The case charging Preston Smith with permitting a drunken person to operate his motor vehicle, was not prossed.

Escapes Injury When Car Turns Over Twice

Mrs. H. L. Thompson, of California and Portsmouth, Va., and a companion escaped unhurt when their car, a Ford sedan, skidded and turned over twice on the Washington highway, two miles from here last Tuesday afternoon. The car, its top smashed in, landed bottom side up in a ditch. Damage to the machine was estimated at \$450.

After minor repairs to the running gears of the car, Mrs. Thompson left here Wednesday to join her husband who is on his way to Portsmouth with the Pacific fleet. Mrs. Thompson and her lady companion had traveled all the way from the west coast and were nearing their destination when they had the accident.

Illicit Liquor Manufacturers Prepare First Line of Defense

Holding an equal chance when it came to matching leg for leg with the ground agents, illicit liquor manufacturers in this county are said to be forming a first line of defense against the federal agent in the air. Unofficial but fairly reliable reports declare that the illicit liquor manufacturers are going to camouflage their plants, use a smokeless fuel, and trust the air raiders will not fly too low. "No, I don't believe anybody in this county is mean enough to fire upon a plane, but if I were going to fly over some sections I'd make it a point to fly high," a report quoted one man as saying.

It is understood that liquor manufacturing has been at a virtual standstill throughout the Martin County countryside this week, the

operators spending most of their time camouflaging their plants in anticipation of another air raid.

The R. F. D. liquor world was greatly disturbed last Saturday when a government plane made an inspection tour of several sections of the county, spotted liquor plants and directed ground raiders to them.

It was reported shortly after the last Saturday raid, the first of its type ever made in the county, that a frequent but unannounced scheduled raid would be maintained by the federal agents in cooperation with the enforcement bureau in this county in the future. As far as it could be learned no raid has been made from the air this week, but that another one is scheduled shortly.

HOLIDAY

The Williamston office of the State Employment Service, in accordance with general orders of the Unemployment Compensation Commission in Raleigh, will not be open on Saturday, January 28th. All State employment offices in this State are to close on tomorrow to allow the personnel to take the merit examinations scheduled for that day at various points.

Many of the examinations were held last Saturday, January 21st, but most of the employees of the local office are to take examinations that are to be given on the 28th. Many people from the rank and file of the citizenry at large are also taking the merit examinations in order to get on the eligible lists for future jobs that may be open.

Place Marker For New Post Office

The "corner" stone for Williamston's new postoffice was laid this week, reports from the contractors stating that work on the building is progressing well ahead of schedule. Supervisor C. H. Riddle states that construction work will likely be completed in early June and that the building would be ready for occupancy on or about July 1. Several masons started laying brick this week and the stone setters are almost through with their work. Several pieces of the granite had to be reset at the direction of the supervising engineer, but the extra work caused no great delay in the general building activities.

They still call it the corner stone, but the marker bearing the inscription, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury; James A. Farley, Postmaster General; Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, and Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer, 1938, is several stones removed from the east corner of the building. "That's where they put them now," Mr. Riddle explained as the marker was being placed.

Three Are Arrested For Investigation

Nicodemus Barrow, Sam Moore and Alberta Brooks, all colored, were arrested in this week and are being held for investigation in connection with the theft of about 300 pounds of ham and shoulders from Herbert Manning's smokehouse in the Farm Life section of Griffins Township early last Saturday night. Their arrests were made when it was learned that the trio had been seen riding in the Farm Life section on the evening the meat was stolen.

The meat robbers, after breaking into the smokehouse and stealing the meat, are said to have broken into the Manning home. Nothing was missed from the home as far as it could be learned.

No hearing has been scheduled in the case so far, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said this morning.

Former Resident Is Sent To Prison

B. J. Sessoms, 48-year-old white farmer, of Edgecombe County, and a former resident of Robersonville, pleaded guilty to incest with his 12-year-old daughter, Ellen Sessoms, in Superior Court in Tarboro Monday afternoon and was sentenced to 12 years in State's prison by Judge C. Everett Thompson, of Elizabeth City.

