

Two-Weeks' Term Of Superior Court Ended Here Friday

Deed Upheld by the Court in Case of Williams Versus J. H. Harrell

The special two weeks term of the Martin County Superior Court, called for the trial of civil cases only, was brought to a close last Friday afternoon by Judge A. Hall Johnston, a review of the minutes showing that the tribunal after getting off to a slow start the first week accomplished much during the second week by removing a goodly number of cases from the docket.

The trial of hard-fought cases and delayed decisions by the jurors featured the activities of the court during last week, the issues in two cases holding the jurors in session for four and five hours respectively.

In the case of Mrs. L. D. Williams against J. H. Harrell, the jury, after deliberating five hours, decided in favor of the defendant. Its verdict was accompanied by recommendations offered in behalf of the plaintiff, however. In the first issue, "Did the plaintiff have sufficient mental capacity on March 25, 1939, to execute a deed to the defendant?" the jury answered "Yes." In the second issue, "Was the execution of the deed from plaintiff to defendant procured by the undue influence of the defendant?" the jury answer, "No." By the jury's decision, Defendant Harrell gets full possession of certain lands with the exception of the home, yard and garden now occupied by the plaintiff. The jury recommended that the defendant should provide the plaintiff with sufficient housing as long as she lives and will in addition to that provision secure a note by deed of trust or by cash settlement.

A jurymen was withdrawn and a mistrial ordered in the case of A. E. James against Mrs. Minnie Leggett and others.

In the case of Fannie Hassell against J. E. Pope, administrator of William Hassell, the court approved settlement of the estate by payment to the plaintiff. Reporting to the court that full settlement could be effected at once, the administrator explained that a claim to a portion of the estate had been entered by J. B. Williams, allegedly the illegitimate son of William Hassell, deceased. The court denied the claim and the full estate, reputedly valued at more than \$10,000, was ordered turned over to Fannie Hassell, the mother of the late William Hassell.

A settlement was noted in the Piland versus Bellflower case, the judgment showing court approval of a referee's settlement. In the case, Martha Piland and Ella Brown are to receive \$284 each, J. C. H. Johnson and Ora Johnson and Elizabeth Saunders are to get \$120, and the defendant, in addition, will pay the costs of the case.

The case of Annie Glasgow and M. S. Moore, guardian for Alton Stallings, against Leonard Holliday and M. D. Wilson was non-suited as to plaintiffs, a settlement having been reached by agreement.

In the case of Paul D. Roberson, executor of Gus Coffield, against Fannie Coffield and others, the court ordered the plaintiff to sell certain lands to pay off certain debts.

The cases of Jimmie Mitchell against G. P. Hall and E. H. Jefferson and others against Southern Land Sales Corporation were set for trial in June when the court learned that it would not have time to hear the evidence during the April term.

Two Hurt In Truck Wrecks In County

Two persons were painfully hurt and one or two others slightly scratched and bruised in two road accidents in the county last weekend. Property damage was listed slightly in excess of \$150.

Kenneth Harris, young grandson of Rev. Tom Harris, suffered a broken collarbone last Friday afternoon when the car driven by the minister and in which the boy was riding, was struck by a Standard Oil Company truck driven by Theodore Gurganus. Mr. Harris was driving from his home into North Haughton Street when the truck came over the crest of a hill and plowed into his car. Damage to the car was placed at \$137 and that to the truck at \$15.

Last Saturday afternoon Mrs. Jane Perry, aged white resident of Williams Township, was painfully hurt when she was thrown from a horse-drawn cart to the highway near Sweet Water Creek. She was able to be up yesterday, but it was said that she was suffering right much from the injury. Mrs. Perry was thrown to the ground when the cart in which she was riding was struck by a log truck driven allegedly by W. C. Bedwell. The truck driver did not stop and when he was arrested by Patrolman Whit Saunders, Bedwell declared that if he hit the cart he did not know it. Going in the same direction, the truck driven by Bedwell is said to have sideswiped the cart on the curve just beyond the creek, the driver declaring that he could not have heard the impact as the truck was rattling badly.

