

Record Number Of Cases Are Called In County Court

Accumulation of Cases Cleared From Docket in a Hurry Last Monday

Handling a docket that had been piled up with cases accumulating over a two-week period, Judge H. O. Peel meted out some swift justice and adjourned the county recorder's court after a two-hour session last Monday. Sixteen cases were called during the period, the size of the docket setting something akin to a record during the hot summer season.

When W. J. Thompson, charged with issuing a worthless check, failed to appear, the court ordered papers issued for him to be placed under bond for his appearance next session.

Aubrey Pierce, charged with damaging personal property, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, James H. Harrison was found not guilty.

Rebecca Modgett, operator of an alleged thriving liquor retail business on Williamston's damp Railroad Street, was fined \$10, taxed with the cost and sentenced to jail for three months in the case charging her with the violation of the liquor laws. The sentence is to begin at the direction of the court at any time within the next two years.

Charlie Joyner, facing a similar indictment, was also fined \$10, taxed with the cost and sentenced to the roads for three months, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court at any time within the next two years.

Charlie Joyner, facing a similar indictment, was also fined \$10, taxed with the cost and sentenced to the roads for three months, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court at any time within the next two years.

Mayo Andrews, pleading guilty in the case charging the violation of the liquor laws, was fined \$25, taxed with the cost and sentenced to the roads for three months, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging Bill Keel, colored, with violating the liquor laws.

Charged with driving a mule and cart while intoxicated, Ab Roberson was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost.

Robert Brown, charged with drunken driving, was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his operator's license revoked for the period of one year.

Charged with reckless and drunken driving, James Baldy Rogers pleaded guilty, the court continuing the case under prayer for judgment until August 28.

Robert Williams, charged with an assault, failed to answer when called and papers were ordered issued for his arrest.

The case charging Robert Pierce with bastardy was continued until the first Monday in October after the defendant entered a plea of not guilty.

Charlie Wilson was sentenced to the roads for sixty days in the case charging him with larceny and receiving.

A continuance was granted in the case charging Lizzie and Dorothy Coltrain with an assault.

Charged with turning an old mule out into the woods to starve to death, William Everett, colored man of the Hassell community, pleaded guilty and was fined \$10, taxed with the cost and sentenced to the roads for 60 days, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court.

A continuance was granted in the case charging Robert Clark with bastardy.

Rolls On Button And Injures Rib

After successfully weaving through the many dangers that lurk on the highways on a trip to and from Hot Springs, Ark, Farmer Jim Stator returned home the early part of this week and injured a rib when he rolled over on a collar button in his bed.

The button, larger than the average, to be sure, pressed against the man's rib and bruised it. Mr. Stator maintained it had broken his rib and only an X-ray pictured convinced him that the rib was bruised and not broken.

After undergoing treatment at the Arkansas health resort, Mr. Stator is now getting along very well. He is able to be out much of the time and drives his car. Mrs. Stator accompanied him home from Hot Springs.

Plan Organization Of Three Rhythm Bands For Children

Supervisors at the grammar school playground are planning to organize three rhythm bands for children, ages ranging from six to sixteen. All children, who are interested in joining these bands are invited to be at the playground Monday morning at nine o'clock.

Martin County Farmers Are Now Facing Critical Period

Generally speaking, crop conditions in Martin County are very good but reliable reports clearly indicate that the farmers are facing a critical period and that the final harvest will fall below present expectations.

Commenting on the crop situation after a hurried survey of a large portion of the farming territory in the upper half of the county, Farmer W. Bob Everett stated that Martin farmers were almost certain to lose much of their tobacco crops. Hot weather following heavy rains last week-end, is causing the leaf to ripen faster than many farmers are able to care for it. "There is little doubt but what a billion and more pounds of tobacco is being raised but there is also doubt as to whether farmers will be able to save a billion or more pounds," Mr. Everett said. Griffins Township farmers maintain they are harvesting their crop in timely order, but in some other sections of the county tobacco is burning in the fields. As many as three curings have been pulled from one field in a single week, one farmer stated.

The county cotton crop is looking fine, but a heavy boll weevil infestation is evident, reports state.

Peanut stands, late reports maintain, are not quite as good as were first reported, and there'll be little variation in the production one way or the other in this section this year as compared with last.

Prospects continue bright for a bumper corn crop here and throughout the county with the price already weakening following the release of a government forecast a few days ago.

