

## State Department Acts Against Slot Machine Operators

### Warrant Taken for Greenville Operator; Returnable Friday

The first crack-down by the State in Martin County on alleged violations of the 1939 slot machine law came Monday, when L. D. McCormick, of Greenville, was charged with operation of a slot machine without proper State license.

McCormick represents the McCormick Vending Machine Company, distributor of slot machines. The warrant, taken out by Jack Hinton, deputy inspector for the State department of revenue, is returnable Friday morning at 10 o'clock, before Justice of the Peace J. L. Hassell.

North Carolina law imposes a \$25 fine for each machine each day it is operated without proper license. Each day's illegal operation constitutes a separate offense.

There are 45 licensed slot machines in Martin County. Of these, probably one-third are situated in the town of Williamston. The other two-thirds are scattered through the county, with most of them situated in the towns and villages.

The action taken Monday was the first in this county since the passage of the 1939 law allowing the licensing of slot machines. The way in which the slot machine law allegedly was violated by the Greenville slot machine distributors was not disclosed by officers yesterday.

Rumor has had it for some time that slot machines have been operated illegally in the county, without proper license, but no official act had been taken until Monday.

Hinton did not say whether any further warrants will be taken out soon in this county in connection with alleged illegal operation.

## Says Arrest False, Man Asking \$2,500

Alleging he was falsely arrested, S. B. Smithy, Martin County man, filed suit for \$2,500 in the Martin County Superior court this week against Efrid's Department Store, of Greenville, and J. G. Stokes and C. T. Webb.

In the complaint filed by Attorney Clarence Griffin, it is alleged that a lady entered Efrid's store in April of last year, purchased certain merchandise and gave a check as payment for the goods payable to Efrid's Department Store and signing the name of S. B. Smithy to the check in the presence of defendant's agents and employees.

It is further alleged in the complaint that on May 11 of this year, a warrant was issued and the plaintiff was arrested and charged with giving a worthless check to the defendant. On last May 30, the plaintiff states that he was tried before a justice of the peace in Greenville and adjudged not guilty.

Smithy is asking \$2,500 actual and \$500 punitive damages.

## Curing Barn And Packhouse Burn

Costly fires swept down on the J. T. Matthews farm between Oak City and Hobbard last Saturday evening and night and destroyed a tobacco curing barn and the farmer's packhouse.

The curing barn, believed to have been fired by falling leaves on the flues, was burned early that evening. Later that night fire, believed to have been of incendiary origin, destroyed the large packhouse and three barns of tobacco along with a quantity of feeds.

It could not be learned here if insurance was carried on the property.

An incomplete survey of the county shows that eight curing barns in addition to the loss on the Matthews farm have been destroyed by fire so far this season. According to reports, the following farmers have lost curing barns: J. B. Barnhill, Tan Cherry, Perlie Lilley, Sherwood Roberson, W. T. Hurst, J. C. Ross, W. T. Andrews and Abe Gray. John A. Manning had a barn damaged by fire and it is believed that others have lost curing barns, but their names could not be learned.

## Town's Oldest Resident Died Yesterday Morning

Adeline Duggan, highly respected colored citizen, died at her West Main Street home here yesterday morning at 10 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Born in slavery, she was said to be 95 or more years old. For almost half a century she was a faithful servant in the Fowden household. Her last days were spent in comfort, and the end came peacefully as she slept.

Even in slavery she was faithful to her master and helped hide what little silverware and other articles that were in her master's home.

Funeral services are being conducted from the Shiloh Baptist church on Elm Street this afternoon at 3 o'clock, and interment will follow in the Odd Fellows' cemetery.

## Critical Period Still Facing Farmers Of Martin County

Struggling to harvest a tobacco crop that is literally running away

because it is ripening so rapidly, Martin County farmers continue in the middle of a critical period as far as making a success or failure in their farming efforts this season. Nothing like a complete failure is even suggested, but uncertainty surrounds the efforts of hundreds of farmers who would properly harvest and save all their tobacco, according to reliable reports reaching here today from all parts of the county.