At a hearing before Justice Hassell here yesterday, Bedwell was bound over to the superior court for trial under a \$200 bond.

Reserved Juniors After Tomorrow



After tomorrow evening, the 46 young girls and boys pictured above will be recognized as a group of reserved juniors. The 1939-40 sophomore class is one of the largest in the history of the school.

Seated—Joseph Gurganus, Robert Jones, Joseph Warren, James Carrow, Theron Gurganus; J. B. Taylor, Jimmie Leggett, Bennie Weaver, Frank Lilly.

Second—S. R. Edwards, Patsy King, Alice Belle Jenkins, Betty Hoard, Nannie Manning, Beatrice Cherry, Sarah Grimes, Madelyn Taylor, Audrey Hardison, Mary O'Neal Pope, Annie Gurganus, Rena Howard, Evelyn Griffin, Mrs. S. R. Edwards;

Third—Daisy Strawbridge, Betty Rose Gurganus, Elizabeth Ward, Bessie Newbern;

Fourth—Josephine Daniels, Mary Warren, Millie Biggs, Garnette Swanson, Nellie Gurganus, Mamie Coburn;

Fifth—Emma Belle Ward, Myrtle Jones, Jack Sullivan;

Sixth—Gelman Gardner, Clarence Revels, Ellis Chesson, W. A. Roberson;

Last—James Manning, Jim Critcher, George Corey, Irving Gurganus, Stephenson Grimes; Fabain Barnhill, Carlyle Langley, Irvin Cullipher.

County Liquor Sales Continue To Increase

FOR COMMISSIONER



Mr. C. C. Fleming, Jamesville business man-farmer, is a candidate to succeed himself as county commissioner for the Jamesville-Williams district.

Total Of \$620,728.45 Is Spent For Spirits Since Stores Opened

Last Quarter Sales Are Larger By \$6,312.20 Than They Were a Year Ago

Legal liquor consumption in Martin County for the first quarter this year measured in terms of dollars was \$6,312.20 larger than it was in the first three months of 1939, the recent sales being the second largest for any first quarter on record since the stores were opened in July, 1935. It is estimated that the four legal liquor stores sold nearly 5,000 gallons of the liquid during the three months or about 950 gallons more than were sold in the first three months of last year. Measured in terms of barrels, the last quarter sales stood right at 100 or 19 more than the sales for January, February and March of 1939.

A break-down of the audits for the first quarter in 1939 and the corresponding period in 1940 shows the comparative sales for the two periods, as follows by stores:

	1939	1940
Williamston	\$13,705.25	\$16,303.85
Robersonville	6,581.40	9,331.15
Oak City	2,889.10	3,364.35
Jamesville	2,231.30	2,719.90
Totals	\$25,407.05	\$31,719.25

On the profit side of the ledger, the legal stores during last quarter made their second best showing for the particular period since the stores were opened nearly five years ago. The total profits now stand at \$137,585.41, the last quarter earnings amounting to \$7,703.77 as compared with \$5,768.68 a year ago. The last quarter profits were slightly larger than they were for the corresponding period in 1938 when the sales totaled \$33,325.62.

Net profit, reported by stores, is as follows for the last quarter: Williamston, \$4,257.58; Robersonville, \$2,207.58; Oak City, \$723.29; Jamesville, \$515.32.

The apportionment of profits is shown in the audit for the period as follows: Town of Williamston, \$813.35; Town of Robersonville, \$465.38; Oak City, \$167.89; Jamesville, \$135.77; Martin County, \$3,183.81; Reserve for law enforcement, \$529.57; State of North Carolina, \$2,000.00.

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Farmers Make Plans to Start Setting Leaf Crop This Week

Their operations delayed by unusually cold weather during the past week or ten days, Martin County farmers today are making preparations for the transplanting of their tobacco crop on an extensive scale. Reports from the field late yesterday and today point to a busy period in the tobacco fields beginning the latter part of this week. However, the plans now being advanced are subject to two possible factors of an adverse nature. Blue mold can upset transplanting plans and cold weather can cause further delays.

