

Court Takes Recess Thursday After Five Cases Are Handled

Caveators Fail To Set Aside Will of Robersonville Colored Man

Attacked by Maude Ward and Anne Purvis and about eighteen others of bloodkin, the will of Gus Coffield, a late colored citizen of Robersonville, was held intact by a Martin County Superior Court jury here last Wednesday afternoon following a trial that lasted the greater part of two days.

Centering around the man's mental ability at the time he prepared a codicil to his will on February 20, the case attracted the cream of colored society from Robersonville, Bethel and a few more from other places. At one time there were nearly 100 colored spectators in the courtroom for the proceedings.

Preparing the amendment to his will ten days before he died, Coffield left the property, valued by some at around \$14,000, to Jane Overton, a Rocky Mount school teacher of light complexion and a niece of Coffield's first wife, William Cherry, a nephew of the man's first wife and now a student in a Tennessee school, Sandy Brown, a cousin, Whit Briley and Fannie Coffield, his wife. The property consisted mostly of real estate, including two farms and a number of houses and lots in the Town of Robersonville.

Taken seriously ill with cancer early in February, Coffield placed himself in the care of a physician, and once advised of his condition made plans to wind up his worldly affairs. He wrote a codicil to his will on the 20th of that month, the propounders apparently proving to the satisfaction of the jury that Coffield prepared the document in proper form, that it was done without influence and that he possessed normal mental faculties when he made the will. In effect, the court directed the answer in the first two issues, and the jury deliberated less than five minutes in answering the third issue.

The propounders and caveators offered the testimony of about 20 witnesses, including one or two professional men. All of last Tuesday and a part of Wednesday morning was devoted to the submission of evidence. Argument by four of the seven attorneys in the case lasted several hours, and Judge H. A. Grady completed his charge in about thirty minutes, the jury returning its verdict shortly before 3 o'clock Wednesday.

Pete Bell, colored attorney for the caveators, intimated he would appeal to the State Supreme court for a review of the case.

A lone case, involving only \$200, occupied the attention of the court all day last Monday, and following the trial of the Coffield will case on Wednesday, the court granted two divorces, both on the grounds of two years' separation, in the cases of Katherine Gibson Mizelle against Chas. H. Mizelle, and Will B. Knox against Myrtle Knox.

Completing the Coffield will case, the court immediately started work on the \$10,000 damage suit brought by J. E. Pope, administrator, against Homer Glosson, J. C. Whitehead and W. M. Bingham. Making progress in the suit, the plaintiffs experienced a reversal before all their evidence was completed. Ownership of the truck could not be definitely established, and the court granted a motion for judgment of non-suit as to Defendants Whitehead and Bingham. The plaintiffs then accepted a voluntary non-suit as to Glosson. It is likely that the case will be reopened. The suit was started by Mr. Pope as a result of a fatal accident on the Jamesville highway, near Dardens, last September when Glosson, employee of a lumber company or a contracting firm, was driving a truck and struck Isaiah Hardison, fatally injuring him.

Granting a judgment in the sum of \$383.02 with interest from October, 1938, to the Standard Fertilizer Company in the case against W. R. Blackmore and others, the court ordered a recess until next Monday when the court will continue the second of a two-weeks term for the trial of civil cases only.

Jamesville Schedules Nominating Convention

A convention for the nomination of a mayor and three town commissioners for Jamesville will be held in the school house there on Friday evening of next week, it was announced today by C. A. Askew, clerk to the board.

Jamesville citizens are expected to show much interest in the convention.

Startling Allegations Follow Young County Girl's Arrest

The arrest of a young Martin County girl this week disclosed some startling facts allegedly chargeable to several "prominent" men. Not certain as to the foundation of the charges, officers and welfare authorities closely guarded the allegations which were regarded as "startling" to say the least.

Records in the case are not being freely advanced, and little information is yet available in the case that at least one person described as carrying "potential dynamite".

The girl, said to be hardly sixteen years old, was arrested allegedly for public drunkenness and placed in the common jail. Her removal to the county home was later ordered by welfare authorities, but reports from the institution say that she has again

MORE CHECKS

After a lull in the distribution of soil conservation checks during the past week or ten days, benefit payments to Martin County farmers are getting underway again, the office of the county agent announcing today that approximately 100 checks, representing \$6,981, are ready for delivery.

