

## Superior Court In Recess After Brief Session on Monday

### Number of Cases Are Settled And Removed from the Docket Yesterday

Catching up and going ahead of the calendar, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, presiding over the "special term" of Martin County Superior Court, yesterday afternoon ordered a recess until tomorrow morning. Without the aid of the jury of the court, litigants effected agreements in at least half a dozen cases, the trial of others requiring only a few minutes of the court's time.

Starting out with what appears to be a "weak" docket, the court attracted very few persons yesterday other than the litigants, lawyers, jurors and witnesses. Judge Burgwyn convened the term promptly at 10 o'clock, heard various motions and cleared his desk at 3 o'clock until tomorrow morning following a short noon-day recess.

Proceedings in the court: Riddick Griffin took nothing in his case against Carl Griffin.

A divorce was granted Lillian Andrews in her case brought against DeWitt Andrew. The action was based on charged of adultery.

Based on two years' separation a divorce was granted Leman Strickland in his case against Sarah Strickland.

A judgment was awarded the Standard Fertilizer Company in the amount of \$237 against H. B. Leggett.

The following cases were settled by agreement: Fertilizer Company against Jenkins; Fertilizer Company against Honeycutt, Fertilizer Company against Hall, and Fertilizer Company against Blackman. No judgment had been filed in the cases early today.

A settlement was also effected in the rent case brought by Smithwick against Walters.

The case of Town of Williamston against Cunningham was continued until next week for trial.

After being postponed several times and after being tried once, the \$10,000 damage suit of Mitchell against Hall will apparently be tried Thursday of this week. At the suggestion of counsel, the court ordered a special venire of eighteen men drawn for handling the case. The names of the special jurors are: E. W. Gardner, of Jamesville Township; M. T. Gardner, of Williams Township; William Rufus Hardison, D. Clarence Gurkin, Maurice L. Peel and James E. Roberson, all of Griffins Township; Alton Rogers and W. S. Revels, both of Bear Grass Township; C. P. Whedbee, Joseph G. Corey, Warren H. Biggs, D. L. Hardy and L. A. Shaw, all of Williams Township; V. G. Taylor, of Cross Roads Township; Harvey Roberson, of Robersonville; W. W. Casper, H. P. Fleming and B. L. Harrell, all of Goose Nest Township.

Several cases were continued under special orders to add the names of other defendants to the suits.

The court will resume its work tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock. Judge Burgwyn will return at that time after spending the recess at his home in Woodland.

## Law Now Checking Draft Delinquents

That draft board authorities mean business and nothing but business was evidenced here yesterday when the names of four registrants were turned over to the county sheriff with instructions to check up on the delinquents. Questionnaires, mailed the four registrants on Monday of last week, had not been returned to the board at noon yesterday.

The sheriff was directed by local draft board officials to call upon William Degraffread, Jamesville; Jodie Gaynor, Williamston; John Henry Taylor, Bethel, R.F.D., and Hubert Evans, Jr., Robersonville, and learn why their questionnaires had not been returned within the five-day allotted period. Gaynor was contacted here later in the afternoon and it was learned that his questionnaire had not reached him, that his employer had been sick and the mail was piling up on the company's desk. The board will consider the excuse at its meeting tonight. If an extension is granted, Gaynor will not be subject to an indictment by the United States District Attorney at Williamston. Any registrant who does not comply with the regulations is subject to indictment.

All of the four men failing to get their questionnaires returned are colored.

Up until noon today approximately 200 of the 400 questionnaires mailed out since last Monday had been returned. The returns are well ahead of the schedule, many of the registrants getting their questionnaires filled in and returned within two or three days.

Griffins Township Farmer Continues Quite Ill At Home

Mr. James L. Coltrain, prominent Martin County farmer and secretary of the Martin County Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association, continues quite ill at his home in Griffins Township.