Committee Reveals High Salaries Paid Some WPA Workers

House Probe Shows Only 180 In State Getting More Than \$150 Month

Simultaneously with reports telling about WPA workers in the lower brackets striking for higher wages, a special committee of the House of Representatives, probing the salary scale in the ranking positions, revealed that only 180 persons in North Carolina were drawing in excess of \$150 a month in Works Progress Administration salaries.

The salary schedule, released by the committee this week, was said to have been prepared by the WPA. It brought forth much comment, some going as far as to say that the schedule will have an adverse effect on the next election.

Rates of pay publicly announced this week in the Williamston, Washington and Windsor offices are, as follows:

- Williamston — Robert E. Smithwick, claim adjuster, \$150; Conrad Z. Bailey, engineer, \$225; Benjamin F. Britton, Jr., engineer, \$150; Allen L. Midyette, supervisor, \$150; Hubert L. Raburn, supervisor, \$150; Newton J. Shepherd, supervisor, \$150; James H. Valentine, engineer, \$150; Kathleen F. Caulfield, social worker, \$175; Constance F. S. Rabin, social worker, \$175; Emma Maurer, social worker, \$165; Harold B. Hargett, assignment officer, \$150; Mary E. Hollowell, social worker, \$150; Olivia R. Hodges, area supervisor, \$200.
- Washington—Lee A. Wallace, engineer, \$250.
- Windsor—Edward L. Winslow, engineer, \$225; Charles L. Cale, supervisor, \$150; Robert B. Riddick, engineer, \$150; William R. Copeland, field representative, \$225.

Boatman Is Facing Felony Charge Here

Alleged to have committed a crime against nature, Edward James Wilkie, boatman, was returned here yesterday soon after his arrest in Norfolk to face the charge in the courts of this county. A hearing will likely be held in the case late today or tomorrow.

Procuring a warrant before Justice Hassell here this week, Thomas E. Wilkie, about 13 years old and the son of the defendant, alleges the crime took place while the boat upon which they worked was docked at this point last week.

Prevented from leaving the boat while here, the youth escaped at Columbia this week and reported the alleged crime to Tyrrell officers who directed him to take action in this county.

If probable cause is found, the case will be placed on the superior court docket for trial next September. Based on preliminary reports, some are of the opinion the charges are somewhat exaggerated, but officers are making every effort possible to get to the bottom of the case and offer the youth protection.

Wilkie was returned here by Deputy J. H. Roebuck.

Urging An Early Vote On Tobacco Control Program

Farmers Generally Are Content To Await Report On Prices

Aggravated by foreign conditions, the report of the Federal Crop Reporting Board showing a marked increase in the tobacco crop stirred Congressional leaders from the flue-cured areas to action and an immediate referendum on tobacco control is being urged. Amendments to the Agricultural Adjustment act, already passed by the House, will have to gain Senate sanction, and then the Secretary of Agriculture could call for a vote on the control plan at any time.

Realizing that more than a billion-pound crop is now in the making, farm leaders are anxious for an immediate vote, believing that if control is assured for next year that the bottom will not fall from under prices when the markets open a short time from now.

Those who advocated control in the last referendum, are content to await price developments. It is possible, they argue, that the companies will pay a "fair" price for the current crop to help kill any efforts that might be advanced to resurrect the old control program. Others reason that the companies are not going to pay one cent more than they have to, and that it is not reasonable to expect a "fair" price when the indications point to a glutted market. Other than the fact that there is a large crop in the making, there is nothing to change the outcome of the last control vote, and it is foolish to call for a referendum before the end of the coming marketing season, they say.

It has also been pointed out that the value of tobacco or control of other crops can be determined this coming marketing season. If market prices fall much below a 20-cent average, a loud clamor for control is very likely to be heard. If prices hold to the 20-cent average or better, control will be a dead issue for seasons to come.

A report from Washington this week reads, as follows:

Because of the bumper crop forecast, members of Congress from the flue-cured states this week planned to expedite action on the tobacco amendments to the AAA law which have already passed the House.

Representative Harold Cooley, who sponsored the amendments, said he would confer with Chairman E. D. Smith, of the Senate agriculture committee, and urge him to secure Senate action. One of these amendments permits the Secretary of Agriculture to order a referendum any time after July 1 for production next year.

With the markets opening in Georgia on July 25, the flue-cured Congressmen want the secretary of agriculture to be in position to immediately have the growers vote on quotas for 1940. If the trade knots there will be production control next year, it is believed this will bolster the market for the current crop.