Heavy week-end rains followed by hot sunshine and sweltering heat have aggravated the farming situation, and it is now forecasted that some farmers are almost certain to lose any where from ten to forty per cent of their tobacco. Large amounts of the leaf have burned in the fields. In some few cases, tobacco, after it was pulled and tied to the sticks, has

rotted because there wasn't room in the curing barns.

Crowding their barns, farmers in some instances were forced to run such high heats that they created extra fire hazards and contributed to what is apparently the greatest fire loss in the county in several years. Farmers explain that where they should put only 600 sticks they are packing 900, and where they should put 900, they are crowding in as many as twelve and thirteen hundred. The practice, farmers admit, is affecting quality.

Last but not least, farmers are about to work and worry themselves to death with the current tobacco crop.

Conditions in other counties are reported more serious. Faced with a shortage of wood and sticks, farmers there are said to be paying as high as \$8 a cord for wood and up to \$18 and \$20 a thousand for sticks.

### INDICTMENTS

According to unofficial information received yesterday, ten or twelve persons in Martin County are subject to indictment for failure to list taxes for 1939.

Warrants have been prepared by Tax Supervisor Grimes, and a hearing will be held before Recorder H. O. Peel in the County court next Monday, it was stated.

Most of the defendants are colored who allegedly have been escaping poll tax payments.

## Oak City School Faculty Appointed For Coming Term

### Miss Reba McLamb To Head New Commercial Department

The 1939-40 personnel of the Oak City schools was announced complete this week by Principal H. M. Ainsley, the list carrying the names of quite a few new teachers.

Beginning his sixteenth year as head of the schools there, Principal Ainsley announced that commercial work will be offered this fall for the first time. Headed by Miss Reba McLamb, of Clinton, the department is assured of a large enrollment, the school man explaining that most of the last term graduates as well as a number of others were planning to take the special course of instruction. The course of instruction carried a \$2 monthly fee.

Seven of the fifteen teachers in the school are going to Oak City for the first time to fill positions made vacant by resignations and by the creation of the new commercial department.

The names of the faculty members and courses and grades assigned follow:

H. M. Ainsley, principal and teacher of mathematics and civics.  
Mrs. Ruth Evelyn Jones, of Rocky Mount, French and history.  
Miss Pat Meads, of Weeksville, Pasquotank County, English.

Miss Lucille Roberts, of Asheville, home economics and science.

H. J. McCracken, of Clyde, science and mathematics.

Miss Dorothy Flanders, of Dublin, Ga., music.

Arthur Benton, of Chadbourne, vocational agriculture.

Miss Reba McLamb, of Clinton, commercial department.

Miss Mattie Lyon, of Oxford, seventh grade.

Miss Hazel Lawrence, of Gates, sixth grade.

Miss Mary Everett, of Robersonville, fifth grade.

Miss Louise Menton, of Lewiston, fourth grade.

Miss Mary Gorham, of Rocky Mount, third grade.

Miss Myrtle Price, of Vanceboro, second grade.

Mrs. N. W. Johnson, of Oak City, first grade.

## Orphanage Observes Its 40th Anniversary

The Methodist orphanage at Raleigh is celebrating its 40th anniversary on July 30. We are inviting four representative laymen from each local church in the Elizabeth City district to be the guests of the Methodist orphanage at a free barbecue dinner this coming Sunday, at one o'clock.

Following the free barbecue dinner a most interesting program will be put on in the orphanage auditorium by the children of the home. Our invited guests will be shown over the campus and through the cottages by our three hundred and ten children.

It is the sincere wish of Superintendent A. S. Barnes that at least the Sunday school superintendent, the presidents and teachers of Men's Bible classes and the church lay leaders from every local church in the Elizabeth City district will honor the orphanage with their presence. A big time is in store for those who visit the orphanage next Sunday.

## Planning Federal Survey Of Dairies In Martin County

### Sellers of Grade "D" Milk Directed To Procure Permits

According to information coming from the Martin County Health Department, the United States Health Service will make a milk survey in the county within the near future. Sanitarian Charles Leonard stating that no advanced notice of the date for the survey would be released by the representatives of the federal department.

