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Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Tuesday, September 12, 1939.

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## Plaintiffs Seeking \$46,900 Damages in The Superior Court

### Alienations Suit Brought By Colored Man Settled Out of Court

Eleven damage suits, asking a total of \$46,900, have been placed on the calendar for trial in the Martin County Superior Court convening here Monday, September 18. The number of cases is possibly the largest ever placed on the calendar at any one time for consideration in the courts of this county.

What held the promise of possibly being a near sensation in the county's colored society was headed off a few days ago when the \$10,000 alienation suit filed by Henry Lewis against Claude Francis, was settled out of court. Lewis, in his complaint, stated that he and his wife Adeline Spruill Lewis, were living together on July 12, 1939, that Defendant Francis made frequent visits to the Lewis home, the plaintiff alleging that the defendant had misrepresented him to his wife, had poisoned her affections and induced her to leave the Lewis home. The defendant vigorously denied all the charges in his answer to the complaint, and then the settlement was effected. The plaintiff takes nothing in the case, the judgment setting out that the defendant at all times hereafter will have nothing to do with plaintiff's wife. The \$8.60 costs were taxed against the defendant. The removal of the case from the docket leaves three other \$10,000 damage suits on the calendar.

Anne Mae Harris, by her next friend, H. P. Williams, is suing the Tayloe hospital for \$10,000 damages, alleged to have returned from the "carelessness and negligence" of the defendants. The complaint points out that the plaintiff, a resident of Pasquotank County, underwent an operation in the hospital on May 11, 1936, and alleges that the defendants left part of a cheese-cloth sponge in her abdomen, and that as a result she was sick for a number of months or until February, 1938, when the suit was instituted. The defense denies the allegations, and sets up as its defense the claim that the plaintiff "recovered" from the operation, that when she was discharged from the hospital she was advised to consult her local doctor for a "check-up" or if she did not get along all right to report back to the hospital. The defense maintains that the first it knew of any complaint was when the suit was filed.

This case was started in the Pasquotank Superior Court but was moved on motion by defense to this county.

The Isaiah Hardison case, tried once in the courts, is again slated for trial, but this time the personnel of the litigants has been changed. Filed by J. E. Pope, administrator, the suit is asking \$10,000 damages from R. G. Hancock, of Chatham County, as a result of the death of Hardison, a colored man, near Dardens, on the night of September 14, 1938. The complaint alleges that Hancock was the owner of the truck driven by Homer Glosson and alleged to have struck and fatally injured Hardison. In his answer to the complaint, Hancock maintains he was not engaged in any business in this county in 1938, that he had sold his interest to W. M. Bingham.

The fourth \$10,000 damage suit on the calendar is being brought by George Bond, administrator of William Bond, against R. B. Murphy and Emmett Hardin. The complaint alleges that Hardin carelessly and negligently ran down and killed William Bond, small colored child, on the Hamilton Highway near Moberly's Mill, last June. Murphy denies Hardin was an agent of his, and Hardin denies he was driving carelessly and recklessly when the child ran into the road and was killed. Claimed to have suffered a broken leg.

## Special Festival Scheduled Here

The Collins Fall Festival, sponsored by the Junior Woman's club, will present four varied programs in the Williamston High School auditorium, beginning Thursday evening, October 12th. The programs will continue for three consecutive Thursday evenings.

The Mordelia Merry-Makers will present on October 12, a piano-accompanied program. Pietro Mordelia will be assisted by his daughter, Flora, and Barbara Taylor, well-known Boston artists.

Dr. Frank G. Sayers, widely known traveler and speaker, will speak on October 19, using as his subject, "American Cavalade."

On October 26, the Doris Davison Melodiers will present a concert featuring harp and violin.

The final program on November 2, will be a three-act comedy-drama, "Youth Carries the Torch," presented by the Glen Wells players.

The Collins group comes highly recommended, featuring entertainment considered "high class" but not "high brow".

## Poles Offering Foes First Strong Defense

### BOGUS BILLS

Bogus \$5 bills are apparently still in circulation in these parts, according to reports coming from police headquarters over the week-end. A stranger last Saturday night ordered a pint of liquor at the A. B. C. store here and offered one of the funny bills in payment. Clerk Z. H. Rose, Jr., detected the faulty bill, and the owner snatched it out of his hand, paid for the liquor with ready change and darted out of the store before police could be called. The man was said to have been a stranger here.

