

Long Session Held By the Recorder's Court Last Monday

Long Jury Trial Is Feature of Activities During The Day

Featured by a jury trial, the last Monday session of the Martin County Recorder's court was one of the longest on record and certainly the longest held in recent years. Convened promptly at 9:30 that morning, the court worked until almost one o'clock before taking a recess for lunch. Opening the afternoon session at 2 o'clock, the court worked on a single case until almost 6:30 that evening. For the first time in recent months a trial by jury was held in Judge H. O. Peel's court, and Solicitor Don E. Johnson was assisted by a private prosecutor in the case.

Continued for one cause or another during the greater part of four months, the case, charging W. K. Parker with drunken and reckless driving, was finally called for trial last Monday. Messrs. W. J. Beach, S. C. Ray, Andrew Griffin, Russell Carson, Oscar Davenport and Harry Waldo, summoned as a trial jury in the case two weeks prior to last Monday, were back on the job this week. The case was opened at two o'clock that afternoon with Attorney R. L. Coburn handling the private prosecution. The state offered six witnesses in building up its case, and the conclusion of that evidence the defense asked for a motion of non-suit. Judge Peel denied the motion. The state contended that the defendant was either intoxicated or was under the influence of some narcotic. One of the witnesses was recorded as corroborating that contention. The defense denied that contention, and maintained that the driver ran off the road because he was observing the heat indicator on the dash board.

In his address to the jury, Defense Attorney B. A. Critcher offered no defense for the reckless driving charge. The case was turned over to the jury at 5:45, and thirty-five minutes later the six men returned a verdict of not guilty on all counts.

It was an unusual case in that it was the first time on record in the court that a defendant had been charged with operating an automobile while under the influence of some narcotic.

Other proceedings in the court: Charged with drunken and reckless driving, G. R. Bateman was adjudged guilty of careless driving, the court suspending judgment in the case upon payment of the costs.

Jake Moore, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost.

Norman Worsley, found guilty over his own plea of innocence, was sentenced to the roads for a period of six months in the case charging him with carrying a concealed weapon.

Judgment was suspended in the case in which Abraham Pierce was adjudged guilty of being cruel to animals.

Pleading guilty of carrying a concealed weapon, Joe William Moore was sentenced to the roads for three months.

Charged with drunken driving, Charlie Keel was fined \$50, taxed with the case costs and had his operator's license revoked for a period of one year.

Pleading not guilty of careless and reckless driving, Mack Moore failed to prove his innocence and was

(Continued on page six)

Parents-Teachers To Meet Next Week

The Williamston Parent-Teacher association will hold its third meeting of the school year in the high school auditorium next Wednesday afternoon at 3:30. The theme of the meeting is character education, and Mrs. W. K. Parker, program chairman, has arranged an interesting program which will feature short speeches by student heads of the various school organizations.

Representatives of the student council, the athletic association, the safety patrol, the scholarship club, and the school newspaper will acquaint the association with their purposes in school life and show how their activities develop student initiative and responsibility. The student talks will be preceded by a Thanksgiving playlet presented by the students of the sixth grade under the direction of Mildred Talley.

An interesting program has been arranged and it is hoped that a large number of members will be present.

No Armistice Day Program Is Planned Here Tomorrow

Armistice day here tomorrow will pass virtually unnoticed. No program of observance has been planned, and business, with few exceptions, will be carried on as usual. The postoffice will suspend activities with the exception of an hour of window service from 8 to 9 tomorrow morning and a village delivery tomorrow afternoon. The two banks, V. E. P. office and the liquor store will close tight for the day.

Notices Are Mailed to 8,000 Taxpayers in Martin County

Hardly before tax settlements for the year 1938 are effected, the tax collector—some call him publican—sends out a gentle reminder that 1939 taxes are due and payable. The little blue slips are going out to nearly 8,000 taxpayers or property owners, the list being the largest in the history of the county. Accompanying the "bad news" is a little pink slip of paper reminding the property owners that listings will be effected as of January 1, 1940, and as of the first day of the year thereafter. The listing task is not causing any great concern, but many are already scratching their heads and pondering over the how and wherefore they will pay the 1939 tax bill. Payment can be delayed a long time, but only at added expense. Conditions in the economic world next fall can either mitigate or aggravate the worry that one may entertain in connection with

this paying-out business. The notices are going out a bit late this year because there was a delay ordered in the sheriff's sale for 1938 taxes. The law prohibited the collector from holding two sets of books at one time, and all collections have been handled by the register of deeds since the 1939 accounts were made ready a little over a month ago. The register of deeds will continue to receive the 1939 accounts until the sheriff makes full account for the 1938 collections. Slight increases in the tax accounts are noticed by property owners throughout the county, and especially in Cross Roads Township where a 25-cent increase in the special road district rate was effected to help drag the road bond debt out of the mud. A four-cent increase in the general county rate accounts for the larger tax amounts where assessed valuations remained unchanged.