The main part of the survey will be centered around the four "A" grade dairies, but compliance with the laws by individual sellers of milk will be checked, it was stated.

Sanitarian Leonard stated that most if not all the established dairies are ready for the federal service inspectors, that he felt certain the county would rate the federal government's milk honor roll. The survey is the first to be conducted under the county-wide milk ordinance and if a grade of 90 or more is earned, the county will be included on the milk honor roll and published in pamphlets that have nationwide circulation.

"We have some of the best dairies in eastern North Carolina now, and since the milk ordinances were passed, the consumption of milk has materially increased," Sanitarian Leonard said. It is estimated that more than 200 gallons of grade "A" milk are being sold in the county at this time, and a sizable increase is anticipated during the fall and winter months.

During the survey planned for the next few days, the federal health service representative will check the application of regulations for the sale of class "D" milk. Individual sellers are urged to get permits, and have their cows tested for tuberculosis and other diseases prior to the survey. Permits are obtainable from the county health department and Sanitarian Leonard will be glad to outline the rules and regulations governing the sale of Class "D" milk. Individual sellers who do not procure permits to sell class "D" milk are subject to prosecution.

## More Trouble For Tobacco Farmers

The cares and woes of tobacco farmers were added to during the past few days when a tiny pest invaded fields of this belt and started eating away the green leaf.

The tiny new insect is destroying whole fields of tobacco in the Wilson section, according to farmers and warehousemen of that section. So small that it is almost invisible to the naked eye, the insect is green and resembles the ordinary fly in shape.

Tobacco experts, including warehousemen, farmers and soil conservation men, have studied the insect under the microscope, but have been unable to type it. Leaves containing the insect have been sent to Raleigh for examination by the State Extension Bureau, it is reported.

Howard Watson, member of the Wilson County Soil Conservation committee and farmer in the Wilson section for the last 40 years, said that he had never seen anything like the insect before.

## Increase Reported In Whooping Cough Cases

Health authorities turned to the courts today in an effort to check a spreading epidemic of whooping cough here. The action was taken when sixteen cases of the cough were reported in a block on Hatton Street among the colored population. The territory was quarantined immediately, and warnings were issued against a violation of the barriers.

Four persons were indicted at the direction of the department this morning for alleged violation of restrictions placed around a neighborhood on Griffins Street. The cases are to be heard before Justice Hassell Thursday evening.

## Frank C. Bennett Died Saturday At Home Near Here

### Funeral for Retired Business Man And Farmer Is Held Sunday

Frank C. Bennett, well-known county farmer and retired business man, died at his home on the McCaskey Road, near here last Saturday morning following an illness of about eight years' duration. Mr. Bennett, confined to his bed during the greater part of the past two years, retired from active business more than ten years ago, but supervised his farming operations from his bed almost to the time of his death.

The son of the late Calvin and Matilda Strawbridge Bennett, he was born on the farm where he made his home all his life. In young manhood he married Miss Ella Coburn who died some years ago. Three children survive that union. Their names are: Miss Pattie Bennett and Jasper Bennett, both of Norfolk, and Jasper Bennett, of Williamston. Mr. Bennett later married Mrs. Fannie Bland Harrison, of Robersonville, and she survives with six children, Mrs. Velma House, of Robersonville; Melvin, F. C., Jr., Ronald and Miss Nina Bennett, all of Williamston. He also is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Emma Nicholson, of Williamston; Mrs. Ellen Harris, of Windsor, and Mrs. Alice Gurganus, of Everetts.

Funeral services were conducted at the late home Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, Presbyterian minister. Interment was in the family plot in the Baptist cemetery here.

Mr. Bennett, a thoughtful husband and father, was highly regarded as a citizen. He was a successful farmer and a man who was interested in the welfare and advancement of his fellowmen. Conscious to the last, he bore his affliction without complaint.

In 1926 he formed a partnership in the tobacco warehouse business here with Barnhill and Morton for the operation of the Farmers Warehouse. Three years later he was in partnership for the operation of the same house with Barnhill and Veasey, retiring at the end of that year on account of failing health.