### Town Tax Rate To Remain Unchanged For Current Year

### Commissioners Order Sale of Delinquent Tax List On Schedule

Williamston's town tax rate for the current fiscal year was left unchanged at \$2.60 by the commissioners in session here yesterday afternoon, reports from the office of the treasurer indicating that an increase was forestalled by a strict economy schedule for the period.

Starting the year 1938-39 with a \$21,000 balance, the treasury was drained of slightly more than \$10,000 for the construction of the swimming pool. That one item, scheduled to have been cared for in a bond issue that never materialized, stared the commissioners in the face at every turn. Heavy bond and interest payments fell due during the last period, and this year the town started with a balance of only \$3,000 in the banks.

Based on a \$1,790,000 assessed tax valuation, the \$2.60 rate will raise \$46,540. Other sources of revenue are slated to care for the difference in budget needs which are estimated at \$66,513. Last year the total budget was \$71,867. These other sources of revenue are water sales, profits from the A. B. C. board, intangible taxes, paving assessments, rents, penalties on taxes and so on.

"There will be some months in the current year when we will possibly be financially embarrassed, but we believe we can pull through the period without any danger of defaulting," Treasurer N. C. Green said following the meeting.

Attorney R. L. Coburn was directed to start proceedings for reopening an alley leading off Smithwick Street between the Mack Simpson and hotel properties.

In accordance with law and assured that action had been delayed as long as possible under the present law, the commissioners ordered the town's delinquent list advertised next month for sale in November.

### Local Schools On Regular Schedule

With nearly eight hundred students in their classrooms, work in the local school was carried out yesterday on regular schedule. Testing was completed for the 81 little folks entering school for the first time, and they were assigned to the three teachers who will direct their learning for the next eight months. In the other grades a few pupils were shifted from room to room to relieve overcrowded conditions and equalize teaching load, thereby virtually completing the pupil classification until the close of the term.

In the high school two hundred and eight students were in attendance and busy in their classroom. Twenty-six students have enrolled in the commercial department and are taking bookkeeping, typing and shorthand under the instruction of Miss Everett.

## Operator of an Illegal Slot Machine Fined in the Courts

The drive to hold down and if possible eliminate the slot machine nuisance in this county met with marked success in the recorder's court here yesterday when Mrs. Myrtle Knox was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs for the alleged operation of a "one-armed bandit" in Robersonville.

Operated hardly more than three days before it was confiscated by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, the machine was ordered wrecked by the court following the trial here yesterday. One hundred and forty nickels were removed from the machine treasury and turned over to the county school treasury.

L. B. McCormick, charged with the distribution and ownership of four

## World Gradually Being Drawn Into The New Conflict

### No Peace in Prospect as Long As Hitler Is Master Of Germany

War tightened its grip on Europe this morning as the Poles offered their first determined stand against the German invaders and plans were rushed for a major battle that was described as eminent in late news dispatches from France's western front.

The war is playing havoc with sea traffic, the number of British ships standing at 16 today as a German submarine added another to the previous day's list. Hitler advanced another claim today when he stated that England's economic front would possibly be shattered. It is apparent that Hitler has a large number of submarines to molest the British merchant men, and that with Russia to furnish him supplies he needs no ocean shipping to maintain his economic balance in the present struggle.

Running into Poland at the rate of five, ten and fifteen miles each for almost a week, the Germans are now forcing a determined Polish army which is being supported by old men, women and children. Repeated attacks have been made on Warsaw, but the attack yesterday cost the Germans 2,000 dead and several thousand prisoners. The fall rains are now falling, and the Poles predict that the German mechanized units will bog down. Hitler, yesterday predicted that Poland would raise the white flag within two hours. Later he offered an excuse for his first defeat by saying that his men were withdrawing to attack other vital spots in the raped country.

Air attacks on Warsaw have been terrific, but the determined Poles fight that much harder as they see their children and women murdered by the barbarians.