Sessoms admitted his guilt, and witnesses, including the child, testified that her father attacked her in an open field near their home. She will become a mother next month.

Reviews Activities Employment Office Here In Past Year

Jobs Are Found For 1,273 People By Office Here In Twelve Months

During 1938, the first full year of operation of the Williamston unit of the State Employment Service, the local office placed 1,273 people in jobs and during that period served over 160 employers, business firms, contractors and others in filling orders for qualified help.

During the year new registrations amounted to 5,112 divided as follows: Martin County, 1,052; Beaufort County, 2,189; Washington County, 894; Hyde County, 234; Tyrrell County, 501. Beaufort, the most populous county of the five that are served by the Williamston office, led in registrations, placements and number of unemployment compensation claimants during the past year.

During the year 41,310 personal calls or visits by applicants, claimants, visitors and employers were made in the local office and at the various extension service points over the five counties. Members of the Williamston office made 342 field visits or calls on employers, contractors, etc., during 1938.

Approximately 43,000 original and continued claims for unemployment compensation were handled by this office during the year. Checks were distributed to eligible unemployed workers in all the five counties.

Industrial and domestic placements are somewhat limited since the Williamston office serves an area that is predominantly rural, with main occupations being farming, fishing, lumbering and other rural and small town lines of business. Considerable placement work was done in agricultural, lumbering, fish and oyster industry, and particularly building construction, both public and private.

One of the Williamston Employment service workers was sent into the strawberry section at Wallace and into the potato section at Bayboro for special duty during the strawberry and potato harvesting seasons of the past year. Cooperation of employers, contractors, public officials and business men during the past year was marked by increased use of the local office and its service.

The local employment service office receives applications from every employable person wishing to register; assists people wishing to obtain Social Security numbers; maintains an active file of qualified workers in each of the five counties; places as many as possible in private and public employment in its area and elsewhere in the State; handles claims for eligible unemployed workers who have compensation benefits due them; and in various other ways serves the public as a clearing house for the employment needs of this section.

Plays World's Champion Checker Player To Draw

Joe Godard, local cafe operator and acknowledged checker player champion in these parts, reached out for new laurels last Tuesday evening when he met and played William F. Ryan, world champion checker player, to a draw. The local champion had victory in his grasp at one time, the world champion pointing out after the game the move that would have won. But it was no bad feat to tie the world-renowned checker player even if he was playing blind-folded.

Wheeler Martin Ward and Julius Peel, observing the checker battle, learned some intricate points about the game, they reported upon their return here.

Report An Added Interest In Drive For New Members

Showdown Scheduled Here Next Monday Night

The campaign for additional members of the Martin County Farm Bureau Federation underway for a little over two weeks is attracting added interest as representatives of the two membership teams start a final drive for new joiners.

Trailing Charlie Daniel's team by a few points early this week, Captain Van G. Taylor went home and the next day personally wrote an appealing letter to his workers. Mr. Charlie Daniel isn't talking much, but reports that he and his boys are still working.

While the canvassers are still interested primarily in building up a strong farm organization in Martin County, they are thinking a great deal about who is going to pay for that supper in the American Legion Hut here next Monday night. Limited to the members of the canvassing teams, the supper will be financed by the losers in the contest. That everyone might enjoy the meal, the winners will not be determined until after the supper. Mr. Daniel is advising members on the opposing team to have their money ready and Mr. Taylor is advising the members of the opposing team to have their money ready. In case of a tie, possibly the boys will "dutch it."

Admitting at the meeting last Monday evening in the agricultural building here that Mr. Daniel and his boys "have us on the drag with about thirty-five new members ahead," Mr. Taylor sent out the following letter to his team workers:

"At the meeting it was decided to close the campaign next Monday night with a good, nice turkey supper and the losing club pay the bill.

"Now I know there isn't a member of my team who minds paying his part for the eats, but I am begging you, if we have to foot the bill, to make the other boys work for them this week.

