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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, March 3, 1939.

ESTABLISHED 1899

County Court Sets A Record For The Month of February

Only Two Cases Are Called By Judge H. O. Peel in Short Session

The Martin County recorder's court established a new record on Monday of this week when it handled only two cases and adjourned a few minutes after Judge H. O. Peel convened the regular session. It was the first time in the month of February since the court was created about twenty years ago that so few cases were placed on the docket for trial. It was just one of those times that few cases were scheduled for consideration in the court, and the short docket does not necessarily mean that crime is taking a general holiday in the county. Several crimes have taken place in recent days in the county, but the trials of the defendants were delayed pending certain developments. In other instances, the cases have been booked for trial in the higher courts.

There is a decreased activity in the crime world, however, reports coming from the various justices of the peace in the county stating that few cases have been placed before them in recent days.

Once or twice, the court has had as few as two or three cases, and there has been only one case on the docket, but such small dockets are generally the rule in the mid-summer and not in fall, winter or spring months.

Last Monday, the court adjourned with leave the case charging James Asa Griffin with an assault with a deadly weapon, it appearing to the judge that the prosecution was willing to give the defendant another chance. It was alleged that the defendant, possessing a combination walking stick, dagger and cigar lighter, separated the deadly weapon and the stick and started to attack a member of his family. No great damage was done.

When there are no more than two cases on the court docket, alleged liquor law violations can be depended upon to share a place before the tribunal. This time Ben Tyner was charged with violating the liquor laws. He pleaded guilty and the court sentenced him to the roads for sixty days, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court at any time within the next two years.

Increased Peanut Acreage In Texas Forecast For 1939

Early reports from Texas indicate that peanut farmers now intend to plant more heavily than they did last year.

A. B. Harless, Federal-State Market News Representative at the State Department of Agriculture, announced yesterday that peanut farmers in the Southern part of the Lone Star State are not only getting their seed peanuts ready but have started to plant in a small way.

Quoting reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Harless said that peanuts planted now in Texas can be dug in July and if the farmers desire another planting can be made in the same ground with every assurance that it will mature. Although the rotation of two peanut plantings in the same ground in the same year is rarely followed it is practiced enough so that growers know that it is a possibility.

Meanwhile, in Eastern North Carolina farmers' stock peanuts have been moving slowly. Best Jumbos will still command 3 3/4 to 4 cents per pound at country points and best bunch nearly as much. Most peanuts which are now moving are shelling stock and as such sell at a very wide price range. Heavy shelling stock from which a good proportion of extra large can be made will bring the grower 3 1/2 cents per pound, but light weight shelling stock containing mostly ones and twos may bring only 2 1/2 cents per pound.

Inflicts Bad Injury To His Foot With An Axe

Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Jesse Roberson, white tenant, on Mrs. Mamie E. Roberson's farm about two miles north of Bear Grass, painfully but not seriously cut his foot, directly under the ankle with an axe. He was treated by Dr. V. E. Brown and returned to his home.

Now Estimated That Martin Farmers Will Get \$175,000

Martin County farmers who complied with the farm control and soil conservation payments last year now have something to look forward to, according to unofficial information received here this week.

Several weeks ago it was unofficially estimated that the farmers of this county would receive around \$150,000 in soil conservation payments. Yesterday, County Agent T. B. Brandon stated that it was now estimated that the payments will be approximately \$175,000. These figures are not official, the agent explained, but it is a settled fact that the payments will be larger this year than ever before under the soil program.

"We don't know," the agent answered when asked how long it would be before the checks would be made available to the farmers. The office is hopeful the checks will start coming within the next two or three weeks.

Last year the farmers of this county received approximately \$125,000 in soil conservation payments, the county agent pointing out that a return to the control program last year effected an increase in the soil payments now falling due.

With few exceptions, all applications for the soil conservation payments have been filed with the county agent's office and forwarded to Raleigh for approval.