## Four County Men Will Answer Call To Service Next Month

Four Martin County men — two white and two colored — will be drafted into the armed forces of the United States next month, it was learned from unofficial but reliable sources today. The call for two white men will be answered by volunteers, Draft Board Chairman R. H. Goodman announcing today that Ellis Clifton Wynne and Leslie Worth Pierce are now in direct line to represent the county in the first round-up of man-power. The selection of the first two colored men will be effected at a meeting of the board tonight when there'll have to be some rooting done to fill the quota for Negroes.

According to reports reaching here the two white men will leave here on December 9th. The two colored men are slated to leave on the 13th — and that date falls on a Friday. The men will go to Fort Bragg.

### VICE PRESIDENT



James C. Manning, superintendent of the Martin County schools, was unanimously elected vice president of the north-eastern district of the North Carolina Education Association in session at Greenville last Friday evening.

## Increased Tobacco Parity Provided in Congressional Act

### Flannagan Act Will Hardly Be Applicable to the Current Crop

Prospects for the tobacco farmer were materially brightened yesterday when the Flannagan Bill, increasing the parity price on the commodity, was passed by the House of Representatives and sent to the President for his signature. While efforts are being made to have the provisions of the act apply to the 1940 crop, there is some doubt if it will be placed into effect before the next season.

It is roughly estimated that the act will up the income of Martin County tobacco growers by approximately \$100,000 and possibly more. The bill was passed by the Senate some time ago, and only by a hard struggle led by the Farm Bureau was the proposal saved and finally passed by the House.

While action comes too late to affect materially this year's markets, tobacco belt congressmen hold high hopes that it will prove highly beneficial in the coming season. Two major benefits may be anticipated.

First, the Commodity Credit Corporation will be able to extend more liberal loans to growers on their crops, and

Second, tobacco is virtually certain to share in parity payment benefits if they are made available under the same terms of the legislation now in effect.

If President Roosevelt gives his approval to the bill, it will, in effect, increase the parity price of flue-cured tobacco from 18.5 cents to 22.4 cents. This gain will be achieved by changing the base period or calculating parity price from the 1909-14 period to the five years extending from 1934 to 1939.

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### SHIFTING

That Martin County draft registrants are shifting from one place to another in fairly large numbers is evidenced in the changes of addresses filed with the draft board since the registration a month ago. Possibly forty young men in the 21-35 age group have moved out of the county, and a greater number has moved to new locations within the county.

Well advised that they shall keep the board informed as to their latest address, the shifting registrants are sending in the changes even if they moved from one home to an adjoining one or if they are moving just around the corner.

The actual conscription of white men in this county will hardly be necessary during the course of the next month or two, a report from the draft board office today stating that the names of additional volunteers are being added to the list desiring to enter the service immediately. Johnnie B. Harrell, son of Mrs. Annie Lee, entered the service a few days ago, boosting the list of volunteers in the draft-age group to seven. While the reserve list will meet early quotas, it is quite likely that heavy calls on the draft machinery will be in order between the early part of next year and July during which period a quota of 147 men is to be filled in this county. So far not a single colored man has volunteered for service, but Booker T. Bradley said yesterday that he was willing and ready to go when they called him.

## Incomplete Reports Indicate Red Cross Roll Call Is Lagging

### Less Than \$70 Reported To Date By Canvassers in This Chapter

Incomplete reports from Mrs. J. A. Eason, chairman of the Red Cross membership campaign here, indicate that the annual roll call is lagging in this chapter. Less than \$70 had been reported early today by the membership canvassers, but it was pointed out that hardly more than half of the solicitors had completed their work and filed their reports.

While it is fairly certain that the Martin County chapter will chalk up a new record this year as compared with the work a year ago, it is fairly apparent that the response will hardly measure up to the increased need over a world-wide front of suffering and want.

The drive will continue through Thanksgiving, and our people are urged not to wait for a solicitor but to contribute to the organization at its local headquarters in the Branch Banking and Trust Company.