"I am still holding my goal at 210 new members, and I believe we should get that many and win out with a full stomach and no pay.

"Now, it isn't the eats we are worrying so much about. We just don't want to lose, so let's go after it during the next few days with the determination to win and meet in Williamston next Monday night for a final checking, a good supper and a little fun. Meet me there with your head up. I will be looking for you."

Negro Charged With Hit and Run Driving

Wilbert Cunningham, colored truck driver for the A. F. Amory Fish Company, of Newport News, was arrested here early Tuesday evening for hit-and-run and drunken driving. Unable to raise bond, the man continues in the county jail. He will be tried for alleged drunken driving in the recorder's court in this county next Monday, and on the following Monday he will face a charge of hit-and-run driving in the courts of Bertie.

Driving a large fish truck with a semi-trailer, Cunningham tore into and ripped the side off of a Chevrolet sedan driven by Mrs. W. W. Trueblood, of Hertford, on the river fill about eight o'clock Tuesday evening. Mrs. Trueblood and her companions, Mrs. Charles Skinner and Mrs. J. R. Delaney, also of Hertford, escaped unhurt.

Cunningham claimed he stopped after striking the car, but other reports state that he did not stop and continued to Williamston where he was arrested a short time later by Patrolman W. S. Hunt.

Another man was employed to drive the truck and deliver a big load of fish to Wilmington.

Charged With Violating State Forest Fire Laws

Probable cause appearing, the case charging Wiley Roberson, Robersonville Township colored man, with violating the State forest fire laws, was placed on the county court docket by Justice J. L. Hassell here Wednesday afternoon for trial next Monday. No bond was required of Roberson.

Roberson is alleged to have set fire to some grass lands on January 10 without notifying adjoining land owners and without stationing someone at the fire to keep it under control. It is understood that no one actually saw Roberson fire the grass land.

Reports state that the fire burned over 275 acres, that the forest service spent \$18 bringing it under control.

Bill To Have State Refund Road Money To Several Counties About Ready for the Legislative Hopper

Hundred Fifty-Six Names On School Honor Roll Here

List Is Largest Reported During Past Several Terms

The names of 156 pupils appear on the honorlist for the term recently ended in the local schools, Principal D. N. Hix pointing out that the list was the largest reported in recent terms. Names of the honor pupils:

First Grade: Ann Lamm, June Bowen, Margaret Wynne, Rush-Bondurant, Madeline Chesson, Charles Carver, Elizabeth Whitley, Jessie M. Nelson, Martha Mackenzie, Jack Gray, Warren Goff, Rachel Chesson, Clara Whitfield, Hubert Barber, Uleus Bonds, Eugene Bowen, Marvin Cherry, Garland Hardison, Pritchard Lindsey, Luther Pate, Russell Warren, Elsie R. Bowen, Rachel Beach, Ruby Bunch, Dorothy Davenport, Josephine Davenport, Rita Stephenson, Alice P. Williams.

Second Grade: Sally Hardison, Jack Booker, James G. Godard, Zack Piephoff, Billy Edwards, Paul Peele, Jr., John Watts, Landy Griffin, Julian Mason, Grimes Peel, Helen Howard, Hattie Moore, Dorothy Rogerson.

Third Grade: Eunice Ann Britton, Bety Sue Clark, Mary Lou Coltrain, Chloe Ann Davenport, Barbara Margolis, Ann Mizelle, Gertrude McLawhorn, Lala Peele, Laura F. Peele, Doris Savage, Margaret Ward, John Garkins, Eugene Corey Grace, Grace Burroughs, Eugene Andrews, Ruby Beach, Mary L. Pate, Betty G. Perry, Hollie Lilley.

Fourth Grade: Jeanette Andrews, Lucy Andrews, Louise Griffin, Gloria Hayman, Edward Beach, Louise Griffin, Elizabeth Hopkins, Dorothy Leggett, Elizabeth Manning, Letitia Maxwell, Elizabeth Parker, Elizabeth Taylor, Burnell White, Hugh Horton, Charles Siscoff.