France, making fair gains along the western front, is digging in to hold those gains against counter attacks. Activities along the front have caused Hitler to rush reinforcements there. The British are going into action and while their forces have not participated in any fighting they are moving in large numbers to the western front where observers at noon today said that major battle was eminent.

Entering its second week, the war is spreading as though it will engulf the world. Britain and France declared war. Australia followed a short time later. Africa joined in with England. Canada issued its declaration this week, and the Arabs and Jews in the Holy Land agreed to forget their differences and go to the aid of the allies.

While the war rages in Europe, the

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## School Attendance Shows An Increase

Gradually climbing since the opening of the term last Tuesday, attendance figures reported in the various white schools in the county are now well over the 3,300 mark, according to an unofficial estimate advanced here today. A still greater increase in the attendance figures is anticipated as farm activities are lessened by the tobacco marketing holiday.

There is little excuse to keep children at home now, a representative of the county board of education said today, and an all-time attendance figure is anticipated.

The increase is not likely to be of sufficient size to create an urgent need for additional teachers, it was pointed out. However, the teacher load is nearing the breaking point in some schools.

A complete check on the attendance upon the colored schools is not available, but it is believed that some of the school houses are bulging with little tots.

## Predicting Early Vote On Tobacco Control In State

### Believe Holiday Will Last Until Referendum Is Held

A partial answer to the question of how long the tobacco marketing holiday will last, was advanced unofficially today when a movement was started for holding a tobacco referendum just as soon as possible. Incidentally, the action moving for an immediate calling of a referendum indicates that the Imperial Company's withdrawal will be of long duration.

In a jitter over the events surrounding the marketing activities, farmers are not certain as to the future. It has been suggested by some that the control vote would be scheduled for the latter part of next week. Others are of the opinion that allotments should be determined before a vote is scheduled, and in that case the referendum could hardly be held before the middle of next month. County agents have been advised to make preparations for an early vote, it was unofficially learned here today, but if the instructions are followed it will be several weeks before farmers can express themselves on the matter of leaf control.

It is apparent that control strength has been materially increased, but there are those who openly declare their opposition to planned production. "I will sell my mules, lock up my house and beg on the streets before I will vote for control," one Martin County farmer was quoted as saying recently. "I'll not vote for control until tobacco averages two cents a pound," another Martin County farmer was quoted as saying last week-end.

Reports from the other side indicate that the opposition is breaking down rapidly in the face of the low prices that have prevailed since the opening of the markets three weeks ago.

Control advocates are working on the assumption that once production control is assured domestic companies and independents will boost prices. If control were to fail of passage and the Imperial Company does not come back on the markets, then the advocates of the measure point out that there will be every reason in the world for the markets to break down.

## Postoffice Holds To Its Patrons

Moving into a home of its own after many long years, the Williamston postoffice boasted yesterday that it had not lost a single customer. Postmaster Pete Fowden explained that a few patrons, forgetting the move had been effected, called at the old office, and were a bit late getting around. By noon yesterday, the office reported an increase in business with nearly all the keys to the regular boxholders distributed.

"It will take us a few days to get straightened out, but activities in our new home are moving along smoothly," Postmaster Fowden said, adding that he and his forces were well pleased with the new building and that the general public had commented very favorably on the new postal headquarters.

The old postoffice was a deserted spot yesterday but for workmen who moved out the old fixtures for shipment to Zebulon where they will be installed. Repairs will be made to the building just vacated here preparatory to occupancy by a cafe operator, of Elizabeth City.

## Three Are Hurt In Week-end Wrecks

Three persons were injured, none seriously, in a series of automobile accidents in this section during the week-end.

Gussie Rogers, colored, was painfully cut and his girl friend suffered a fractured rib when his car crashed into the Old Mill Inn bridge abutment Saturday night about 9 o'clock. Rogers said that the lights of an approaching car blinded him and he could not see the bridge. The front part of the car was smashed. The damage to the car was fixed at \$100.

Sunday afternoon, the cars of Sam Mabry and R. L. Commander crashed at the colored school building on the Washington road. Mrs. Commander suffered a severe arm injury, but others in the two cars were not hurt. Damage to the cars was estimated at \$200.