Names of members already reported to the local chairman follow:

H. A. Satterfield, Darden's Dept. Store, Woolard Furniture Co., Mrs. Edwin E. Holding, Mrs. Ernest Etheridge, Mrs. Kate York, Mrs. A. J. Osteen, Mrs. Bill Peelle, Mrs. Irving Margolis, Rev. John Hardy, Mrs. J. T. Barnhill, Mrs. W. J. Hodges, Mrs. Sadie Peelle, Mr. W. J. Hodges, Henry S. Manning, C. G. Coltrain, Mrs. H. L. Swain, Mrs. Hubert Coburn, Mrs. N. C. Green, Mrs. P. H. Brown, Mrs. C. A. Harrison, Miss Emelnye Evans, Miss Bettie Mayo Everlett, Mrs. J. A. Eason, Mrs. D. R. Davis, Dr. R. Davis, H. A. Buckner, R. E. Peelle, E. and W. Grocery, Margolis Bros, Alpha Cleaners, V. J. Spivey, J. B. Cherry, Mayor J. L. Hassell, Harrison Shoppe, Welcome Inn, Sam's Bargain Place, Israel's, Williamston Cafe, Pittman's, W. C. Manning, F. M. Manning, George Reynolds Hotel, Courtney Furniture Co., A. J. Manning, Charles Godwin, Jr., M. S. Moore, Miss Mary Brown Allgood, R. S. Smith, R. H. Goodman, A. D. Bertolett, Fred Wise, S. P. Woolford, Dr. John Biggs and V. E. P. Co., each contributed five dollars.

Contributors of less than one dollar are Mrs. Myrtle Harris, Mrs. S. S. Brown, Miss Ernestine Barber, D. S. Cobb, Marie Griffin, Marjorie Lindsey, C. B. Clark, Shelton Hall, Eunice Vanderford, C. C. Parker, Edna Barnhill, Rufus Cherry, Ellis Chesson.

## County Man Dies In Washington County

Joe Henry Jones, respected Martin County citizen of the Jamesville community, died last Friday afternoon while visiting his sister, Mrs. Sarah Phelps, in Roper. Seventy-eight years old, he had been in feeble health for about one year, during which time he made his home with relatives. He was a builder, and lived most of his life near Jamesville.

Mr. Jones was the son of the late J. B. and Sarah Floyd Jones. About 20 years ago he joined the Christian Church in Washington County.

He never married and leaves two sisters, Mrs. Phelps, of Roper, and Mrs. Mollie Atkinson of Norfolk.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon at 2:30 from the home near Jamesville. Interment was in the Floyd family cemetery on the John Bailey farm in Jamesville Township. Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister, conducted the last rites.

## Infant Is Buried In The County Monday Afternoon

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon for Margaret Taylor, month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor. Burial was in the family cemetery in Cross Roads Township. The infant died at the home of its grandmother in Bertie County Sunday evening at 7 o'clock.

## Peanut Crop Moves To Storage Houses In Large Quantities

### Nearly 10,000 Bags Placed In Storage Here in Less Than a Week

The delivery of peanuts, delayed during much of last week by heavy rains and a suspension of picking activities, is again gaining momentum, reports from the market here today stating that almost ten thousand bags had been placed in government storage and that cleaners and independent buyers are handling large quantities daily. Gurkin and Griffin at the New Carolina Warehouse reported today between four and five thousand bags stored with the government. Barnhill, Gurganus and Corey at the New Farmers Warehouse, the other government storage house here, state that their deliveries are nearing the 4,000-bag mark today.

The open market, while a bit indifferent in the face of one of this section's largest crops, is picking the cream of the crop, literally speaking, and prices paid by those concerned compare with the government's price schedule.

A reliable report gained here this morning states that 75 per cent or more of the deliveries to the government storage houses is grading 65 per cent meat or better, giving the grower the top price of three and one-quarter cents. So far no grades have been reported by one of the storage houses below the 2.80 grade.

Increased deliveries are anticipated by the storage houses during the remainder of this week. Pickers, idle during the past several days, are now operating again and a marketing rush is expected by independent buyers as well as the operators of government storage houses.

Late estimates indicate that 90 per cent of the crop along the Martin-Pitt boundary has been picked and sold. A large portion of the crop in the Robersonville area is reported sold. In this immediate section hardly more than 40 per cent of the crop has been picked, but with the return of fair weather picking operations are likely to be advanced on a large scale during the next few days.

## County Man Awaits Word from Relatives In War-Torn Britain

### Uncertain Life Bravely Accepted by English, Recent Letter Reports

Assured in a letter only a few days ago that everyone was well and that everything was all right, Elder E. C. Stone, of Griffins Township, today anxiously awaits later word from his native Coventry, England. Just a short time before a devastating German raid killed and injured an estimated thousand people in his native home-town, Mr. Stone was advised by his sister that life was going on there about as usual despite repeated air-raid warnings and the uncertainty of life, limb and property under the German raiders.

As far as it could be learned here today, Mr. Stone has heard nothing from his loved ones across the ocean. The industrial city of Coventry was wrecked and almost leveled to the ground last week by angry German bombers in a raid lasting more than 10 hours. The county man does not know whether relatives, well and as happy as possible under the conditions a week ago, are living today.

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## Round Up Past-due Personal Taxes In County This Week

Issuing a warning to owners that their properties would be confiscated if their personal taxes were not paid at once, the county sheriff-tax collector today reported a pleasing response. Several hundred dollars were paid into the county treasury last week when two hundred or more accounts, averaging less than \$3, were settled.

It is estimated that considerably less than \$7,000 of the initial \$8,000 insolvent list remains unpaid at this time. At the rate payments are now being made, it is predicted that the insolvent list for the tax year 1939 will be the smallest in years. No property has actually been confiscated, but papers are being prepared and it is likely that the officers will levy upon certain holdings before the month is spent.

Refusing to accept a settlement of the 1939 accounts the early part of this month, the county commissioners are expected to relieve the sheriff of the 1939 books at their regular meeting next month. The drive for personal property taxes was ordered by the county board at its last meeting.

## Draft Board To Start Classification Work

### Registrants Return 200 Questionnaires In Service To Date

### Four Men To Answer Call From County On December 9th and 13th

By late this evening, four of Martin County's young men—two white and two colored—will have been selected for a one-year training period in the armed forces of the United States. The Martin County Draft Board is meeting tonight in its offices in the Lawyers' Building for its first classification work. The meeting is the first regular one of the board's program in connection with final plans for drafting this county's quota of manpower for the nation's defense, the several other meetings having been held in connection with setting up a working organization.

At noon today, 200 questionnaires had been returned to the board offices, and it is likely that a greater part of the men represented will be classified by the board at its meeting tonight. There are four main classifications, but attention will center for the present on those men who fall into the No. 1 classification group especially those with a Class 1-A rating. Under this classification are five ratings as follows: (a) Man fit for military service; (b) men fit for limited military service; (c) member of land or naval forces of the United States; (d) students fit for general military service to be available not later than July 1, 1941; and (e) students fit for limited military service not later than July 1, 1941.

The Class II group will include those men who are holding jobs necessary for national defense. There are comparatively few men in this county who will likely fall into this classification.

Class III, including those men with one or more dependents, will cover a majority of the cases.

There are six ratings under Class IV, and it is agreed that few if any men in this group will ever be called. The ratings under Classification IV are, as follows: (a) men who have completed service training with the armed forces including such men as Dalburgh Riddick, of Everetts, who just recently returned from the army after serving so many years; (b) officials deferred by law, including legislators, judges, public health officials and others; (c) non-declarant alien or one who is not and does not plan to become a citizen of the United States; (d) minister of religion or divinity student; (e) conscientious objectors who will be called only in cases of national importance of necessity; and (f) those men who are physically, mentally, or morally unfit for military service.

In classifying the first two hundred men, the board will possibly place in Class I a number of men who will later be changed to a lower classification. It is possible that certain defects will be discovered when the registrant is subjected to a physical examination. If he has some physical or other type of defect, the registrant will possibly be rated in the "F" classification in Group IV. So, it does not necessarily mean that when a man is placed in the No. 1 group that he will be inducted into service.

All men falling into the Group I classification will be directed to report for a physical examination in the offices of Dr. J. S. Rhodes in Williamston. These instructions will be placed in the mails tomorrow for a limited number to report immediately. These men will be required to furnish their own transportation to and from the doctor's office, but when the government calls them, they immediately become charges of the government with all expenses paid, including those for travel, meals and clothing.

## Williams Township Farmer Dies Friday

Levin C. Hardison, 77-year-old Williams Township farmer, died at his home there last Friday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Taken ill a week before, he later developed pneumonia which caused his death. He was fairly active for his advanced age until a short time ago.

Mr. Hardison was a native of this county and had lived in Williams Township all his life. He was a member of the Fairview Christian Church for a long number of years, and his pastor conducted the last rites at the home Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Interment was in the family plot on the home farm. In early manhood he was married to Miss Florence Lilley. Seven children were born to the union. Their names are, C. B. Hardison, of the home; James Hardison, of Washington County; Mrs. Eva Jane Price, of this county; Mrs. Cynthia Jackson, of Washington County; George Hardison, of Williams Township; Mrs. Bessie Styrons, of Washington County, and Perlye Hardison, of this county.

### BUSY FALL

This has been a busy fall for Martin County farmers, many of them hardly finding time to get to town more than once a week until the first rains in recent weeks started falling last Tuesday. Farmer Bill Harrison, out Bear Grass way, stated that his average visits of six or more each week, had been reduced to almost five up until the rains started falling.

## Welcome Methodist Minister At Service Here Sunday Night

### Rev. B. T. Hurley Enters Upon New Duties As Pastor Of Local Church Sunday

Rev. B. T. Hurley, recently assigned the pastorate of the local Methodist Church by the North Carolina conference in session week before last at Wilmington, was welcomed to his new religious field by the several ministers and representatives of other church in a joint service at the Methodist church Sunday evening. Following a custom of long standing, other churches suspended their evening worship programs and one of the largest congregations assembled in any church here in recent months was present for the special welcoming service.

Rev. John L. Goff, pastor of the Christian church and head of the local ministerial association, was in charge of the program. Reverends John W. Hardy, rector of the Church of the Advent, and James H. Smith, pastor of the Baptist church, had parts as visiting ministers on the program.

Showing possibly a greater interest in and placing a greater value in cooperative efforts, the ministerial group extended a warm welcome to the new minister and his family. The new minister, in his response, made it apparent that the close partnership maintained by the local ministers in the advancement of religious activities here would be continued, that a greater interest in church programs is likely to follow during the coming year.

Using the topic, "Seeing Jesus," the incoming minister based his sermon on the twelfth chapter according to John. "In this day of strife and turmoil, man is finding solace and satisfaction for his soul in only the real Christ," he said. Quoting the Indian prophet, Ghandi, he said, "I don't want your Christianity that embraces ruthless competition, poverty, want and despair, but I do want your Christ." Continuing, the minister said, "The masses are looking for the real Christ in the ways we live our lives."

Mr. Hurley impressed his audience with manner of speech and earnestness of purpose, and it is indeed apparent that the Methodist church and this community have another able leader to step in and carry on the religious work so badly needed over the world today.

The minister will be heard in a second union service when he brings the annual Thanksgiving message to the several local congregations in a special service at the Christian Church Thursday morning, November 28, at 10 o'clock.

### Young Child Passes In A Washington Hospital

Sandra Gale Warren, eight-and-one-half months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Warren, of this county, died in a Washington hospital last Saturday morning at 6 o'clock of pneumonia. She had been a patient in the hospital ten days, suffering from what appeared to be meningitis at first.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, local Presbyterian minister. Interment was in the Roebuck cemetery in Robersonville Township.

Besides her parents, the child leaves three brothers, Harold, Jr., Russell and Wallace Warren, and a sister, Mary Elizabeth.