Attacking plant beds in spots rather than causing damage in whole communities, the blue mold this season is proving a baffling problem. One farmer, reporting on conditions in his community, stated that he had several beds, that blue mold had attacked one and had not appeared in the others. In the one bed where

the mold was present an extensive damage resulted, the farmer stating that the plants were killed down to the bud, that a delay of two weeks in transplanting was certain even if the plants survived the attack. The damage caused by the mold is said to be more disastrous this year than at any time since 1937.

Several farmers, starting to transplant their crops, were forced to stop before they were half done with the task, the blue mold reducing their plant beds to mere scalded spots.

CANDIDATE



Mr. Joshua L. Coltrain, until recently a member of the Martin County Welfare Board and former county commissioner, is a candidate for commissioner from the Jamesville-Williams district.

Two WPA Projects Are Still Pending

Plans for enlarging the public cemetery and extending water and sewer lines here in cooperation with the Works Progress Administration are still pending, Engineer Henry Rivers said yesterday. Maps and cost estimates have been placed in the hands of WPA district office but no report has been made by that organization's engineers.

However, it was learned that progress was being made on the proposed project calling for the extension of the public cemetery and that its acceptance by the Raleigh and Washington offices was expected. The project calling for the extension of local water and sewer lines was outlined by the town engineer and entered with the WPA office on April 12th.

Asked about the progress being made on the street improvement project already underway in cooperation with the WPA, the town engineer said that the workers were moving about as fast as they generally do on similar projects in other towns.

Democrats Plan To Participate In Conventions

While no great interest has been expressed in scheduled Democratic precinct meetings for May 4, reports state that the county convention in the courthouse here will attract possibly a record attendance on Saturday, May 11.

There may be no factional fight centered on a third-term movement for Roosevelt, but Martin County Democrats, if preliminary reports are to be considered, are planning to take no chance and will attend the county convention in numbers with the definite idea of supporting a third-term movement for Roosevelt. Other reports state that more interest is being shown in organizational politics than in years.

Martin County is entitled to 26 votes in the State Convention convening in Raleigh on Friday, May 17, and it is believed that a large delegation will represent Martin County there.

Local High School Closes 1940 Term Tomorrow Night

Dr. Frank Graham To Deliver Commencement Address At 8:15 o'Clock

The local high school will bring to a successful close the 1939-40 term tomorrow evening at 8:15 o'clock when the thirty-four graduates receive their diplomas and join with their parents and patrons in hearing Dr. Frank Porter Graham, nationally known educator and University of North Carolina president, deliver the commencement address.

The appearance of Dr. Graham on the program is to be recognized as a climax in the high school career of the twenty-one young ladies and thirteen young men. It is the first appointment for the university man in this county and a record attendance upon the exercises is anticipated.

Members of the graduating class of Williamston High School for 1940 are: Misses Virginia Williams, Lily Belle Hardison, Ray Leggett, Nancy Biggs, Maude Taylor, Carolyn Lindsley, Katherine Manning, Marjorie Grey Dunn, Lucile Cowan, Mary Ruth Ward, Eleanor Brown, Anne Ruth Moore, Edna Earle James, Louise Grimes, Janie Newton, Mary Gwen Osborn, Dare Perry, Marie Perry, Grace Jones, Katherine York, Monteria Hardison and Warren Pope, Raymond Rawls, Juan Crofton, Joseph Thigpen, J. E. Boykin, Stuart Critcher, Haywood Wynne, R. J. Hardison, Martin Anderson, Arthur Anderson, Jerry Manning, Frank Weaver, James Daniel Nicholson, Little Bobby Manning is mascot.