Farm Bureau Group in Special Meeting Here

STILL LIVING

James Whitehurst, itinerant banjo player who was critically shot on East Main Street here on October 7, was discharged by a Washington hospital this morning, and it is apparent that the man, his intestines punctured in eleven places by gun shot, is going to live to tell the story. Carried to the home of a relative, Whitehurst, young colored man, will have to continue in bed for some time.

Rander Jones, colored man who stands charged with the shooting, continues a charge of the law in the county jail.

Peanut Growers To Meet in Washington Tuesday, Nov. 14th

Means of Stopping Peanut Expansion To Be Discussed at Meeting

Peanut growers throughout the nation have been invited to a conference in Washington, Tuesday, November 14, by the Department of Agriculture to discuss regulations affecting peanuts in the new 1940 program of the AAA before these regulations are finally drawn and the new program announced. The invitation to the conference has been issued by A. M. Dickson, senior marketing specialist, and includes peanut growers in Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Texas, as well as North Carolina.

According to R. C. Holland, of Edenton, president of the N. C. Peanut Stabilization Cooperative, who urges all peanut growers who can to attend the meeting, this meeting is of important concern to the peanut growers of this territory, since it is expected that the subject of discussion will be ways and means of arresting further expansion of peanut acreage. "I can hardly think of a more important problem confronting the peanut growers than this matter of consistent and continued expansion of peanut acreage," he declared.

Considering the possibility of a considerable amount of the acreage that was this year planted in tobacco being turned to peanuts next year as a result of the acreage control program voted for tobacco, it is expected that peanut growers will urge Department of Agriculture officials to increase the penalties under the Soil Conservation program for exceeding peanut acreage allotments and take other effective measures to guard against tobacco and cotton acres being diverted to peanuts.

Mr. Robert Everett will represent this county at the meeting.

Oak City Has Smaller Delinquent Tax List

Economic conditions in the town of Oak City are apparently better for some property owners this year than they were a year ago, according to Tax Collector James A. Rawls. Last year the delinquent tax list carried the names of 35 property owners with the unpaid accounts amounting to \$244.50. The delinquent list for 1938, appearing for the first time next week, is carrying the names of only 30 property owners and an unpaid amount of \$201.73.

However, while the number of delinquents among the white property owners was decreasing from 21 to 14, the number of delinquent taxpayers among the colored population increased from 14 to 16 and the amount of unpaid taxes jumped from \$60.38 for 1937 to \$80.53 for 1938. The unpaid taxes among the white property owners decreased from \$184.12 to \$121.20.

Wilton Alton Knox Dies In Hospital Tuesday Afternoon

Last Rites Are Held at Biggs Funeral Home Here Yesterday

Wilton Alton Knox, well-liked figure in the various phases of community life here for the past fifteen years, died in a Washington hospital last Tuesday afternoon at 3:20 o'clock from septic poisoning, his passing marking the end of a long period of declining health and quiet suffering.

A victim of a complication of ailments, Mr. Knox was forced into virtual retirement the early part of last September, and gradually his condition grew worse. Prior to that time, he suffered greatly but he continued a firm grasp on life and bore his suffering without complaint. About two weeks before his death he told members of his family that he wanted to visit a few places of business on Main Street here. While he experienced an agonizing pain at that time, there were those witty remarks and that smile that characterized his life and made everyone feel free to call him "Fatty." On the last Sunday in October, he got up and dressed himself, and that evening he told members of his family that he would not be putting his clothes on any more. He grew worse rapidly from that time, and several days before the end his condition was described as critical.

The son of the late Wilton A. Knox and wife, he was born 42 years ago last May in Bethel where he spent his early childhood, later moving with his family to LaGrange and then to Fuquay Springs. The family later moved to Wilson and following the death of the father there, Mr. Knox moved to Rocky Mount and was employed by the Atlantic Coast Line for about nine years. Resigning his job there, he started traveling for a lumber manufacturing firm and maintained his headquarters here in 1924. On November 14 of the following year he was married to Miss Janie Edwards, daughter of Mrs. Addie Edwards, of High Point, and the late Emmett Edwards who for a number of years was chief of the local police department.

Mr. Knox returned to the employ of the Atlantic Coast Line, but later in 1929 accepted a position with the local agent of the Norfolk, Baltimore and Carolina line here. He was actively connected with the organization until a short time before his death. Unpretentious in manner, Mr. Knox was recognized as a loyal friend by many. He was always ready to accommodate anyone he could, often impairing his own welfare to serve others. In the home he was a devoted husband and father, a thoughtful provider. He was a man who valued the standards of fairness and frankness rather than wealth and pretentiousness.