Fifth Grade: John Daniel, Hal Dickens, Jr., Jesse Gurganus, Wilbur Jackson, Billy Myers, Erwood Old, Sylvia Green, Frances Griffin, Pearl Newbern, Dora Twiddy.

Sixth Grade: Curtis Hopkins, Fred Wheeler, Joseph Wynne, Isabelle Anderson, Jane Goff, Albert Knox, Lillian Maxwell, Anne Meador, Violet Phillips, Betty Rogers, Alberta Swain.

Seventh Grade: George Cunningham, Donald Dixon, Conrad Getzinger, Fred Hardison, Richard Margolis, Burke Parker, Luther Peel, Jerry Raynor, J. D. Woodard, George Wynne, Lucille Jones, Daisy Manning, Lenora Melson, Nancy Mercer, Della J. Mobley, Julia C. Waters, Susie Wobblenton, Evelyn Edmondson, Elsie Coltrain, Francis Thomas.

Eighth Grade: Millie Biggs, Jane Carrow, Evelyn Griffin, Joseph Gurganus, Theron Gurganus, Robert Jones, Patsy King, Mary O'Neal Pope, Madelyn Taylor, Emma B. Ward.

Ninth Grade: Billy Bowen, S. C. Griffin, Billy Mercer, Mary C. Godwin, Susie Griffin, Elizabeth Parker, Daisy Peaks, Roosevelt Coltrain.

Tenth Grade: Doris Bullock, Marjorie Dunn, Katherine Manning, Carolyn Lindsey, J. E. Boykin, J. D. Nicholson.

Eleventh Grade: Bill Ballard, June Peele, Dixie Daniel, Dixie Gardner, Sally G. Garkins, Dorothy Manning, Louise Melson, Doris Moore, Irene Perry, Mary Revels, Virgil Ward, Reid White, Susie Whitley, Margaret Jones.

Baptist Ministers In Meeting Here

Northeastern Carolina Baptist ministers were in a one-day business conference in the Memorial Baptist church last Wednesday when M. A. Hudgins, secretary of the State Baptist Convention discussed with them a number of current topics relating to the work of the denomination. Included in the discussion topics were, the circulation of the Biblical Recorder, State Baptist paper recently purchased by the Convention; the Hundred Thousand Club; a method for paying off the church's south-wide debts, and a proposed Ministers' Retirement plan.

There were twenty-five or more ministers present for the conference.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for soil conservation payments are still being received in this county, unofficial reports coming from the office of the farm agent today stating that efforts are being made to complete the work some time next week and get the requests for the cash into Raleigh soon thereafter.

Applications are being received in Jamesville and Robersonville today, and farmers in this township will apply for the payments about the middle of next week. Those farmers finding it inconvenient to apply for their benefit payments when the committeemen sit in the several districts are asked to file their claims in the office of the county agent as soon as possible.

Criminal Assault Case Against Roy

Bowers Blows Up

Pitt Court Accepts Plea of Simple Assault Upon County Girl

Roy Bowers, young Pitt County white man, charge with criminally assaulting a Martin County high school girl, near Parmele, last October, pleaded guilty to simple assault in the Pitt County Superior Court this week, and was released upon payment of the cost.

Arrested in this county soon after the alleged attack upon a Cross Roads Township girl, Bowers was denied bond by Justice J. L. Hassell at a private hearing on Sunday morning following the alleged attack. It was later learned that the alleged crime was committed in Pitt County, just across the boundary line. Bowers was given another hearing, and the solicitor ruled the case was bondable after talking with the alleged victim and a State witness. Bowers was released in \$3,500 bond.

During the meantime the victim of the alleged attack was reported to have married and moved to Norfolk, and it is understood she did not appear to prosecute the case in the court at Greenville this week.

According to the complaint filed with Martin County officers by the girl's father, Bowers criminally assaulted the girl while two friends remained in Bowers' car a short distance away afraid to offer assistance.

In support of the simple assault plea, the defense is said to have pointed out that the victim of the alleged attack re-entered the Bowers car and rode to Parmele where gasoline was purchased and that he carried her home about an hour later.

