

Judge W. H. Coburn Calls Nine Cases In The County's Court

Monday Session Attended By Unusually Large Crowd

There were no startling or sensational cases on the docket, but the last Monday session of the Martin County Recorder's court attracted an unusually large number of spectators. Judge W. H. Coburn called nine cases, several of them being continued for the defendants or their counsel. Solicitor D. E. Johnson prosecuted the docket and the court cleared its calendar and adjourned shortly after 12 o'clock.

Proceedings in the court: Charged with allowing a person allegedly under the influence of liquor to drive his car, Malgram Barefoot, young county man whose serial number was the first one called in the selective service draft, entered a plea of not guilty. His plea was sustained by the court.

James Sylvester Wynne, charged with drunken driving, was adjudged guilty over his own plea of innocence. The court sentenced him to the roads for two months, but the sentence was suspended upon payment of a \$50 fine and the case costs. He was denied the right to operate a motor vehicle on the highways during the next twelve months. The defendant gave notice of appeal to the higher courts, and bond was fixed in the sum of \$100 by the court.

Harvey Gardner, young colored man, was sentenced to the roads for a term of sixty days in the case charging him with larceny.

Mary Glen Rogers, colored woman who almost cut a colored man to death in Robersonville recently, pleaded not guilty in the case charging her with an assault with a deadly weapon. She was adjudged guilty, the court sentencing her to the common jail for a term of sixty days. On account of her health, the court suspended judgment on condition that she abide by the law and refrain from violating any criminal statute during the next two years.

The case charging Garland George Riddick with drunken driving was continued until March 3.

A continuance was granted in the case charging Raymond Williams with the illegal removal of crops and hogs.

Charged with bastardy, James Ed Woodard was directed to pay into the court the sum of \$1.50 each week for the support of the illegitimate child. At the end of one year he is to report for further judgment. Bond guaranteeing the fulfillment of the terms of the judgment was required in the sum of \$100. As usual, the defendant pleaded not guilty in the case.

(Continued on page six)

Books Are Added To Local Library

Hard-pressed to meet current operating expenses, not to mention the financing of new book purchases, the local public library committee, headed by Mrs. J. C. Cooke, has succeeded in adding quite a few volumes to the institution's shelves in the past few days.

No complete report is available just at this time, but it is understood that more people are now using the library facilities than at any time since it was established.

The list of books recently added: Adult—All the Year Round, Birds of the South, Behind the Label, Co-Ediquette, Getting and Spending, Midwinter, Houses in America, Ivanhoe, Mountain Cattle, Here I Stay, When the Whippoorwill, Country Lawyer (Biography), All This and Heaven Too, Winter in April, Faces We See.

Children—Those Plummer Children, On the Air: The Story of Radio, Reading to Find Out, The Hollyberrys, The Copper Kettle, Red Caps and Lilies, Billy and Blaze, The Cook, the Mouse, and the Little Red Hen; A Day on Skates, Silver Pennies, Full Steam Ahead, Told Under the Blue Umbrella, Little Miss Cappel, Wind in the Willows, Tricks Any Boy Can Do, Grindstone Farm, Tales of Laughter, These United States and How They Came To Be, Osa Johnson's Jungle Friends, Nancy Goes Places, Spunky, Jimmy the Grocery Man, Hoot-Owl, Little Indians, David.

Mrs. Eli Robertson Passes In Kentucky

Mrs. Dorothy Lambert Robertson, wife of Eli H. Robertson, died at their home in Hawesville, Kentucky, yesterday morning following a long illness.

She married Mr. Robertson, a native of Williamston and a son of Mrs. Joseph L. Robertson and the late Mr. Robertson, in Kentucky and lived there all her life. She had visited here often, but ill health prevented visits during the past several years. No children survive.

Funeral arrangements were not completed immediately, but the last rites will be conducted from Mrs. Robertson's former home in Spottsville, Kentucky.