Propose Bill to Extend District School Terms

DAMAGED

Excessive rains in this section during the past week or more, are said to have damaged tobacco plant beds generally in the county, but there has been no talk so far of an expected plant shortage. There have been times when farmers would let excessive rainfall worry them, but most of them questioned since the snow yesterday were not alarmed at all, and merely said that they believed there would still be enough plants to go around if half or even three-fourths of the beds were washed completely away.

Considerable damage has resulted to plants following repeated rains in a number of counties in the belt.

Mr. Levi Hardison Dies At His Home in Williams Township

Funeral Services Are Held There Yesterday Afternoon

Levi Hardison, well-known citizen of Williams Township, died at his home there Wednesday afternoon at 12:30 o'clock following an illness of only a few hours' duration. At work in his woodshed, the aged farmer suffered a stroke an hour or two before, and never regained consciousness. Mr. Hardison was taken ill several months ago, but regained his health to the extent that he was able to be up and attend to his farm duties. He was here just a few days ago attending to business matters, and was thought to have been in fairly good health when he was taken gravely ill suddenly Wednesday morning.

The son of the late Clawton and Marina Beasley Hardison, he was born in this county 78 years ago. Mr. Hardison, well liked by a large circle of friends throughout this section, lived a quiet, peaceable and unpretentious life. The finer things in life, as fine things are defined in this modern age, were never his, but his life was not empty. He found pleasure in the simpler things in life, in doing the little things. His advantages were not many, but his witticisms would match those of the trained scholar. Mr. Hardison reminded one of the old frontiersmen who never shirked a task because it was hard and trying. He worked on his little farm, slightly removed from his man's beaten path, and there eked a living from the soil for himself and his family, paying without complaint the taxes assessed against him. His walk through life was humble, but even then he contributed his part to society, and even in his advanced years he strived with feeble hands to maintain his independence and meet his obligations.

His wife, Mrs. Fannie Hardison, died some years ago, and he leaves four sons, Alexander Hardison, of Rocky Mount; Belmar and Horsley Hardison, of Williamston and Kelly Hardison, of Bertie County; and three daughters, Mrs. Roland Moore, Mrs. Geneva Williams and Miss Bertha Hardison, all of this county.

Funeral services were conducted at the home yesterday afternoon by Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister. Interment was in the Roberson cemetery, near the Claudius Roberson home, in Griffins Township.

Place 45 Cases On Calendar For Trial In Superior Court

Only one Day Allotted For Trial of Criminal Actions

Meeting last week-end, the Martin County Bar association placed 45 cases on the civil calendar for consideration by Judge Everett C. Thompson in the superior court convening the week of March 20. The first cases on the calendar are scheduled to be heard the second day of the session, the bar group allotting only one day, Monday, March 20, for clearing the criminal docket.

Judge Thompson, Elizabeth City man, comes to this county for his first time as a presiding jurist.

There are no cases of marked public interest on the calendar for the coming session, and the public is not expected to give the court hardly more than passing attention after the first day or two.

The following cases appear on the civil calendar released Wednesday morning by the County Bar:

Tuesday, March 21—Lindsay v. James, Davis vs. Hill, Hyman versus Williams, Harrison against Price, Harrison Co. v. Price.

Wednesday, March 22—Everett v. Matthews, Matthews v. Bell, Fertilizer Co. vs. Jordan, Grimes et al. v. Close et al, Fertilizer Co. vs. Galoway, Jones versus Morgan, Staton v. Skinner, Carstarphen against Perry, W. G. Clark v. Close, Andrews v. Whitehurst, Fertilizer Co. against

(Continued on page six)

Bethel Wants Two Jackson Men For Station Robbery

T. F. Jackson Is Sorry He Fired Upon Jailer Roy Peel

Arrested late last Saturday night for the alleged theft of about 250 pounds of choice meat from Farmer L. H. Matthews in Robersonville Township, T. F. and Solen R. Jackson are now wanted in Pitt County for the alleged robbery of a Bethel filling station the early part of last month. Formal charges have not been filed and if and when they are, the two men will likely continue in the Martin County jail to face the meat-stealing charges here first.

"We plan to carry the Jacksons in to the courts of this county first, and then turn them over to the Pitt authorities later," Sheriff Roebuck said yesterday.