Department of Agriculture officials already are preparing forms and getting the machinery set up for an early referendum if the tobacco amendments are enacted and the secretary decides it is desirable to immediately proclaim quotas and call for a vote by growers.

Cars In Wreck At Intersection Here

Mrs. Ernest Cox was slightly hurt and considerable property damage resulted when two cars crashed at the intersection of Houghton and Main Streets here last Monday afternoon. Mrs. Cox was bruised about the head. Alfredo Garcia Gonzalez, resident of New Jersey and an employee of the Standard Oil Company, was not injured.

Damage to the New Jersey car was estimated at about \$150 while that done to the Cox car will hardly exceed \$75.

Said to have been running around 40 miles an hour when he crossed the railroad at the station, the New Jersey man drove his comparatively new Hudson coupe into Main Street without stopping, although he claims to have seen the stop signs. Booked on a reckless driving charge, he maintained that he stopped at the stop sign, but officers, investigating the accident, stated that his car tires skidded several feet after the car entered the intersection. Mrs. Cox was driving down Main Street when the New Jersey car crashed into it. She was said to have been driving around 20 or 25 miles an hour.

The New Jersey car was attached under court order, and Gonzalez, unable to give bond in the sum of \$100 in the case charging him with reckless driving, was placed in jail.

Gonzalez's release was effected yesterday afternoon when the court suspended judgment upon payment of the cost in the reckless driving case, a friend paying the cost for him. Pending a settlement of the property damage by an insurance adjuster, the man's car is being held under court order.

Committee Is Impressed with Possible Sites For Hospital

Traveling over eastern North Carolina in search of a site for a \$400,000 tuberculosis sanatorium, Messrs. J. L. Blythe, of Charlotte; O. M. Mull of Shelby, and L. L. Burgin, of Horsehoe, Henderson County, composing a special committee, were greatly impressed with possible locations in this county. Mr. G. H. Harrison, town commissioner, said following a survey by the gentlemen late yesterday afternoon.

During their two hours' stay in the county, the committee members visited about fourteen possible sites. Commenting favorably on the sites and farming land in this area, the three men were apparently impressed with the geographical location of

Williamston, the entertaining group led by Mr. Harrison, sincerely believing that factor coupled with favorable conditions will receive serious consideration when the committee makes its final decision.

Scheduled to complete their field survey within ten days, the members of the special committee plan to reach a decision and report their findings on or about August 1.

During their two-hour survey of possible sites in this county, Messrs. Blythe, Mull, and Burgin were accompanied by Messrs. G. H. Harrison, J. E. Pope, H. G. Horton and Edwin Holding. At seven o'clock the committee continued on its trip to Beaufort County and on toward Wilmington.

Indications Point To Increase In Tax Rate

Commissioners To Study Figures At Meet Next Monday

Scheduled to go into special session here next Monday, the Martin County commissioners will give a thorough study to the 1939-40 budget and possibly determine the tax rate for the new year. County Accountant J. Sam Getsinger is battling long hours with the various departmental figures in an effort to present them to the commissioners when they start their study at 9:30 next Monday morning.

The tax outlook for the new year while not at all disheartening, is not at all encouraging in that the indications point to a slight increase. The increase may be one, two or even three cents, or it may be possible for the authorities to hold the rate to the last-year figure of \$1.41 per \$100 assessed property valuations.

Not one of the commissioners is likely to favor an increase in the rate, but if the conditions virtually demand it, they are expected to levy a sufficient rate to meet the budget requirements even if the rate has to be pushed upward two or three cents.

Proposed budget figures for all the departments are not available at this time, but regardless of the departmental requirements, the authorities will have to consider a falling revenue in fines and forfeitures and a decrease in liquor profits. It is possible that the increased rate, if it is increased, will just about offset the loss that is certain to follow the increased rate of participation by the State in the gross sales tax on liquor. Then, too, sales during the year just ended showed a downward trend and it isn't very likely that they will be boosted during the current fiscal year.

Under the old age assistance program, the new rate will possibly show an increase of three-quarters of a cent. This, with possible slight increases in other departments, will almost absorb any rate increase up to two cents, leaving the commissioners with one big problem to not increase the rate more to offset losses in decreased liquor profits and other sources of income.