## One Injured As Car Crashes Into Truck

Thomas Lawrence Roberson suffered a bruised right arm as the only casualty of a collision on the Robersonville highway just outside of Williamston Monday afternoon. The car in which Mr. Roberson was riding, and which was driven by C. H. Ayers, Martin County farmer, was badly smashed in front. Damage was estimated at \$300. The car caught fire after the smash-up but the blaze was quickly extinguished when dirt was thrown on the engine.

The accident was investigated by State Highway Patrolman Scarborough, of Windsor. The car driven by Ayers, a 1939 Ford, was heading for Williamston. A truck, owned by the Thurston truck lines, of Wilson, was ahead. As the truck turned to its right into the prison camp road, the car crashed into the truck's rear, state police said.

## Colored Woman Lost In Ditch Near Here

Tempie Williams, 84-year-old Negro woman, who lives on the McCaskey Road three miles from Williamston, must have prayed well in church Saturday, and her faith in the Almighty must be greater today than ever before. For apparently, the Lord took good care of her that night.

At any rate, Tempie, who was born six years before the War Between the States, went through 24 hours of exposure in a ditch near her home and came out little the worse for her experience.

Saturday morning, the old colored woman trudged the three miles to Williamston to attend church. Afterward, a motorist gave her a ride as far as the Williamston fair ground, at which point the McCaskey Road leaves the Robersonville highway.

The stifling early afternoon heat was too much for Tempie, and as she got to the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad crossing, she apparently lost her way and wandered down the track.

A searching party late Sunday, found her dress, hat and shoes a short distance down the track from the crossing, and feared that some violence had come to the old woman. However, farther down the track, the searchers found her in a ditch. They took her home, and she seemed to be suffering only from exhaustion. The exposure to the broiling sun and later the moisture of the ditch and the night air evidently had done her less harm than it might have to a person one-fourth her age.

The explanation of her dress, hat and shoes along the track probably lies in her desire to get out of some of her clothes to escape the steaming heat following the rain of the several days preceding.

## Georgia Leaf Markets Average Near 16 Cents

### Opening-Day Price Not As Low As Was Generally Expected

### Early Price Averages Range Around 10 Cents Below Last Year Figures

Reporting on the early sales at Valdosta this morning, Jack Hardison, local man, in a telegraphic communication said, "First eight rows averaged \$15. Quality bright but thin leaf."

A second report received from J. E. Griffin, local man, a short time later from the same market, stated, "Tobacco selling from one to twenty-five cents and averaging around sixteen cents. Quality poor."

Starting the annual marketing of their crop today, Georgia tobacco farmers are receiving from seven to ten cents less per pound for the golden leaf than they received on opening day last year, but little complaint was registered as the sales continued at a slow pace into the afternoon.

Starting off at about 15 cents a pound, the sales, apparently gained strength as the day progressed, late press reports indicating that some markets would claim an 18-cent average at the close of the sales late in the afternoon.

Individual sales at Vidalia ranged from seven to twenty-five cents. Hazlhurst quoted a price range of eight to twenty-two cents.

Increased production throughout the tobacco-growing territories was recognized as a depressing price factor. However, after considering the poorer quality and heavy production observers considered the early prices fairly encouraging and not as low as many had expected. Heavy rains fell in the southern belt and poor quality was evident on all the markets.

The American Tobacco Company, early reports stated, was buying heavily, but all companies were on the markets.

In Florida, four million pounds of the leaf were placed on two markets, Live Oak and Lake City.

Early forecasts on Georgia-Florida tobacco production indicated there would be a substantial increase in the crop, that the 35,000 farmers would produce in excess of one hundred million pounds. More recent reports maintain that unfavorable weather conditions have curtailed the crop, and that the production will hardly exceed ninety million pounds.

According to general reports coming from the Georgia area, the quality of the crop there this year is inferior to that of a year ago.

The marketing centers throughout the belt were jammed with tobacco, direct reports stating that farmers had their wagons lined up for blocks in some marketing centers waiting to place their offerings on the auction floors.

Sweltering heat and crowded houses retarded the sales which were described as listless in several of the markets.