County Gets Large Credit in Filling Current Draft Quota

The Selective Service Act in its first year of operation would have had a far-reaching effect in this county had there been no credits built up by volunteers, according to unofficial but reliable information gained through the county draft board office recently. Under the provisions of the Selective Service Act, Martin County was assigned a quota of 361 men. In all probability this number would have been called to the colors had it not been for volunteers who established credits and limited the call for new men.

It could not be learned when the credits were established, but according to the information received here, 214 men had volunteered in the Army or Navy from this county, leaving 147 to be called in filling

out the first-year quota.

The quota for North Carolina was fixed at about 49,000 men under the provisions of the draft law, but a credit of nearly 35,000 men had been built up, leaving about 14,000 to be called from the draft list. However, comparatively few men have been drafted, the monthly quotas so far having been filled by late volunteers in most counties. The February quota in this county is exhausting the volunteer reserve, and it is quite likely that March selections will be made from the regular draft list.

Martin County has furnished or will have furnished by the end of this month forty—29 white and 11 colored—of its original quota of 147 men, leaving 107 to be called during the next four months.

County Whiskey Sales Show Slight Decrease

CAUSE OF DEFAULTS

A recent report on farm tax delinquencies by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics concludes that "delinquency could be reduced if the property tax were levied in some relationship to the cash income from, rather than the value of, the property."

The author, Mr. Rosa, states that the poorer tracts and smaller farms are those most often delinquent and that "these tracts are usually assessed higher in proportion to market value than are better lands and larger farms."

Miss Lucy C. Perry Dies At Brother's Home Early Today

Funeral for Beloved Citizen Will Be Held Tomorrow In Macedonia Church

Miss Lucy Cordelia Perry, beloved native and citizen of Bear Grass Township, died at the home of her brother, Mr. Robert Lee Perry, this morning at 5 o'clock. Experiencing declining health during last November, Miss Perry had been quite ill for the past few weeks, and while her condition was regarded as serious the end came unexpectedly. Late last night she was able to get up and walk from her bed to a chair, and at that time her condition was thought to be slightly improved. A few hours later she suffered a sudden relapse, death following within a few minutes. She bore her suffering without complaint.

The daughter of Mrs. Mary Woolard Perry and the late Simon S. Perry, she was born in Bear Grass Township 61 years ago the 16th of next month. Finding companionship with an aging mother, Miss Perry never married. About a quarter of a century ago she took membership in the church at Macedonia, the passing years finding her loyal to its doctrines and faithful in its service. While she enjoyed the friendship of others and cherished the love and respect of all members of the family and friends, her life was marked by the devotion she held for an aged mother. Even in her last sickness, she considered the welfare of her mother and that of others first. Hers was a good life, humbly lived in the sight of her Master and unselfishly devoted to the happiness of others.

Besides her mother, who as she approaches her 88th birthday is critically ill, she is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Mollie Harris, Mrs. Geo. Roberson, of Griffiths Township, and Mrs. E. W. Garrett, of Lenox, Ga., and four brothers, Messrs. W. Amos and Robert Lee Perry, of Bear Grass Township; Ben F. Perry, of Williamston, and Dr. S. B. Perry, of Hope-well.

Funeral services will be conducted in the Macedonia church Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. Daniel W. Davis, assisted by Rev. John L. Goff, pastor of the local Christian church. Interment will follow in the family plot on the home farm.

Work On River Fill Delayed By Weather

Work, advancing slowly on the Roanoke River fill these past four months has been interrupted in its entirety by unfavorable weather, reports from the project stating that it could not be determined when work would be resumed.

Despite intermittent rains falling yesterday and today, traffic continues to move across the fill, but with difficulty.

Stringers for the first of four bridges have been placed, but work on the fill is hardly half completed. Using only ten or twelve trucks, the fill contractors were said to be making little progress before the rains started.