Last year, the county commissioners levied a rate of \$1.41 on the \$100 assessed property valuations, divided as follows: general county, six and one-half cents; health, six and one-half cents; county poor, twelve cents; old age assistance, four cents; aid to dependent children, two and one-half cents; debt service, fifty-three and one-half cents. For schools: current expense, eight cents; capital outlay, eight and one-quarter cents, and debt service, thirty-nine and three-quarter cents.

Up until this year, the stage has been set for action that would decrease or hold the rate unchanged, but there have been no increases in property values or income from other sources. Starting in 1933, the commissioners effected reductions in the rate as follows: 1933, \$1.60; 1934, \$1.50; 1935 and 1936, \$1.43; 1937 and 1938, \$1.41.

A comparison of the budget summaries for the past year and the one proposed for the new fiscal year will likely be made public within the next ten days.

FIRE LOSS

Williamston had its smallest fire loss during the first six months of this year than in any other similar period in years, a report released today by Fire Chief G. P. Hall shows. Property damage resulting from the 19 fires in town was estimated at \$275 and that to contents was placed at \$75, making a total of \$350. In addition to the 19 calls received locally, the firemen were called out of town five times.

Contract Let For Bleaching Unit At County Pulp Plant

Company Issues Statement in Connection With Strike And New Program

Following close behind an announcement earlier in the week that the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company would reopen its plant in the lower part of this county on July 24, came an official statement yesterday outlining an expansion program at the mill. It was learned here today that a contract had already been let for the construction and installation of a bleaching unit, that the personnel of the plant will possibly be increased by 200 men.

The expansion program calls for the construction of two new buildings and the installation of a filtering plant and two paper machines. When completed, the plant will turn out a finished grade of container board.

The statements of the company, issued Thursday morning, follow: "The North Carolina Pulp Company is making arrangements to resume operations at the pulp mill on July 24, 1939. It may not be possible to operate at full capacity at first but some work is assured employees who have been idle since early in May, when the mill had to be closed down because of a strike called at the Delair plant of the Kieckhefer Container Company.

"Arrangements have also been made to proceed at once with an addition to the present pulp mill, which will consist of a bleaching plant and filter plant. The contract for the bleaching plant has been placed and the plans for the installation are being made as rapidly as possible.

"When the bleaching plant has been completed, operation of both pulp mill and bleaching plant will not be affected by labor troubles at Delair, as other outlets for pulp made at Plymouth will be available.

"It is the company's intention to use local labor in the construction of this plant and to give employment wherever possible, to old hands whose service may not be immediately needed at the pulp mill while it is operating at reduced capacity. We believe that this plan will practically assure steady work for the majority of employees of the Plymouth mill who have been idle for over two months through no fault of their own.

"The North Carolina Pulp Company is keenly aware of its responsibility to its employees and to the community and takes pleasure in giving them both the assurance that every possible effort is being made to make the Plymouth plant independent of labor disputes at other plants.

"With reference to an article, dated July 7, 1939, and signed by the heads of the three Delair, N. J., local unions, the Kieckhefer Container Company of Delair, has advised as follows:

"This article gives the impression that the Delair strike was caused by unrest and dissatisfaction felt by the employees over a period of several years. This statement is unfounded as with the exception of several strikes called by the teamsters' union comprising less than 25 employees (Continued on page six)

Hundreds Attend Event At Wenona

Between twelve and fifteen hundred farmers and others interested in agriculture attended the field day program at the Blackland Test Farm at Wenona in Washington County yesterday, the event attracting State agricultural leaders and a few politicians as special guest speakers.

Reporting on the program, farmers from this county pointed out that an important experimental work is being carried on at the station, and that agriculture stands to profit much from the venture.

The program, presided over by R. L. Coburn, local man, included several addresses by prominent speakers and a review of the field tests and livestock projects. The entertainment bill was featured by several interesting contests.

Martin County attracted special attention in the scheduled contests when a pair of steers owned by Sam Godard, of Jamesville, and driven by "High Pocket" Gray, established a new pulling record. Talking what was described as real "cow" language, Gray had the animals pulling a load equal to eighteen and one-quarter tons, the dynamometer registering 2,800 pounds in terms of a dead weight lift. The former record was four and one-half tons under the figure established yesterday.

Godard plans to enter the steers in a similar contest at the State fair this fall.

A pair of light mules owned by Farmer Dick Perry, of Jamesville Township, led in their classification when they pulled a load equal to 11 tons.

A pair of oxen, owned by Farmer W. W. Griffin, of Williams Township, and driven by Herbert Moore, pulled a load equal to seventeen and one-half tons.