According to the preliminary unofficial but reliable reports, Georgia farmers will realize from three to four million dollars less for the current crop than they received last year. While a marked production increase did not materialize, the poor quality of the crop there and the expected poundage increase in this and other belts are advanced as the main reasons for the apparent 10-cent price differential between the 1938 and 1939 price averages for the opening day sales.

Basing their prediction on the first reports coming out of Georgia, local tobaccoists are of the opinion that the prices in this belt should average around seventeen cents when the marketing season gets underway here on August 22.

### TOBACCO MAD

"Farmers in this section have gone tobacco mad," a traveller said here today. According to the traveller, there are cases where sixteen acres of tobacco were planted with only two small curing barns to care for it. Losses are heavy in such cases.

Pitt and Beaufort farmers have been scouring Martin County for curing wood and tobacco sticks, the prices ranging as high as \$8 a cord for the wood and \$18-\$20 for a thousand sticks.

Some tobacco has not been topped. Suckers are sapping the life out of the crop in numbers of fields. Many farmers realize now they will be unable to save the crop in its entirety.

## \$10,000 Alienation Suit Is Started In County Last Week

### Colored Citizen Takes Upset Domestic Affairs To The Courts

A \$10,000 alienation of affections suit has been filed in Martin County Superior court by one Negro, Henry Lewis, against another, Claude Francis. Both live in the Poplar Point section of the county.

Henry, alleging that Claude talked Henry's wife into deserting him and his four children about two weeks ago, is asking \$5,000 actual damages and an additional \$5,000 punitive damages.

According to the complaint, this Claude must be a smooth talker. The second of the three allegations is "that said defendant did by his flattery and misrepresentations of plaintiff and by his malicious, wrongful and persuasive advice and other inducements poison his said wife's mind against him, alienate her affections and cause her to mistreat and abandon him, thereby separating them as husband and wife."

The complaint alleges that "on or about the 12th day of July, 1939, while plaintiff and his wife, Adeline Spruill, Lewis, were living together, the defendant, Claude Francis, made frequent visits to the home of this plaintiff for the purpose of misrepresenting him to his said wife, to poison her mind against him, alienating her affections from him and inducing her to mistreat and abandon him and his four small children."

The plaintiff further mourns his lost love in the complaint thus: "The defendant has destroyed plaintiff's happiness and home forever, and that the loss of his said wife, her comfort and assistance, and her affections and companionship has caused him to suffer both mentally and physically to the tune of \$10,000."

The plaintiff asked for an order calling for the incarceration of Claude, unless the latter executed bond of \$10,000. Claude did, in the form of a chattel mortgage and deed of trust, which was filed Saturday. The complaint was filed Friday. The case will probably be heard in the September or November term of Superior court.

Rugh G. Horton is attorney for the plaintiff, and Elbert Peel is representing the defendant.

## County Is Represented At 4-H Club Meeting

Joe King Powell, of Robersonville; Gerald James, of Parmele; Herbert Leslie Manning, of Farm Life, and Miss Susie Revels, of Williamston, are representing the 4-H clubs of this county at a state meeting in Raleigh this week. Miss Lora E. Sleeper, home agent, accompanied the young group to Raleigh.

## Highway Accident Record

For the second week in succession, Martin County motorists have aided the cause of safety on the highways, unofficial reports showing no loss of life or property damage during the week ending last Sunday night.

There was a lot of "luck" riding the highways with the travelers, for the casual observer saw flagrant violations of the highway laws as drivers went tearing through stop signs and around blind corners. Showing impatience with the normal traffic speed, drivers were seen dashing out of regular traffic lanes to rush on to their destination where nothing particularly important was to be done upon their arrival there.

The traffic dangers are still existent, and wrecks are to be expected in due time, and it is to be expected that the driver who exercises due care will be the victim of the careless one. It is encouraging, however, to note another period marked by the absence of slaughter and property wrecking on the highways.