Yesterday morning the cars of Capt. W. S. Pritchard and Ben Hardison crashed at the corner of Elm and Washington Streets, doing about \$40 worth of damage to the Hardison car. No one was hurt.

## Revival Being Held At The Sweet Home Church

A revival meeting is being held in the Sweet Home Christian Church this week with the Rev. H. E. Harden, of Norfolk, conducting the special services.

Mr. Harden, the regular pastor, stated the meeting which began on Monday night, September 11, will continue for at least 10 days.

## Tobacco Markets Start Holiday Of Indefinite Duration Today;

### Four Million Pounds Sold Here

### Prospects Not Very Bright For Peanut and Sweet Potato Crop

Early reports from Martin County farmers point to poor peanut and sweet potato crops this year both as to quality and yield. While it is difficult to forecast the conditions of the crop this far in advance, some few farmers are of the opinion that they will not produce half of a normal crop, and still others maintain they will get no fruit but plenty of hay.

The season for digging peanuts is two or three weeks away, but Farmer J. Alfred Revels dug his crop the early part of last week to establish what is believed to be an early record.

Heavy rains during August are said to have damaged the peanut and sweet potato crops, past records show the law of nature providing heavy rains in that month always affects the two crops.

Possibly there is a slight increase

in the planted acreage in the county this season, but according to reports the production will be far below normal.

Reports contrary to those coming from farmers in this county are being received from other sections. Down in Washington County the growers are anticipating a per acre production of 1,500 pounds on approximately 3,000 acres. The expected yield is about 240 pounds above the per-acre average in past years.

Heavy production of sweet potatoes is being reported in Currituck County where the government is making plans to divert a portion of the crop.

Farmers in this county explain that weather conditions during the next two weeks will have much effect on both these crops, and that possibly all hope for a medium production is not yet gone.

### Price Average For Two Days Shows No Marked Variation

### Closing Ordered in an Effort To Forestall Complete Market Breakdown

Faced with low prices since the season opened three weeks ago today, farmers are now facing a period of greater uncertainty with the closing of the markets today throughout the tobacco-producing areas. The action virtually necessitating the suspension of sales was taken last Saturday after the Imperial Tobacco Company announced the withdrawal of its personnel from all the markets. The immediate cause for the withdrawal remains a matter of conjecture, and the results that will follow the closing of the markets is a matter of speculation.

A great deal of guessing was done following the Imperial Company's announcement, and various stories were received from unofficial sources. The general opinion is that the company withdrew from the market when it exhausted immediate storage spaces and shipments to Great Britain were blocked by Hitler's war. It was reported that around 300 carloads of tobacco were tied up on railroad sidetracks, and that the company with its outlet blocked was paying \$5 a day demurrage charge on each car. It was rumored that the company not only withdrew from the markets, but that it actually suspended operations in several of its plants. Just a few days before, it was reported that the company had added 2,000 stemmers to its payroll in this section of the State.

Just how long the markets will remain close, no one knows. Officials, announcing the withdrawal of the Imperial buyers, stated that it would be for an indefinite period. During the first world war, markets were closed for two weeks, but it is generally believed that the holiday starting today will continue for a longer period.

As the sales close here this afternoon, the market is just about passing the four million pound mark. Prices yesterday and today were firm despite the withdrawal of the Imperial, unofficial reports stating that the general market average will run from two to three cents higher than it did last week. However, there was a slight drop in prices paid for the Imperial grades, unofficial reports stating that the decrease ranged from two to five cents under the figures ordinarily associated with those types.

Farmers, observing the sales early yesterday morning, rushed to their homes and returned with all the tobacco they had ready to market. Sales today are almost certain to result in a block, but every pound not sold by 5 o'clock will be carried over into the holiday period.

It was generally agreed that domestic companies rallied to the defense of the markets yesterday and today as they held to their posts and held price averages up for most grades. But it was also generally agreed that the pace could not be maintained, and that a holiday could only prevent a breakdown in the marketing activities.

Good sales were reported here yesterday when farmers reported averages of 25, 26 and 27 cents. Tobacco held over from last Friday was said to have actually averaged from two to three cents higher on the sales yesterday.