Nearly \$100,000 has already been distributed to farmers complying with the soil conservation program and approximately \$40,000 more is expected. The delay in getting the checks to Martin farmers resulted when the check writers turned their attention to other counties throughout the farm belt. No assurance can be given for the immediate receipt for additional checks, but others are expected daily.

Fair Attendants Make Short Visit Here Wednesday

Mayor Hassell Greets Group At City Hall for Brief Interview

The following attendants selected to man the North Carolina Exhibit at the New York World's Fair which officially opens on April 30 and closes November 1, were here for a few minutes Wednesday morning on an educational tour of North Carolina, which started in Charlotte April 10 and which will be concluded on April 20.

The group of young women and men were greeted at the City Hall by Mayor Hassell, and during their brief stay here the visitors took notes on various points of historical interest, and hurriedly sketched a few facts about the economic conditions. The group, traveling in a special bus, continued from here to Greenville and will report in New York about May 1.

Miss Miriam Converse Johnson, chief hostess, Aberdeen: Miss Johnson attended Roberts Beach Preparatory school, attained an A-B degree at Simons College, Boston, and has had special courses in salesmanship and personnel work.

Miss Anna Corinne Jones, Nashville: Miss Jones is a graduate of Salem College and has taught English and history in North Carolina schools for 7 years.

Miss Frances Roughton, Old Fort: Miss Roughton is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and has had special courses in North Carolina social economics.

Miss Anna Bellamy Williamson, (Continued on page six)

Two Escape Injury In Wreck Last Wednesday

Mrs. Elizabeth Eberle, driver, and her husband escaped injury last Wednesday morning when their car, a 1936 Ford coupe, skidded and turned over on the Washington highway at the Station farm, near here. Both Mr. and Mrs. Eberle were thrown into a ditch when the car turned over and came to a stop with all four of its wheels in the air.

Their car repaired, the young couple continued on to their home in New York yesterday.

Building And Loan Stockholders To Meet

The annual meeting of the Martin County Building and Loan Association stockholders will be held in the county courthouse on Tuesday, May 2, at 11 a. m., Wheeler Martin, secretary of the organization, announced today.

been transferred presumably to the home of her parents.

Additional facts of a recognized nature in the case are not to be had, but information coming from other sources states that the victim of a cruel society has encountered the strong arm of the law before, on one occasion, at least. Her tender age apparently kept her out of the courts for seasoned criminals, and it is believed that her case was made subject to fatherly advice rather than to drastic action in the courts.

Allegedly keeping company with several other girls of teen age, the victim of society is said to have remained away from home for short periods to finally fall in a drunken condition into the hands of the law.

John Madson Given Hearing By Justice A. Corey This Week

Civil Action Reported To Have Been Settled in Lanier Killing

John Madson, Lexington man charged with manslaughter and passing a school bus while it was standing, was released following a hearing before Justice A. Corey here last Tuesday afternoon. Madson, driver of the car that struck and fatally injured Rulet Lanier, colored high school girl, on the Jamesville highway last month, pleaded not guilty to the charge of manslaughter, and his plea was supported by evidence offered by two witnesses, W. H. Sexton and C. D. Cooper, both of Columbia.

According to the evidence offered by Sexton and Cooper, the school bus after discharging the Lanier girl was placed in motion and had moved down the highway possibly 100 feet before the girl darted into the highway and into the path of the Madson car. Sexton and Cooper, operating a truck, had brought their machine to a stop behind the school bus. They saw Madson approaching and told the trial justice that he slowed down his car and apparently planned to stop, that the car driver resumed his speed when he saw the school bus in motion. They also stated to the court that Madson was not driving in excess of 35 miles an hour when his car struck the girl and nearly tore off one of her legs.

His testimony virtually supported statements made by Madson to Highway Patrolman W. S. Hunt who investigated the accident shortly after it happened on the afternoon of March 24.

The accident victim died in a Washington hospital the following Tuesday morning.