Besides his wife he is survived by two children, Alberta and Wilton A. Knox, 3rd, and two sisters, Mrs. R. H. Stephenson and Mrs. G. M. Preddy, both of Raleigh.

Funeral services were conducted at the Biggs Funeral Home on Main Street yesterday afternoon at three o'clock by Rev. James H. Smith, assisted by Reverends John Hardy and Z. T. Piephoff. Interment was in the family plot in the cemetery here.

Jurymen Are Drawn For One Week Term Of Superior Court

Comparatively Few Cases Are On Docket For Trial Next Month

With plans already complete for holding a term of Martin County Superior court, the commissioners in their regular monthly session made plans for holding another term when they drew the names of thirty-six citizens for jury service during a one-week term beginning December 11 for the trial of both criminal and civil cases.

Judge Leo Carr, who made such a favorable impression while presiding over his first term of court in this county last September, will return for the December session. The jurist is from Burlington.

To date very few cases have been placed on the docket for trial. A few defendants have appealed from sentences imposed in the county court and their cases will be scheduled during the one-week term. Very few civil cases are ever considered during the term. It is possible that Ed Thompson and his son, James, will be returned to this county for trial and it is very likely that their cases will attract attention. Charged with the wholesale theft of chickens and meat in this county during last summer and early fall, the two men were arrested in late September by Georgia highway patrolmen. The elder Thompson was injured in an automobile wreck, and, according to last reports, has not fully recovered. He and his son are being held by federal authorities in Charlotte, but Sheriff

(Continued on page six)

TOBACCO SALES

Following one of the biggest rushes in history, the local tobacco market is reporting comparatively light sales this week. Virtually all of the crop has been sold in this immediate territory, but the market here anticipates fairly sizable sales during the coming week, Supervisor K. B. Crawford stating this morning that the market will easily handle in excess of ten million pounds during the season.

No closing date for the market has been set, but there is a possibility the season will end about Thanksgiving or early in December.

(Continued on page six)

Owners Hold Their Personal Property Off Auction Block

Personal property owners beat Sheriff C. B. Roebuck to the auction block early this week, and as a result there was nothing for sale. The officer, rounding up delinquent personal property tax accounts, had levied on and seized a number of automobiles and quite a few other personal property items. The tax claims against the items were to be satisfied at an auction sale in front of the courthouse this week, but when the sale time was reached, the owners had paid their tax accounts and retrieved their properties in all by one of the cases. In that case, the property owner made satisfactory arrangements prior to the sale time for the payment of his personal property taxes.

The round-up, started in Hamilton, Goose Nest, Robersonville and Cross Roads Townships, is now be-

ing extended to all parts of the county. Late reports state that a large number of automobiles and quite a few pigs, cows, wagons and carts and trucks have been seized and present indications are that the officer will have something to sell to the high bidder at the next sale which is scheduled to be held on Monday, November 20.

There were a number of potential buyers at the sale this week ready to hop on the bargains that were to have been offered, the sheriff said.

The tax books carry the largest personal property list in the county history as a result of extensive work carried on last spring and summer by the county tax supervisor, and to hold the amount of the insolvent list to a minimum—the sheriff pointed out that he was forced to resort to drastic measures to effect collections in many cases.

Slight Increase Shown In Delinquent Tax List

Collections Almost On Par with Those For The Past Year

About 700 Out of Approximately 8,000 Accounts Remain Uncollected

Contrary to expectations, tax collections for the year 1938 are not up to expectations, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said today as the dead line for wiping off the accounts was reached. As the delinquent tax list appears for publication today, there are 705 real property accounts in arrears, representing an unpaid amount of \$14,170.70. With the tax sales postponed one month and with a rapid rush to pay the accounts, indications of just a few days ago pointed to one of the smallest delinquent lists in several years, but despite the delay and a big tobacco crop, the collections did not come up to the collector's expectations.

The increased trend was fairly uniform throughout the county with two exceptions, Poplar Point and Hamilton. Last year there were seven unpaid accounts in Poplar Point at advertising time, six white and one colored. This year the colored population squared its real estate tax accounts to a penny and the number of delinquent taxpayers among the white population was decreased from six to three. In the neighboring township of Hamilton, the number of delinquents was decreased from 28 to 27 among the white population and from 29 to 26 among the colored population. The number of delinquents showed an average increase in number of about 4 in the other eight districts.

A comparative study of the unpaid taxes for the year 1938 and 1937 shows little change in the tax situation. While there are thirty-one more unpaid accounts this year than last, the amount uncollected is only \$322.01 greater than it was a year ago. Comparatively speaking, the tax collector is just about holding his own in this county.

A glance at the individual townships shows smaller unpaid amounts in six of the ten townships, including Williams, Griffins, Bear Grass, Williamston, Poplar Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest. Poplar Point cut its uncollected amount more than half, and Griffins reduced its delinquent amount by a large percentage. The amount delinquent in Cross Roads was increased more than half, and a sizable increase was reported in Robersonville.