## Thieves Raiding In County Again

Conducting the ninth raid in the county during recent months, thieves stole eight or ten chickens from Farmer John Powell, near Everetts, late last Friday night. Commenting on the latest in the series of raids, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck admitted that he had been unable to establish the first clue in the case, and that he had figured about every way he could to run down the rogues. "We have actually maintained a watch several nights, but without success," the officer added.

The rogues, thought to be members of the same gang that has lifted meat from several smokehouses and chickens from several coops, went to Farmer Raymond Stalls' first that night, but left there empty-handed, and went to Farmer Powell's. Apparently travelers frightened them away before they could clean out the Powell coop.

Sheriff Roebuck said that smokehouses and chicken coops had been raided in various sections of the county during recent weeks, that heavy raids were centered in Williamston and Cross Roads Township.

## Plans Go Forward For Fair Week After Next

### Checks Are Issued For 1938 Premiums By Fair This Week

### Nearly \$1,000 Paid To Large Number of Exhibitors.

Following the payment of the 1938 premiums, the Williamston fair management today immediately threw the machinery in motion for holding the 1939 fair here week after next. N. Y. Chambliss, manager and a member of the North Carolina Fair Operating Company, stating that the Art Lewis Shows had already been booked and that the grandstand acts had been arranged through the offices of George Hamid, Mr. Chambliss, spending several days here last week, explained that a detailed program for the fair would be made public within the next few days. The fair is slated to open on Tuesday, September 26.

Mrs. J. E. Harrison, Jr., has been named as local representative and will maintain her offices at the fair grounds beginning Tuesday of next week.

Delayed in their plans for operating the fair this year, the managers were unable to publish a regular premium list, but the list is appearing in this paper today with instructions. It isn't likely that farmers and others will have time to plan extensive exhibits, but quite a few persons have called for premium books and it is thought that the agricultural feature will not be lost.

The entertainment program will be advanced on a larger scale this year than last, according to the management.

Approximately \$819 is being paid by the fair management through the office of the county agent to those exhibiting at the fair last year. A large number of exhibitors called for the checks over the week-end and others are reporting for the special premium money. Fairly sizable sums have been paid to several of the schools and to club exhibitors.

Commenting on the delay in making the payments, the fair management explains that the operating company had lost nearly \$8,000 on its venture here, and that it was necessary to wait for the preparation of the 1939 budgets before the pay-

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### FIRST MEETING

The first regular fall meeting of the Woman's Club will be held in the club rooms, Wednesday, September 13, at 3:30 p. m. At this time the teachers will be the guests of the club members and during the social hour, Miss Lora Sleeper will give a short talk on her trip to Europe.

Each member is requested to bring some gift for the club kitchen. All members are urged to be present.

## Number Marriage Licenses Issued In County Decreasing

### Ten Marriages Reported In County During Month Of August

The marriage license issuance in this county was the smallest last month than in any August since 1932, but at the same time it was about the largest for any month since the new marriage health laws were enacted by the North Carolina legislature.

A study of the bureau activities reveals a marked decline in the number of licenses issued to colored couples in this county. Since February of this year only 25 licenses have been issued to colored couples. During the same period last year, 66 licenses were issued to colored couples in the county. Thirty-two licenses have been issued to white couples in this county since last February as compared with 41 issued during a corresponding period in 1938.

It is apparent from these comparisons that the health law has effected a decrease in the number of colored marriages in the county, but that it has had little or no effect upon the number of marriages among the white population.

Licenses were issued in this county last month to the following couples:

White  
Russell E. Williams, of Martin County, and Margaret Moffit, of Pitt County.  
Joseph W. Griffin and Lillian Grey

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## Highway Accident Record

Following a week of little activity in the realm of highway accidents, Martin County motorists renewed the costly game last week-end to boost the figures and barely dodge the death column. Three accidents were officially reported from Saturday evening through early Monday. Three persons were hurt but none seriously. Property damage was estimated at \$340.

Housewives and others living in the school zones report fast driving in those districts, the motorists apparently failing to realize the increased danger that presents itself when nearly 800 youths travel to and from school. Drivers are urged to exercise every care at all times and especially in the school zones.

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	3	0	\$ 340.00
Prior Record	39	7	8,475.00
TOTALS	42	7	\$8,815.00