This evening at 8:15 o'clock in the high school auditorium, the seniors will hold their class exercises which will be centered around the theme, "America's Place in the World." The program follows:

Introduction by class president, J. E. Boykin; Salutatorian, Marjorie Dunn, "America's Place in the World"; Class history, Stuart Critcher;

Progress of school, Athletics, Joseph Thigpen; Governmental Bodies, Carolyn Lindsley; Clubs, Maude Taylor; Solo, "The Trumpeteer," Juan Crofton;

Prophecy, Prophecy, Nancy Biggs; "Spirit of America," Janie Newton; Agriculture, Haywood Wynne; Church, Edna Earle James; Democracy, Lucile Cowan; Unemployment, Dare Perry; Medicine, Ruth Moore;

Last Will and Testament, Martin Anderson; Announcement of Class Gift, class president; Class Song, senior class; Valedictorian, Katherine Manning; "The Promise of Tomorrow," "God Bless America," Audience.

The program for the graduation exercises tomorrow evening at 8:15 o'clock was released today by Principal D. N. Hix, as follows:

Processional, Girls' glee club, seniors, seventh grade; "Lullaby," Mozart, Girls' glee club; "Soldiers of the Captain," Spohr, Boys' quartet; introduction of speaker, Elbert S. Peel; commencement address, Dr. Frank Porter Graham, president University of North Carolina;

Presentation of Diplomas, presentation of certificates of merit; presentation seventh grade certificates, announcement of special awards, Hugh Horton; benediction.

Paul Auto Supply Firm Locates Here

The Paul Auto Supply Company, one of the largest distributors of automobile parts and accessories in the State, is opening a store in the Bowen Brothers building here on Washington Street tomorrow. Mr. Frank E. Stephenson, until recently head of the company's branch in Greenville, will be in charge of the new store here, it was announced.

Handling a wholesale business only the company will stock a complete line of automobile parts in its store here and offer an improved and quicker service to local patrons and to those who can be ideally served from this, a recognized logical distribution center.

Commerce Group Seeks Law To Curb Peddling - Soliciting

Holding their monthly meeting last evening, the directors of the local Chamber of Commerce discussed the need for a law regulating peddling and soliciting in some cases and the elimination of both in other cases. Armed with laws passed by other towns, a special committee was named to meet with the local town commissioners next Monday evening for a discussion of the proposed law with the view of appealing for its passage.

In the general discussion, the commerce group directors cited recent cases where numbers of local people had literally been robbed in some cases and where solicitors had created a nuisance for many housewives. There was the young woman who was out selling magazine subscriptions here-not so long ago-to earn money for the purchase of a cork leg. Quite a few lost their initial payments. There was a man around some time ago selling common 19-cent

Registrations Off To Slow Start in County

SPEAKER



Paul Grady, one of the seven democratic candidates for governor, will deliver the Farm Life commencement address Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Rev. Jas. H. Smith Delivers Sermon to Local Senior Class

Attendance Report for Sunday Schools and Evening Services Given

REV. JOHN HARDY, Rector, Church of the Advent

The people of Williamston were not given an opportunity on Sunday by the weather to have a religious vacation but many of them took advantage of the union service at the high school to declare one.

It is the custom each year for all of the churches to dispense with their morning service on the Sunday that the baccalaureate sermon is preached at the high school. This is a beautiful spirit on the part of the religious bodies, to honor the seniors, yet the spirit is marred by the failure of many to attend the service. There was a fair attendance Sunday, the auditorium being about two-thirds full.

The Rev. James Smith of the Baptist Church preached a most forceful sermon. He challenged the seniors and the other young people present with the theme of "Christ and the Young People of Today."

The service began with a procession by the choir and Seniors, singing "God of Our Fathers." After the procession, Miss Ellen Taylor sang the "Lord's Prayer," by Malotte. The choir and congregation then sang, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." The scripture reading and prayer were by the Rev. John Hardy. For the special music the girls' trio, composed of Misses Catherine Mewborn, Catherine Manning and Elizabeth Parker, sang Mendelssohn's "Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains," and the mixed chorus sang Gevaert's "The Sleep of the Child Jesus."