A comparison of the number of delinquent accounts and the amounts for the past two tax years, 1937 and 1938, by townships, follows:

Township	1937	1938
Jamesville	\$ 1,636.31	1,401.27
Williams	487.00	484.80
Griffins	212.80	129.95
Bear Grass	269.91	249.48
Williamston	2,836.63	3,638.35
Cross Roads	250.07	517.09
Robersonville	1,952.68	2,404.37
Poplar Point	358.26	150.06
Hamilton	1,848.99	1,509.23
Goose Nest	3,969.04	3,695.50
TOTALS	\$13,848.69	\$14,170.70

(Continued on page six)

INSTRUCTIONS

Instructions for handling the distribution of tobacco allotments to farmers in this county are expected late today or tomorrow. Members of the local committee are subject to call the early part or middle of next week for a review of the allotments, according to information coming from the office of the county agent here.

The allotments, slated to be reduced not more than 20 per cent from the 1939 quotas, will be placed in the hands of the growers some time in December.

Prohibitory Taxes Prove To Be A Big Source Of Revenue

Warrants Issued in County for Alleged Violation Scrap Tobacco Law

Designed to prohibit the sale of scrap tobacco, the special law licensing dealers and collectors—is proving to be a source of big revenue for the State, according to a survey of activities in the scrap tobacco field in this and other eastern North Carolina counties during the past few weeks.

Apparently believing the high license fees would take care of the problem, the State Department of Revenue paid little attention to the enforcement of the scrap tobacco act earlier in the season. Frequent violations reported on a fairly large scale, however, have attracted attention and a prosecution drive is now underway throughout the tobacco territory.

Five warrants, charging violation of the special legislative act, have been issued in this county during the past few days and the first case is slated for trial before Judge H. O. Peel in the county recorder's court next Monday. Only one of the warrants had been served up until late yesterday, but the arrests of the other four alleged violators are expected shortly. Paul Bullock, the first victim of the drive to enforce the scrap tobacco license act, was taken into custody at Robersonville Wednesday night. Bond in the sum of \$100 was arranged and the young man was released yesterday. He is booked for trial next Monday.

Licenses to canvass this county for scrap tobacco have been issued to M. J. Holliday, of Jamesville, and H. R. Purvis, of the Hassell section. Costing \$250 each, the licenses were issued several weeks ago. Licenses, costing \$500 each, have been issued to the W. J. Skinner and W. M. Seales Tobacco companies, giving them the right to handle the particular type of tobacco.

Up until October 11, fifteen licenses had been issued in the tobacco belt to collect the scrap from farmers, and fifteen licenses had been issued to tobacco factories handling scrap. Numbers of other licenses have been issued to canvassers since that time.

It is estimated that well over a million pounds of scrap tobacco have been sold in the tobacco territory so far this year, much of it having been handled during the tobacco holiday in the latter part of September and early October.

Reports state that the canvassers buy the scrap at a price ranging from one-half to one and one-half cents a pound and sell it at the factories for around two and one-half cents a pound. Fairly large amounts have been sold to the factories by the farmers themselves.

J. I. Eagles Named Assistant To Agent

John I. Eagles, young Edgemont County man, was named this week to succeed J. P. Woodard as assistant Martin County farm agent. Mr. Eagles will enter upon his new duties the first of next month, it was announced today by Farm Agent T. B. Brandon's office.

Graduated from Wake Forest with the class of 1936, the new assistant agent has gained nearly three years of practical experience in the management of W. W. Eagles' extensive farming interests in the Macefield community of Edgemont County.

J. P. Woodard who came here two and one-half years ago to succeed Lloyd T. Weeks as assistant county farm agent, resigned this week to accept the job as county agent for Hyde County. Young Woodard, during his stay here, has made many friends throughout the county who hate to see him leave.

Commenting on the young man's promotion, Agent Brandon stated that it looked as if he was taking the young bucks down here and training them for posts higher up in the extension service. Murphy L. Barnes, after a short stay here, moved up to Washington. Lloyd T. Weeks, who is remembered here as the hustling assistant agent, is chief tobacco specialist for the State Extension Service and now Woodard is moving out into a field of his own.

Local Man Continues To Improve In Hospital

Friends returning here last night from a visit with Mr. C. A. Harrison in a Richmond hospital state that he continues to improve and is getting along unusually well. "He wants to come home mighty bad," one of the visitors to his bedside said.

Tobacco Theft Reported In County This Week

Approximately 500 pounds of ungraded tobacco were stolen from the Gurganum farm in Bear Grass Township early yesterday morning. No arrests have been made in the case, and details of the sheriff's investigation have not been revealed.

Very few tobacco thefts have been reported in the county this year, the sheriff stating that thieves have invaded only three pack barns to date.