The cost in the case was only about \$44.

Bowers was in the courts of this county last year when he and a young friend went on a dynamiting raid and blew up a house in Parmele and continued to Robersonville and Bear Grass where they almost shook residents out of their beds with heavy dynamite blasts.

'March Of Dimes' Is Underway In County

Lining up a strong group of chairmen throughout the county, Leslie T. Fowden, general county chairman today predicted the "March of Dimes" would meet with a marked success this year. Offered at 10 cents each or more, the buttons are being sold principally under the direction of the school people of the county. Proceeds from the sale will be used in a relentless drive against infantile paralysis, one-half of the funds being destined for use in promotion of research work and the other half to be used for charitable purposes in the county.

Names of the chairmen for the sale of the buttons are: Messrs. L. W. Anderson, Robersonville; Dillon Peel, Everetts; T. O. Hickman, Bear Grass; H. M. Ainsley, Oak City; B. B. Castelleo, Hamilton; J. T. Uzzle, Jamesville; C. B. Martin, Farm Life; George Haislip, Hassell, and D. N. Hix, Williamston.

Martin County has been assigned a quota of 2,000 buttons for sale. The small pins will be offered for sale through Tuesday of next week.

To Introduce The Proposed Bill In House This Week

Martin County Has Valid Claim To Around \$400,000

Drafting a special proposal a few days ago, Representative Hugh G. Horton will place before the State House of Representatives the latter part of this or some time next week the bill for the refunding of money advanced by counties for the construction of State highways. Plans for pushing and claims, including one entered by the county for approximately \$400,000, were formulated at a meeting of county representative called by the Eastern Carolina chamber of Commerce in Raleigh a few days ago.

The bill, as drafted by Representative Horton, follows:

An act to provide for the reimbursement by the State to the counties of funds contributed or donated by the counties to the state and used in the construction of the state highway system or made by such county or counties in the construction of the highways forming a part of the state highway system and turned over to the state by such county or counties and to set aside and appropriate for this purpose one-half of one per cent of the present gasoline tax and to create a board to administer this act.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. The State shall, in the manner hereinafter provided, repay to the counties of the State the amounts, together with interest thereon at five per cent per annum, paid over by such counties to the State Highway Commission and used in the construction of the State highway system, as constituted under Chapter 2 of the Public Laws of one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one and other roads or highways taken over by the State Highway Commission prior to the ratification of Chapter 145 of the Public Laws of one thousand nine hundred and thirty-three. The Counties shall submit to the board named to administer this act, their claims with adequate proofs of payment, and after the verification of the claims from the records in the office of the State Highway Commission, the same shall be certified and accepted by the board as the amount contributed. In the event the county or counties donation or contribution consisted of roads built by said county or counties in accordance with the plans and specifications of the State Highway Commission and was accepted by said State Highway Commission and is now in use by the State Highway Commission without same having been rebuilt by the State Highway Commission, then, in that event, if the county or counties and the board hereinafter named cannot agree on a fair, just and equitable valuation of said roads the following method of determining their value shall be used, namely: The Board hereinafter named shall select a reputable engineer to examine and appraise said roads and the county or counties may select a reputable engineer to assist in the valuation of said roads, and if they cannot agree on the valuation to be placed on said roads, they shall choose a third reputable engineer, and the report of the majority of said engineers shall be accepted and be binding upon the board hereinafter named, and the county or counties that have filed claims consisting of roads constructed by them.

Sec. 2. The State shall not be bound to pay any part of the principal of the same herein assumed until after January 1, 1940, and shall only be liable for such interest thereon as shall accrue on deferred installments on principal from and after said January 1, 1940, and the whole amount for which the

(Continued on page six)

Firemen Called Out At Ten O'Clock This Morning

The local volunteer fire company was called out this morning at 10 o'clock when an over-heated chimney caught the old Waters home on East Main Street on fire. Very little damage was done, and the fire-fighting equipment was returned to the station within five minutes.