A suit to recover damages in the sum of \$7,500 was filed a few days ago by the girl's parents, Octavius and Emma Lanier, against Madson, but according to unofficial reports the civil action has since been settled, the administrators receiving approximately \$1,800.

Farm Life "Breaks" Into N. C. Magazine

Masterfully handling two interesting projects, the third and fourth grades of the Farm Life school will be given well-earned recognition in the North Carolina Education Magazine in the May and September numbers, J. C. Manning, superintendent of county schools, was advised here this week.

The third-grade project, handled under the supervision of Mrs. C. B. Martin, centers around "transportation", and the second project directed by the fourth grade teacher, Miss Marguerite Cooke, deals with "light".

The subjects were greatly expanded for the children by the unit method of teaching, it was pointed out. An extensive supply of material was used in advancing the projects, and the children, their interest greatly stimulated by the method, responded splendidly to the task assigned them.

Commenting on the method, C. B. Martin, principal of the school, said, "It provides for better individual instruction and creates an outlet for individual desires and abilities. In general, the unit method provides an opportunity for discovery, diagnosis and development of the child's interests."

Mrs. W. S. Lilley, of Winston-Salem, is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. J. D. Taylor, and Mr. Taylor, for about ten days.

County Man Gets \$8,000.00 Verdict Against Railroad

Nathaniel Coltrain Injured In Truck-Train Accident Near Gardners Creek

Nathaniel Coltrain, Williams Township young man, was awarded an \$8,000 verdict against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad last Wednesday afternoon by a Washington County jury for injuries received in a truck-train accident near Gardners Creek in this county on March 8, 1937.

His back broken, young Coltrain remained in a critical condition for months, and now has to wear a brace on his back.

The accident took place on a grade crossing just this side of Gardners Creek. Coltrain claimed in his complaint that he could not see the approaching train because of tree tops that had been cut and piled on the railroad right of way, obstructing the view. Railroad attorneys countered with the charge that Coltrain was negligent and that he did not have brakes on his car.

Trial of the case was started Monday and continued until just before noon Wednesday, when Judge C. Everett Thompson, of Elizabeth City charged the jury. They took the case at 1 p. m. and returned the verdict Wednesday evening at six. Attorneys W. B. Rodman and Z. V. Norman represented the railroad and W. L. Whitley represented Coltrain.

Unofficial reports indicate that unless a compromise can be effected the defense will appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Robersonville Man Is Killed In Wreck

Harvey Murchinson, Robersonville colored man, was fatally injured and about fifteen children were injured, one badly, when a fertilizer truck crashed into a school bus a few miles east of Rocky Mount early last Wednesday morning. Major Brown, driver of the truck belonging to Tom Bunting, of Robersonville, escaped unhurt. He was taken into custody and jailed in default of a \$1,000 bond.

Brown, also of Robersonville, claims the truck came to a sudden stop, that he could not stop the heavily-loaded truck in time to avoid the crash. He tried to turn out and go around the bus, but failed to clear it by about two feet. The bus was knocked off the road and turned over in a field. The right side of the truck cab was smashed and Murchinson, riding with Brown, was killed instantly.

The fifteen children were treated in a Rocky Mount hospital for fractures, bruises and cuts.

Fishing Is Not So Good In Roanoke

Fishing on the Roanoke is betwixt good and bad these days with prospects for a herring catch far below normal. Early this week, fishermen took fish from the streams in tens of thousands. This morning at Jamesville, the catches were down to about one thousand.

So far this season, the plant at Jamesville has netted about 400,000 herring, fair rock catches, but few shad. More fish have already been caught this season than were taken from the stream all last year, Manager Ange of the Fleming plant stating that possibly a hundred thousand or so more herring would be caught before the season comes to a close about three weeks from now.

With catches below normal, a herring shortage is almost certain again this season. However, current prices are unusually cheap, quotations standing at 50 cents a hundred for the fish just as they are taken from the river and 60 cents per hundred after the fish are prepared and corned.

Local Youth Wins Honors In State Music Contest

E. G. Wynne, Williamston high school youth and student of J. E. Aiken, won third place in the annual state music contest held at the Woman's college in Greensboro last Tuesday. Competing in Class A, a class usually reserved for students from schools with enrollments of six hundred or more, the young man won third place as trombone soloist and received an honor rating of III. First and second places were won by students from Burlington and Raleigh high schools.