An unofficial comparison of accident records in the county for the past week and for previous weeks in the year follows:

	Accidents Injured	Killed	Property Damage
Last Week's Record	0	0	\$ 000.00
Prior Record	26	7	\$6,950.00
TOTALS	26	7	\$6,950.00

## Lawrence Griffin Drowned In Mill Pond at Farm Life

### Wild Rampage Costs Farm Life School Janitor His Life Saturday

Lawrence Griffin, young white man of Griffins Township, lost his life by accidental drowning in the Hardison Mill pond, near the Farm Life School, last Saturday evening about 6 o'clock. The body was removed from the water about an hour later, but efforts made by Charlie Leonard, of the county health department, to revive the man were abandoned about an hour later.

The accident that cost Griffin his life came as a climax to a glorious frolic during which he told people around the shore that he was going to tear up the old mill pond using a small out-board motor. Griffin ran a borrowed boat up and down the mill pond and reports maintain that he would have gone over the dam had it not been for one or two persons who changed the course of the boat with a long pole.

The owner finally recovered the boat, and Griffin borrowed another. He had been riding in the second boat only a short time when his motor struck a stump and fell into water about six feet deep. Griffin tried to recover the motor then, but was unsuccessful in his attempt. He carried the boat to shore, about 125 yards away, went home and changed his clothes. Returning to the pond, he plunged into the water and swam to the spot where the motor fell from the boat. Experiencing difficulty, possibly cramp, Griffin called for help and James Mendenhall, young boy, went to help him. When he reached the spot, Mendenhall saw some bubbles but was unable to render assistance. Help was summoned and several residents in the community raked for the body for almost an hour before they could locate it. When pulled from the water Griffin had a death hold on a root.

Mr. Leonard applied artificial respiration and worked over the body for nearly an hour, but no sign of returning life could be seen. Investigating the drowning, Coroner S. R. Biggs ruled it accidental and considered an inquest unnecessary.

Griffin, almost 36 years old, had his good traits and was a capable cook and janitor for the Farm Life teacherage and school. He took a great deal of pride in his work.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Asa Griffin, he was born and reared in Griffins Township. When a young man he joined the navy and traveled to all parts of the world. After a four-year stay in the navy, he returned home and married Miss Genevieve Ambers, of Cross Roads Township, who died, about two years ago. An only child born to the union preceded its mother to the grave several years before her death.

Tanned in the navy, Griffin was the main chef for several cafes in eastern North Carolina before he accepted regular work as cook and janitor at Farm Life.

Besides his parents, he is survived by four brothers, Howard Griffin, of Williamston; David Griffin, of Everetts; and James R. and Melton Griffin, of Griffins Township, and two sisters, Mrs. J. D. Bland and Miss Bettie Gray Griffin, both of Griffins Township.

Funeral services were conducted at the Griffin home Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Elder Ross, of Stokes. Interment was in the family plot on the home farm.

## Plan Big Meet At Smithwicks Creek

With at least four visiting ministers scheduled to participate in the program, the Smithwicks Creek Primitive Baptist church is anticipating a big meeting there this weekend, Elder P. E. Getsinger, the pastor, said yesterday.

The first of the services will be held Saturday morning at 11 o'clock and the Sunday program will get underway at 10 a. m.

Preachers who will be present for the Primitive Baptist Correspondence meeting at Smithwicks Creek Saturday and Sunday are:

Elders A. J. Banks, of Macon, Ga.; R. P. Vance, Woodlawn, Va.; W. J. Hall, Rural Hall, N. C.; J. A. Fagg and J. R. Worrell, of Winston-Salem; J. B. Lee, of Four Oaks, N. C.; O. Y. Young, of Angier, N. C.; S. B. Denny, of Eastern.

The Eastern Correspondence of the Church always attracts large congregations, and the membership extends a cordial welcome to the general public to attend.

## Colored Man Facing Serious Charge In The Courts Here

Charged with carnal knowledge, William Taylor, young colored man of near here, will be given a preliminary hearing in Justice J. L. Hassell's court here tomorrow morning. A fifteen-year-old colored girl is the prosecuting witness in the case. Denied bond, Taylor who worked on the Outerbridge farm near here, was placed in jail following his arrest last Saturday afternoon by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck.