

Civil Court Nears End Of Term Here

Just Before Noon

Number of Cases Cleared From Docket By Consent Judgment

Clearing a large number of cases from the docket either by jury trial or consent judgment, the regular two weeks term of Martin County Superior court was working toward adjournment shortly before noon today. Spectators had just about deserted the courtroom as Judge C. E. Thompson worked to clear the schedule of activities.

As a whole, the trial of civil cases has attracted very little attention from the general public. Monday morning, quite a few witnesses and spectators were present to participate in or hear the case brought by Mrs. Sarah Taylor against T. Jones Taylor for alimony. The case was settled by a consent judgment.

Attorney Carter Studdert was appointed referee to hear the case of Bennett against Keel and report the findings to the court.

The case of R. L. Whitfield against R. A. Taylor was settled by agreement, the plaintiff being declared owner of a certain lot in Williamston and the defendant being allowed possession of the property until April 30.

Augustus James in his case against Lucy William was granted a valid lien on certain lands, the court appointing Attorneys Peel and Horton commissioners to sell the land in question and satisfy the lien.

Settled by agreement, the case of J. G. Staton against W. I. Skinner and Company was removed from the docket with the plaintiff recovering nothing but the cost.

The Standard Fertilizer Company was granted a judgment in the sum of \$137.83 in its case against H. Winn.

In the case of Bessie Mitchell against J. S. Rhodes, the jury ruled that \$5,853 was due and constituted liens against certain lands, the court appointing commissioners to sell the property in question to satisfy the liens.

Suing for \$2,000 for damages sustained in an automobile accident on the "poor house road" last January, Earl Bowen, by his next friend, was awarded \$500 against Maggie Nichols and the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

Judge Thompson withheld his signature in the case of John F. Allsbrook against George Harris when it was evident that a Norfolk attorney was practicing in this state, it was unofficially learned. The plaintiff, the young son of Officer J. H. Allsbrooks, was injured last December when he crashed with his bicycle into a car driven by the defendant. Reports state that the insurance company had agreed to pay \$275 in full settlement of the case.

Several more cases were virtually settled by consent judgment as the court made ready to adjourn for the term.

Musical Program Thursday Night

Paul Black and His Carolina Ramblers, a group of well known musicians will present a program in the Williamston high school auditorium next Thursday night at eight o'clock for the benefit of the high school baseball team.

Among the players who will be featured in the program are: Stubby and Bobby, sons of the west; Suit Case Simpson and His Washboard; Frankie Murden, wizard of the banjo.

The Ramblers have played in a number of theatres and schools throughout the state and are now playing daily over the Rocky Mount broadcasting station.

A fine evening of musical entertainment is guaranteed. A small admission fee will be charged.

Discontinue Story Hour At Library For A While

Because few children have found time to attend, the regular story hour at the public library each Saturday morning will be discontinued until after the current school is ended in May. A definite date for including the story hour period in the library schedule again will be announced later, Mrs. James C. Cooke said today.

Resigns As Justice Of The Peace In Griffins

Pleny Peel tendered his resignation to Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne last Saturday as justice of the peace for Griffins Township, the resignation becoming effective as of that day.

Proposal to Refund Money For Roads Faces Opposition

A proposal to appoint a commission for a study of claims advanced by several counties in the State to money expended by them for the construction of roads is meeting some strong opposition in the legislature, Representative H. G. Horton explained during his week-end at home.

Battered and kicked around in Raleigh, the proposal to have the governor appoint a disinterested party to make a study of the claims and report to the 1941 legislature gained a favorable vote at the hands of the judiciary committee. But the proposal received a hard slap when it was referred to the appropriations committee where approval for the survey cost is necessary before any action can be taken

by the governor toward the appointment of a commissioner.

The bill is slated for consideration by the appropriations group today, and its success rests with the members of that committee. Representative Horton explained that the bill had been written and rewritten to its passage, but that as long as there was life there's hope.

Struggling to get through on Saturday of this week, the legislature is undoing quite a few things in the last minute rush, reports declaring the current session is the most unusual and uneventful one held in many years. Very few bills affecting this county have been passed with the one empowering the county commissioners to call special school elections still pending in the senate.

Construction Activity Reaches New Record

MORE CHECKS

The payments of soil conservation contracts are now reaching fairly sizeable proportions in the county, the office of the farm agent announcing today that nearly \$15,000 was received in the county during the past week-end, swelling the total received to date to \$67,195.78. This amount represents between one-third and one-half of the total benefits expected by Martin farmers under the 1938 soil program.

Approximately 1,000 checks have been received for delivery to Martin farmers to date. Nearly 250 farmers are being advised by the mails today to call for their checks.

Local Man Notes Building Progress

The building, savings and loan associations of North Carolina have played a major part in the outstanding record made by North Carolina in the construction of homes during 1938 as shown in the official figures issued by the North Carolina Building and Loan league.

During 1938, 5,400 construction loans were made to the amount of \$9,611,000 which represented 42 1-2 per cent of the total of \$22,500,000, which was loaned by the building, savings and loan associations. It was estimated by Wheeler-Martin, of Williamston, vice president of the league, that over \$15,000,000 was added during 1938 to the taxable values of the local government units of North Carolina through the construction, repair and renovation of homes and buildings financed by these institutions. Thousands of workers were employed and hundreds of business firms benefitted through the purchase of materials used in this new construction and repairs.

The building, savings and loan associations have ample funds available for the annual spring repair and modernization drive. They are anticipating a building activity anywhere from ten to twenty-five per cent greater than last year, according to Mr. Martin.

In addition to these activities in new construction, in repair and modernization, he stated, the building, savings and loan associations aided 2,812 persons to purchase their homes to the value of \$4,445,000; and helped finance 2,452 other home purchases to the amount of \$3,859,000 through the recognized amortization lending plans of these home financing institutions.

ABANDONED

A proposed PWA project to release approximately \$124,000 for a general improvement program here has been abandoned, an official of the regional office of the PWA organization at Atlanta notifying local authorities a few days ago that it had been impossible to have the project included in the 1938 program.

Given approval by the PWA authorities, the project now awaits action by congress. If additional PWA funds are created by the national body then it is highly probable that the improvement program here will get early recognition.

Gain Is Reported In Building Values For The Last Four Years

Seventeen New Homes Built During Period At Cost Of Nearly \$90,000

The march of progress in home and commercial construction here continued unabated during the past year, building reports released this week for the period by Building Inspector G. P. Hall showing a marked gain in values over those of a year ago.

During 1938, seventeen new homes were constructed at a cost of \$89,700, and contracts were let for several commercial buildings costing approximately \$96,650. The largest single contract calling for an expenditure of around \$45,000 was let to Jones Brothers for the construction of the town's new postoffice. Even after deducting the postoffice contract from the list of new buildings, the town's building program shows a material gain over the construction outlay for the year of 1937. Home construction during the last year period shows a slight decrease—\$10,000—but the total outlay for commercial buildings was greatly increased over the 1937 figures.

The total cost of new construction last year, according to the inspector's records, totaled \$188,350. In addition to that amount, approximately \$12,385 was spent for repairs to homes and commercial structures.

The inspector's report is marked by the absence of a permit for the construction of a new filling station within the town limits. It is about the first time that a new filling station was not constructed during the course of a year since the horse and buggy left the streets and roads 20 years or more ago.

In 1937, twenty new homes were constructed here at a cost of approximately \$100,000. Commercial building construction amounted to around \$30,895, making a total of \$130,895 spent for net construction during that year. In addition to that amount, nearly \$19,000 was spent for repairs.

In 1936, building contracts here amounted to \$125,150. New home construction during that period was valued at \$58,000. During 1936 the average cost per home unit was \$3,200 as compared with an average of \$4,800 last year.

The year 1935 was quite a busy one for new building, too. During that period 52 building permits were issued, quite a few of them being for the construction of tenant homes on East Main Street. The total building cost that year was placed at \$117,090.

Despite the heavy building program during the past three years there continues a scarcity of homes and commercial buildings. Rents continue at a fairly high level, and new enterprises desiring to locate here are unable to rent buildings at any figure.

No one can predict just what the future holds, but it is fairly certain that present conditions warrant a continued expansion in Williamston's building program. A goodly number of people think so anyway, and if present plans develop the value of building contracts in 1939 should equal that of 1938. Plans are already underway for the construction of several new homes, and contracts are pending for the construction of several commercial buildings and a hospital.

Plan Completion Of Swimming Pool By First Of June

Commissioners, in Special Meeting, Buy Lot Addition

Meeting in special session last Saturday afternoon, the local town commissioners formulated plans for the completion of the municipal swimming pool on or about the first of next June. Work on the project is being stepped up by the WPA forces, and the town authorities plan to supplement the work with the addition of private contractors and two or three skilled workmen.

The pool proper will be completed this week, and the plant for filtering the water is being shipped from Pennsylvania this week for installation within the next two or three weeks. WPA forces have the forms ready for pouring concrete for the filtering plant, and completion of the project is now in sight.

During their special session last Saturday, the commissioners purchased a 13-foot addition from the owners of the property facing Watts Street and a small plot of land lying just back of the county agricultural building. The authorities plan to sink a deep well on the plot addition, but no contract for the well has been let. A deed to the property was transferred yesterday for a consideration of \$750.

To finance the sinking of a new well, the authorities propose to offer approximately \$15,000 in bonds on the open market. A contract calling for an expenditure of a little more than \$14,000 for the deep well is pending with a Virginia machinery firm, but there is some doubt if construction work will get underway before the middle or late summer. During the meantime, pumping operations will proceed on a day and night schedule during a greater part of each week.

Upon completion of the swimming pool, private contractors will cooperate with the WPA forces to construct the bathhouses and showers at the pool. No contract figures were advanced at the meeting Saturday.

Hospital Suit Will Be Tried In County

A \$10,000 damage suit brought by Annie Mae Harris by her next friend, H. P. Williams, against the Tayloe Hospital, has been transferred to this county for trial, the attorneys in the case having consented to allow the defense until April 1 to complete its answer in the case.

The plaintiff, a resident of Pasquotank County, alleges the defendants left a cheese cloth sponge in an opening made for the removal of her appendix in May, 1936, that she continued ill for about 12 months or until action to recover damages was started by her.

Numerous papers have been filed in the case which has not yet been scheduled for trial.

Personnel For Listing Taxes In County Named

With the appointment of Gordon G. Bailey, of Everetts, the personnel for listing taxes in the county next month was announced complete today by S. H. Grimes, county tax supervisor. Not certain that his health would permit him to handle the task, appointment of Mr. Bailey was delayed until last week-end.

All the list-takers were reappointed and they are to meet with the county supervisor and other county authorities on April 5 to establish a list of values for entering personal property on the tax books.

REQUEST

Just before starting an eight-year prison sentence, Randall Holloman, 35-year-old Elizabeth City man, made an unusual request of Sheriff C. B. Roebuck here last week-end. The officer sent word to Holloman who was still in jail, asking if there was anything he could do or get for him before he (Holloman) left, and the prisoner scribbled the following request:

One pair bold clippers, two 12-inch hack saw blades, three sticks of 60-40 dynamite, one percussion cap, twelve inches of fuse and two 32-20 pistols.

Holloman, convicted in the Beaufort County courts for the theft of a large quantity of cigarettes, was caught in the storm-stricken area the night a tornado struck in Bertie County. He was held in the county jail for the Beaufort authorities.

Construction Work Started on New \$15,000 Hospital For The Town and County Here Yesterday

WARRANTS

Negro School Girl Is Fatally Injured In Auto Accident

Rulet Lanier, 17 Years Old, Dies in Hospital Early Today

Rulet Lanier, 17-year-old student in the local colored high school, died early today from injuries received in an automobile accident about seven miles from here on the Jamesville Road last Friday afternoon. Her right leg almost torn off, the girl was said to have died of gas gangrene. When brought to the offices of Drs. Saunders and Brown here for first-aid treatment, the girl was regarded in a critical condition and it was almost certain that she would lose the leg and possibly her life.

Returning home on one of the two school buses operating in the county for colored high school pupils, the girl started across the road and was struck by a car driven by John Madson, Lexington man, who brought her here for first-aid treatment and had her removed to a Washington hospital a short time later. The bumper of the car mangled the girl's right leg and threw her to the top of the hood and later to the ground beside the road.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman W. S. Hunt stated that the girl got off the bus and waited until it moved down the road about fifty feet or more toward Jamesville before starting across the road. Two large trucks, traveling behind the bus, came to a stop and waited, but the bus apparently blocked her sight in the other direction and she walked into the path of the car and was struck possibly before she saw it.

Madson, rounding a curve, maintains that he saw the school bus parked on the highway and started to bring his car to a stop, but that he saw the bus moving off and he increased his speed to about 40 miles an hour as the girl darted into the road and into the path of his machine. The car driver was released without bond, but Patrolman Hunt said at noon today that he would be called back here the latter part of this week for a formal hearing. No charges have been brought against him at this time, however.

The accident victim, one of a number of colored children in the Jamesville-Williams Township section attending the local high school, was the daughter of Octavious and Emma Lanier. She was making her home with her sister, Rosa B. Jones, in Williams Township.

It could not be learned definitely, but it is believed she is the first colored school child in the State to lose her life while going from a school bus to her home.

Farmers To Meet Here On April 7

Patrons of the Martin FCX Service, along with Martin County members of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative Association will gather in the high school auditorium here Friday evening, April 7 at seven o'clock for their annual meeting. F. H. Stephenson, manager of the Martin FCX Service, announced today.

The principal speaker of the meeting will be M. G. Mann, general manager of the cotton association and the State-wide FCX, who will give a report on the past year's activities of both organizations. Mr. Mann will also discuss the outlook for cotton prices and vital legislation now pending in congress.

One of the highlights of the meeting will be the entertainment to be provided by Martin County 4-H club boys and girls and Young Tar Heel farmers. This entertainment will consist of music, playlets, skits, and demonstrations, and valuable prizes will be awarded to the students putting on the best entertainment. The audience will serve as judge.

New Books Available At Library On Friday

Everyone who is interested in reading new books is cordially invited to be present at a short meeting to be held in the public library, Friday evening, March 31, at eight o'clock.

The major purpose of the session will be to organize a book club for the library.

Plan Completion Of Building During The Early Part Of July

Contract Awarded To Local Builder Over The Week-end

Construction work on a \$15,000 hospital for Williamston and Martin County was started here yesterday afternoon on West Main Street on a sizeable lot between the I. M. Margolis and D. M. Roberson homes. A contract for the construction work was let during the week-end to F. W. Birmingham, local builder, and plans for the building foundation were virtually completed yesterday afternoon when the first materials were placed on the lot.

Native Of Bertie Passes In County

Charlie Minton, aged farmer and a native of Bertie, died in the Parmele community of this county last Friday evening at 8:30 o'clock following a stroke of paralysis. Almost 78 years of age, Mr. Minton, a retired farmer, had been in declining health for three years and was confined to his bed during three weeks prior to his death.

The son of the late James and Margaret Modin Minton, he was born in Bertie, moving to this county and locating in the Parmele section when a young boy. A hard-working man, Mr. Minton purchased and operated his small farm mostly through his own efforts. He was a loyal member of the Methodist church in Parmele, and had many friends in his adopted community.

Besides his widow, he is survived by two children, Mrs. Minnie Whitehurst, of Parmele, and J. W. Minton, of Bethel, and a half-sister, Mrs. Janie Lynch, of Petersburg. He also leaves nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in the Parmele Methodist church last Saturday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Dr. Maynard Fletcher, of Washington, assisted by Rev. M. Y. Self, Bethel Methodist minister. Interment was in the Bethel cemetery.

Debaters To Meet Windsor Thursday

As a preliminary to the triangular debates which will be held in Scotland Neck, Washington and Williamston on Friday morning of this week, affirmative and negative teams of Williamston high school will go to Windsor Thursday afternoon at 3:30 to engage the Bertie County school in dual debate.

Work is going forward rapidly on the debates, and it is believed that the local students will make a good showing. The Windsor trip was arranged to give the debaters added competition. The query, Resolved that the United States should establish an alliance with Great Britain, will be argued by Gordon Manning and Susie Whitley, affirmative, and Margaret Jones and Virgil Ward, negative.

The debates are being coached by Frank Neely and David Hix.

SEINE FISHING

Plans are nearing completion today to start seine fishing operations at Jamesville on Thursday of this week and possibly at Camp Point, a few miles from Jamesville, tomorrow. Delayed by high waters during the past ten days or more, the activities may be postponed a day or two longer pending the making of repairs to the fishing plant at Jamesville. Unofficial reports stated today that operations are underway at the Hampton fisheries in the lower part of the county.

Large catches are being reported today by fishermen using dip and drift nets.

Increased herring catches are noted locally.

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The building, measuring 78 by 34 feet, is to be ready for occupancy in early July, Dr. Victor E. Brown, who has charge of the cooperative project, announced this morning. Housing ten private rooms, an operating room, kitchen and nursery and several baths, the hospital will be one story and of brick construction.

Advanced on a cooperative basis the hospital will be open to doctors of the county for use, and it will meet a need that has long existed in this community and county. Planned on a comparatively small scale, Dr. Brown explains that the building can be enlarged to meet expanding needs. Interior construction will conform strictly to that used for general hospitals with tile floors and walls. The structure will face the main street and have a spacious yardage in front and the back.

The personnel for the hospital is not yet complete, Dr. Brown explaining that those arrangements would get attention within a short time after construction work gets fully underway.

Coming here from a Washington hospital a year ago last month, Dr. Brown will continue his partnership in the professional firm of Drs. Saunders and Brown and carry on a general practice from the offices on South Smithwick Street.

News of the hospital venture was well received throughout this section after a permit was issued last week-end for the construction of the modern building. Local citizens as well as others in nearby centers have long expressed a desire for more convenient hospital facilities, and while the proposed plan is not designed on an extensive scale it well marks the starting point in a worthy undertaking, an undertaking that is certain to receive the moral and financial support of the people of the town and surrounding territory.

Planning Series Of Farm Meetings

A series of farm meetings will be held in the county during the next week or ten days in connection with the soil conservation program and land-use planning, the office of Farm Agent Brandon announced today.

The land-use planning is a feature that fits in with a nation-wide farm program that is being advanced in an effort to solve many of the problems facing agriculture today.

Agricultural authorities hope, through this program, to formulate an improved program for tackling farm problems.

The first meeting in the series is scheduled to be held in the Jamesville school auditorium on Thursday evening of this week with representatives of the agent in charge. On Friday evening, a meeting will be held in Robersonville. Next Monday, the agents will go to Hassell and to Williams Township the following evening. The meetings will be held at 7:30 p. m., and farmers are urged to attend.

Organ Concert In Local Church Tonight At 7:45

A cordial invitation is extended the general public to attend an organ recital by Carl Hinnant, well-known organist, in the Presbyterian church here this evening at 7:45 o'clock. Mr. Hinnant is demonstrating the use of the latest innovation in organs.