After the sermon the choir and congregation sang, "Fairer Lord Jesus." Mr. Smith pronounced the benediction and the choir and Seniors marched out in recession. The highlights of the service, which were well planned and conducted, were the sermon and the special music.

The attendance at the services in the various churches Sunday was as follows:

Church	S.S.	Y.P.	P.M.
Baptist	125	18	49
Holiness	101		40
Presbyterian	29		
Episcopal	13		
Methodist	78	30	60
Christian	117		65
*Combined Y.P. and P. M. services conducted by Mr. Arthur Bertollet.			

Only 1,300 Citizens Register In County Precincts Saturday

Voting Strength Will Hardly Be Built Up in Time For May Primary

Martin County's voting power, reduced to zero by the order of a new registration, will hardly be built back to anything like a representative size in time for the May 25 primary judging from the first reports coming from the precincts last Saturday. Before the books were closed last Saturday 1,300 citizens had registered, the number representing hardly one-third of the voting power actually expressed in the June, 1938, primary. Political observers declared the early activities at the registration points were disappointing, that unless more interest is shown in the registration, western North Carolina Republicans are certain to make a marked gain in the coming November election.

No registration troubles were reported last Saturday, but in Williamston's Precinct No. 2 several complaints were heard, one report stating that the registrar was testing the qualifications of each person reporting to enter his name on the books. It was unofficially reported that a dozen or more were unable to qualify to the satisfaction of the registrar.

Early reports from the registration indicate that the Democratic Party is gaining a considerable portion of the Negro voting power so far expressed in the registration. Last Saturday, 1,267 white citizens declared with the Democratic Party, nine colored persons lining up with the party in Williamston's No. 2 Precinct. Twenty-three names of white persons and a lone colored person's name were listed in the Republican books. An independent registration was reported at Robersonville, but according to instructions received by the registrars last week the name of the independent could only be entered in the general election registration books and nothing will be heard from him in the primary on Saturday, May 25.

A review of the last Saturday registrations follows, by precincts:

Precinct	White		Colored	
	D	R	D	R
Jamesville	117	7	0	1
Williams	45	0	0	0
Griffins	86	0	0	0
Bear Grass	91	3	0	0
Williamston 1	137	1	0	0
Williamston 2	183	3	9	0
Cross Roads	136	0	0	0
Robersonville	235	8	0	0
Gold Point	42	0	0	0
Poplar Point	45	0	0	0
Hamilton	46	0	0	0
Hassell	49	1	0	0
Goose Nest	55	0	0	0
Totals	1276	23	9	1

That the new registration will fall far short of the voting strength evidenced in the old registration books is expected, but judging from the first Saturday registration the county's voting strength will be reduced more than sixty per cent when compared with a full count of the names on the old books.

Just before the old books were ruled out by an election board order calling for a new registration, there were 7,479 names on the registration books in this county. The number includes the names of those who have moved away and those who have passed on to their reward. Possibly a re-listing of the voters' names would have automatically reduced the number to a figure little larger than 6,000 or thereabouts. As far as it can be learned no new registration has been held in this county for a general election in more than forty years. However, the books have been altered from time to time to remove the names of those who had died or moved away. The alterations did not

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Country Store Is Robbed On Friday

The small country store operated by J. H. Griffin, colored, over in Williams Township on Highway No. 64 was robbed some time during last Friday night. The owner discovered the robbery the following morning and found a goodly portion of his stock missing. An entrance was gained through a side door where a lock was forced.

Two cartons of cigarettes, two boxes of candy, two dozen spools of cotton, a dozen cans of pork and beans, a dozen packages of crackers, a pair of brass knucks and fifteen or twenty pennies were stolen. Griffin explained he had the small weapon there for a purpose.

It was the second time the little store had been robbed since early last fall when cash in the sum of \$18 was stolen from the small-scale merchant.

Griffin thinks he knows the guilty party, but his suspicion cannot be substantiated, reports state.