Damaging evidence against the two Jacksons, T. F., 27, and Solen, 22, was uncovered last Wednesday when officers, armed with a search warrant, searched the Jackson plantation and found a small quantity of cigarettes, cigars and candy and a guitar hidden under a pile of old scrap tobacco in an out-building.

Having nothing to say about the meat stealing and the Bethel filling station robbery charges, T. F. Jackson has expressed in a strong way his regrets for the attempt made on Deputy Roy Peel's life last Saturday night. He explained that he never would have shot had he known it was Roy Peel. "To tell the truth, I had rather fired on my own daddy than you Roy," Jackson was quoted as saying. Receiving good treatment the times he has been in jail, Jackson is said to think a great deal of the deputy and jailer. Without learning what his son said, the elder Jackson was quoted as saying that if any one had been shot last Saturday night he would rather seen his son shot than Roy Peel.

Finish Swimming Pool For Children

While there is doubt if the big municipal swimming pool here will be completed in time for use this coming summer, it is certain that the little tots of the town and community will have a place to splash in during the hot days that are not so far off, notwithstanding the snow that fell yesterday.

Rev. Wade Johnson Will Preach At Jamesville

Using as his theme, "Christian Security," Rev. Wade Johnson will preach in the Jamesville Methodist church Sunday morning at 10 o'clock and at Ware's Chapel that afternoon at 3 o'clock. The public is invited to bear him.

Introduce Road Refund Bill In the Legislature Yesterday

A bill, authorizing the appointment of a commissioner to study the claims of several counties to money expended for the construction of highways, was introduced in the State Senate yesterday.

The bill was introduced by seven senators, A. B. Corey of Pitt, A. B. Palmer of Cabarrus, Fred I. Sutton of Lenoir, J. H. Separk of Gaston, Chester A. Cogburn of Haywood, Jack Joyner of Iredell and W. A. Graham of Iredell. It would authorize the governor to appoint a commissioner to study the situation, check over all information compiled by previous legislative commissions, rather additional information and report to the governor by December 1, 1940.

The commissioner would be charged with the duty of determining whether the claims are meritorious and which should be paid. He would be paid a per diem allowed by the governor and would be allowed clerk hire, but the total expenses could not exceed \$2,000.

Only last fall the State Highway and Public Works Commission denied completely claims from 81 counties, totalling \$52,681,659.98. It based its decision on findings of the 1935 legislative commission and on a review made by the Highway commission.

The old commission appointed by J. C. B. Ehringhaus, then governor, apparently sought out every claim for everything in an effort to belittle the meritorious claims. Martin County is asking a refund of approximately \$400,000, and it is possible that it is entitled to three-fourths that amount. The people sincerely believe that the county is entitled to a refund, and they are willing to let disinterested party study and determine the amount.

Authorities To Set Up Tax Listing Machinery

Commissioners Will Name Supervisor Of Taxation on Monday

Board To Recommend Appointment of List-takers At Regular Meeting

Machinery for building the county's 1939 tax structure will be set up by the board of commissioners in regular session here next Monday when a supervisor of taxation is appointed and applications for list-takers in the various townships are considered. Work toward setting up the 1939 tax structure for the county is getting underway while collections for 1938 are less than half completed.

Several applications for the positions of list-takers have been received, but it could not be learned whether there were new applicants on the list. Up until yesterday no formal application for the position of county tax supervisor had been filed in the office of the county commissioners. Asked this week if he had filed his application to succeed himself as county supervisor, S. H. Grimes explained that he had not, but that he would accept the appointment again if the commissioners tendered it to him.

No revaluation of property as a whole will be made this year, and tax listing will be just a matter of following the old figures in most cases. There will be the matter of good judgment and discretion, of course, but no changes are in order unless there have been improvements made to any property or unless property has been torn down or damaged by fire or wind. New property will be valued in proportion to other listings.

While the county commissioners appoint a tax supervisor, they are not empowered to appoint the several list-takers. The tax supervisor, whose job it is to make the appointments, is, more or less, bound by recommendations made by the commissioners.