Several Schools End Successful Term in the County Next Week; Nearly 200 to Receive Diplomas

Few Changes Anticipated In Faculty Personnel For 1939

Other than ten or twelve resignations in two schools, comparatively few changes are anticipated in the teaching personnel in the schools of this county for next year, according to unofficial reports received here from most of the local committees throughout the county. Several resignations have been filed with the local boards in the Oak City and Everetts districts, and possibly one or two changes in the faculty personnel will be effected in several of the other districts, but still other districts anticipate no resignations or changes, it is understood.

Love affairs, culminating at the altar, are taking several teachers out of the profession. Others, located in the county for quite a while,

are resigning to explore new territory, the reports state.

Definite appointments, already considered by several of the local committees, are not available at this time. Board meetings are being held in other districts this week, the law requiring the committee groups to notify teachers of this appointment or rejection at or before the close of school. No definite time for a meeting of the Williamston committee has been determined, one report stating that the members, Messrs. R. L. Coburn, C. B. Clark and R. H. Goodmon, will consider applications not later than the early part of next week. It is understood that no material change in the local school personnel will be effected for the 1939-40 term.

Program Of Events For Commencement In the Local Schools

Secretary of State School Commission To Speak Thursday

The first in the final series of commencement exercises in the local school will be held in the high school auditorium Sunday morning at 11 o'clock when Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, of the local Presbyterian church, preaches the annual sermon to the seniors and the general public. No services will be held at that hour in the several churches, and everyone is urged to worship with the members of the senior class.

A detailed program for the Sunday morning service follows:

Professional for seniors, invocation, hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy", scripture reading, prayer, "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," from the Passion Choral by Hassler, harmony by Bach, quartet; "The Cherubim Song," by Bortniansky, high school chorus; commencement sermon, "Get the King," Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, pastor of the Williamston Presbyterian church; hymn, "Come Thou Almighty King", benediction.

Next Wednesday evening at eight o'clock, the seniors will hold their class exercises in the high school auditorium.

On Thursday night the term will be brought to a formal close with graduation exercises and an address by Lloyd Griffin, secretary of the State School Commission. The high school glee club will appear in a brief concert during the program that evening.

For the first time, the local school is issuing special certificates of merit to a number of pupils who have taken advanced work supplementing the regular course of instruction and equalling a twelfth grade.

Clinic Attendance Shows A Decrease

Opened with a rushing business in the lower part of the county the early part of last week, pre-school clinics, conducted by the health department staff, are now reporting low attendance figures. At one time the indications pointed to a substantial increase in the number of beginners for the next fall school term, but more recent reports point to decreased numbers in the first grades, as a whole, next season.

Only 24 pre-school children were present for the clinic in Robersonville Monday as compared with 28 a year ago.

In the first clinic a week prior to that time, 35 children reported at Jamesville and 13 at Farm Life. Other points reported, as follows: Williamston, 64; Everetts, 22; Bear Grass, 20; Hamilton, 9; Oak City, 12.

Today, the health staff is conducting clinics in the schools at Gold Point and Hassell.

The clinics have met with marked success in that the way was opened for the correction of a number of physical defects among the little tots entering school next fall for the first time. The correction of the defects has been proved to place children on an equal footing with the average or normal child.

Sermons Scheduled For Sunday In Most Of the White Schools

Prominent State Figures To Appear on Various Programs

Bringing to a close another very successful term, the several white schools in the county will hold their final programs next week, beginning in most cases with the annual commencement sermons Sunday morning, afternoon or evening. The closing programs are attracting prominent State figures to the county this season, including Governor Clyde R. Hoey who speaks in Robersonville Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Six of the ten white schools will close the term with graduation exercises on Wednesday evening, followed by finals programs in Williamston, Hamilton and Hassell on Thursday, and in Oak City on Friday. All colored schools except those in the north end of the county will close the term next Wednesday. Delayed one week last fall by cotton picking, the schools in the upper end of the county will not end the term until May 3.