### QUIET PERIOD

Following a little crime wave that swept over several sections of the county a week ago, law-enforcement officers reported an unusually quiet time on the crime front in the county last week-end. A lone person was placed in the county jail during the period as compared with nine jailed the previous week-end. Willie Bullock was temporarily detained last Saturday evening for public drunkenness.

Following the arrest of youthful Arnold Wallace in connection with a series of robberies last Saturday a week ago, the crime situation is well under control in the county at the present time, officers declared.

## Move Started To Encompass Balkan Nations By Hitler

### Lull Reported On War Fronts Except in Greece Today

A general lull on most of the European war fronts was reported today as Axis diplomats conferred with authorities from several Balkan nations in an apparent effort to bring the little countries into the Axis orbit. It is believed in some quarters that the present lull is the quiet that comes before the storm, that possibly the Axis powers are making ready to strike at Britain, or Gibraltar, or the Suez Canal.

Leading diplomats from several of the Balkan countries are conferring with Axis leaders in Vienna. But Turkey and Yugoslavia were not invited to attend the parleys that are being held there. The bright spot in the new diplomatic move is semi-official word from Turkey pointing out that the Turks will not fight if Hitler and his gang start for the Dardanelles. Turkey intimates that she will resist invasion attempts even if Russia stands back and yawns.

It is fairly certain that Hitler is pleading with Bulgaria for permission to send his armies across that country and to help Mussolini's battered armies along the Albanian-Greek border. It is along the Greek border that the tempo of the war is being maintained today. The Italians are attempting a counter-attack to save one of their main bases. The Greeks continue their advances over a fairly wide front into Albania, and reports state that the Albanians are offering every possible aid to the brave and daring Greeks.

Unofficial reports state that the Axis are now building the framework for a fierce attack on Britain in the Mediterranean, that German forces are being amassed just back of the Channel ports, indicating that another attempted invasion is being considered.

In the Far East, Japan is pushing its propaganda campaign against the United States, big posters, freely distributed in the main cities, urging the Japanese to prepare against this country.

While Britain today is enjoying peace in its skies, the need for more American help is recognized in this country. It is being talked that a movement is being considered to have the neutrality act amended to permit United States ships to carry non-war materials to England. The need for more destroyers has also been recognized, and it is possible that the United States is making it possible for Britain to call in some of her destroyers by taking over patrol duties on this side of the Atlantic. There was the incident involving four German ships off the coast of Mexico a few days ago. One of them was scuttled and the other three hurried back to port when they mistook American destroyers for those of the British.

Mussolini talked to his war-weary people yesterday, apologizing for the reverses in Greece and bitterly denying reported damages to his fleet at Taranto. He promised to break the back of Greece and annihilate Britain. But the Duce's snoring and howling did not get much attention in Berlin where the newspapers of his pal, Hitler, "burned" his speech on the inside pages in little type.

## Witnesses Visited Here Early Sunday

Jehovah's Witnesses, religious sect that has attracted much attention in eastern Carolina in recent weeks, used their high-powered salesmanship in an attempt to effect a distribution of their literature here Sunday morning. Their visit, described by some as over-bearing, was tolerated without incident, but the sale of the literature was said to have been limited.

Pushing into a sick bed room in a local home, one of the Witnesses virtually demanded the purchase of one of the leaflets. The husband of the home offered to purchase the literature to rid the premises of the Witness, but when he learned that it was the literature of Jehovah's Witnesses he kindly asked her to keep the money, but clear out of his home and take every page of the literature with her.

Lengthy conversations were heard at the front doors of other homes, but the local people tolerated the intrusions without complaint. "Several years ago an old gentleman, meek and humble, came to see me and quietly offered the religious literature for sale," a local man said last evening. "I bought 50 cents worth from the old gentleman and thought nothing of it. But the Witnesses last Sunday, in my opinion, can only create trouble," the local man continued.

## Local Resident Ill At Home On Main Street

Mr. W. A. James, well-known local citizen, continues ill at his home on West Main Street here. Suffering with asthma, he is confined to his bed.