The names of the several township list-takers last year are: O. W. Hamilton, Jamesville Township; L. J. Hardison, Williams Township; Geo. C. Griffin, Griffins Township; A. B. Ayers, Bear Grass Township; H. M. Burras, Williamston Township; G. G. Bailey, Cross Roads Township; H. S. Everett, Robersonville Township; L. G. Taylor, Poplar Point Township; L. R. Everett, Hamilton Township; J. A. Rawls, Goose Nest Township.

Following their appointment by the tax supervisor, the ten list-takers are to meet on or not later than the third Monday in this month and establish a guide of values that listings might be equalized as near as possible throughout the county. The board of commissioners often meet with the tax supervisor and the list-takers and study the tax schedule before listing gets underway as of April 1.

Other than formulating plans for handling the listing of property for taxation, the commissioners have very little business scheduled for their consideration at their regular meeting next Monday. "The board will draw jurors for the special term of April superior court and inspect current bills," J. Sam Getzinger, clerk to the body, said today.

State Health Work Threatened By Cut In Appropriations

Martin Officials Appeal to Legislators This Week

Members of the North Carolina Public Health Association from seventy-six counties, in a special meeting held in Raleigh this week, viewed with grave concern the danger to North Carolina's public health program presented by the cut in appropriations recommended by the appropriations committee of the legislature.

In the face of an increase during the past two years in counties served by full-time local health organizations from fifty-one to seventy-six counties, the joint appropriations committee of the legislature has recommended an appropriation which will make available \$95,000 per year less for health work in North Carolina than is being spent during the present year.

In a resolution, the health officers declared:

"This cut means either that the health program of the state will suffer a tragic retrenchment, or that the counties and cities will have to increase their appropriations to make up the deficit. Should any or all of the twenty-four counties which do not have full-time health service apply for their proportionate part of available funds, the amount which will be cut from each of the seventy-six counties now being served will be proportionately greater.

The association realized that additional funds in excess of the \$95,000 are absolutely essential to take care of any of the twenty-four unorganized counties that should become interested in the establishment of minimum public health services. We urgently request that funds in addition to \$95,000 be made available by the legislature to take care of the normal growth in providing health service to these twenty-four counties and that the legislature earmark any funds in addition to the \$95,000 for this specific purpose.

"In view of the tremendous increase in interest and support for the public health program during recent years, the association does not believe the people of the state are willing to go backward."

Recognizing the valuable work accomplished by public health authorities during the past year, the Martin County Board of Commissioners this week passed a resolution urging the legislators to restore the \$95,000 to the budget and not cripple the public health activities in this and other counties.

Aged Resident Dies At Home In Cross

Funeral Services This Afternoon for Mrs. Margaret Stalls

Mrs. Margaret Stalls, aged resident of Cross Roads and highly respected county citizen, died at the home of her daughter there yesterday morning following an illness of short duration. Pneumonia was given as the immediate cause of her death. Just a few months short of 65 years of age, Mrs. Stalls was taken ill about a year ago, but recovered from that illness and enjoyed fairly good health until about ten days ago when she fell and broke her hip. Since that time she was confined to her bed, the end coming gradually.

Mrs. Stalls was born in this county, the daughter of the late David and Cynthia Biggs Gurganus. In early womanhood she was married to David W. Stalls who died a long number of years ago. She was the last member of her immediate family.

As a child of only five years of age when the Civil War broke out and as a young girl during the reconstruction period, Mrs. Stalls experienced the hardships of the period.

The years of hardship experienced as a child during the Civil War and as a young girl during the reconstruction days, created in her a spirit of humanitarianism, and even in old age she nursed the sick and cared for the afflicted. She was welcomed into the homes of her community at all times, and was greatly beloved by all who knew her. During the past seven years she had been a devout member of the Presbyterian church holding membership at Roberson's Chapel.

Only one daughter, Mrs. J. R. Keel, survives. She also leaves four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 2:30 at Roberson's Chapel by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, local minister, assisted by Rev. J. M. Perry, of Robersonville. Interment will follow in the Stalls cemetery, near the home, in Cross Roads Township.

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