The white schools of the county are establishing new records this year, according to preliminary reports coming from the office of the county superintendent. Nearly 200 young girls and boys are being graduated by the six high schools, and a record number of youths will move out of the seventh grade into the high school. Final figures as to the number of graduates and the number gaining entrance into the high school will not be available until examinations are graded and the grades are checked.

As the term draws to a close, local and county school authorities are expressing themselves as being well pleased with the progress made and are already making arrangements for the new term beginning next fall.

Finals programs have been announced, as follows:

Jamesville
Sunday, April 23 — Commencement sermon by Dr. S. A. Maxwell, of the Williamston Methodist Church.
Tuesday, April 25, 8 p. m. — Class Day exercises.

Wednesday, April 26, 8 p. m. — Graduation exercises. Dr. R. C. Deal, professor in the East Carolina Teachers' College, Greenville, will deliver the commencement address.

Farm Life
Friday night, April 21 — Elementary program.

Sunday, April 23, 11 a. m. — Commencement sermon by Elder J. B. Lee, of Four Oaks.

Wednesday, April 26, 11 a. m. — Class Day exercises; 12 noon, picnic. The Hon. J. M. Broughton, of Raleigh, will deliver the commencement address at 2:30 that afternoon.

Bear Grass
Friday night, April 21 — High school play.

Sunday night, April 23. — Com- (Continued on page six)

Few Dogs Reported In Bear Grass Area

An apparent increase in the number of dogs found in Jamesville, Williams and Griffins Township earlier this month has been offset by a marked decrease in the number of the canines in the Bear Grass area, according to Dr. A. J. Osteen who is handling the county-wide campaign against rabies.

Hardly more than half as many dogs were vaccinated there this year as compared with the number vaccinated a year ago. "We don't know whether there has been a high death rate among dogs there or whether the owners forgot or failed to comply with the law and have their dogs vaccinated," Dr. Osteen said.

The campaign is underway in this township today, and tomorrow the doctor will vaccinate dogs at his office in the J. A. Manning peanut building near the Planters warehouse. Next Monday, the campaign will be centered at Beddard's store in Poplar Point at 2 o'clock and on Wednesday at Cross Roads at the same hour.

FEW REGISTER

With the addition of seven or eight new names to the registration books, it is apparent that more interest is being centered in the coming town election than was manifested in the convention a week ago. Most of those placing their names on the registration books for the first time are newcomers here.

Few votes are likely to be cast in the election on Tuesday, May 2nd.

William E. Clark Dies At His Home

Near Here Today

Funeral Services Saturday Afternoon At His Late Home

William E. Clark, retired farmer and highly respected county citizen, died at his home in Bear Grass Township at 6:30 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Suffering a stroke of paralysis nearly three years ago, he was confined to his bed during the past two. Mr. Clark was 80 years old and prior to his last illness he was very active despite his advanced age.

The son of the late Outland and Emma Mobley Clark, he was born in Bear Grass Township, spending all his life there. Mr. Clark was a progressive farmer and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was recognized as a kindly old gentleman, and as a member of the old school he valued high ideals, honesty and the friendship of his fellowman. He was known during most of his life as Buck Clark.

In early manhood he married Miss Mary Swan and she with three daughters, Mrs. John Leggett and Mrs. D. L. Peel, both of Bear Grass, and Mrs. John Page, of Robersonville, survives. He was a thoughtful provider in the home, and a good citizen in his community and county.

Funeral services will be conducted from the late home Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Perry, pastor of the Robersonville Christian church. Interment will follow in the Peel cemetery, near the home, in Bear Grass Township.

Singing Class Agent Dies Of Heart Attack

LeRoy W. Alderman, for 28 years agent and manager of the Oxford Orphanage class, died suddenly of an heart attack in Stokes last Wednesday afternoon while on tour with the orphanage singers.

A native of Sampson County, Mr. Alderman was 64 years old. He had visited Williamston many times with a young group of children raising funds for the orphanage at Oxford. He made many warm friendships here and throughout the State.

Bible Class Enjoys Rock Muddle Supper

Climaxing an attendance contest, about forty members of the Methodist Adult Bible class enjoyed a rock muddle at Mobley's mill near here last evening. Jimmie Taylor, assisted by Sam Edwards, was the chief cook.