Total Of \$684,198.45 Is Spent For Spirits Since Stores Opened

Last Quarter Sales Smaller But Profits Greater Than Year Ago

Liquor sales handled by the four legal stores in this county last quarter amounted to \$46,283.10 and pushed the total since the stores were opened in July, 1935, on toward the three-quarter million-dollar mark. The sales last quarter while smaller than they were in the corresponding period in 1939 returned a greater net profit than they did a year ago. Despite the slight decrease reported last quarter, sales for the 1940 calendar year were \$2,587.32 larger than in 1939. Profits in 1940 were nearly \$4,000 greater than they were in the year 1939.

A comparison of sales for the fourth quarter, 1939, and for the corresponding quarter in 1940 follows, by stores:

	1939	1940
Williamston	\$22,619.50	\$22,617.85
Robersonville	17,419.80	13,765.80
Oak City	5,016.90	5,198.00
Jamesville	3,424.85	4,701.45

\$46,481.05 \$46,283.10

Sales in the Williamston store were virtually the same for both quarters, but Robersonville reported an unusually large decrease. The Jamesville store, reporting a sizable gain, partly offset the decrease at Robersonville, and Oak City barely held to its old figure with a slight gain in sales. Officers declare that imbibers in the Robersonville trading area have not turned to the R.F.D. bush brand, and go on to explain that the people there are using some discretion in their drinking.

The slight decrease in sales reported by the Williamston store is partly explained by the unexpected suspension of sales the day after Christmas when a general holiday was observed by all business houses.

Gross profits reported by the stores for the 1939 fourth quarter and for the corresponding period last year are listed, as follows:

	1939	1940
Williamston	\$ 8,591.58	\$ 7,880.19
Robersonville	6,616.59	4,799.69
Oak City	1,905.58	1,812.18
Jamesville	1,300.87	1,641.25

\$16,414.62 \$16,133.31

Despite the decrease in sales, net profits, fixed at \$12,399.51, were \$1,589.11 greater last quarter than they were in the same quarter, 1939.

A total of \$30,149.79 was sent out of the county and State for the purchase of liquors during last October, November and December. From the gross profits of \$16,133.31, expenses, including direct and administrative, were deducted.

(Continued on page six)

Unexpected Guests For Oyster Roast

The more than one hundred white school teachers and a number of special guests were entertained by the Martin County Schoolmasters' Club at an oyster roast in the school gymnasium here last evening. The program and menu were greatly enjoyed, the schoolmasters in years past having gained an expert rating in arranging an oyster roast.

Seeing large volumes of smoke and steam pouring over the top of the gymnasium from an improvised oyster pit, a neighbor thought the old wooden structure was on fire. A call was entered at the fire department, and while firemen knew the hungry pedagogues were making ready for a big meal, they would take no chances and a general alarm was sounded. A few minutes later a horde of unexpected guests led by the fire wagon, bore down on the oyster roast. Hurriedly completing an investigation, the fire-fighters retired and the return parade formed, a few old stragglers accepting polite invitations to partake of the repast.

Lower House Passes Important Revenue Bill In Record Time

State Wage And Hour Law Is Now Before The General Assembly

Apparently working after a planned schedule, the Lower House of the State General Assembly chalked up a new record for speed with the passage of a record revenue bill. After tacking on a few minor amendments, the representatives passed the bill calling for many millions on its third reading in less than an hour and sent it on to the senate for consideration there.

The House members are of the opinion their bill will raise a mere \$163,000,000 for the operation of the State during the two-year period, beginning next July 1. General revenue, the assemblymen estimate, will amount to \$82,900,000. Taxes from agriculture will add another million, and the gasoline tax will boost the amount by \$80,000,000. How close to the line drawn by the budget commission, the House Revenue Bill provides for few increases in appropriations.

With the Revenue Measure behind it, the House is now lining up for the consideration of other problems, the wage and hour law looming as an important issue before the body. The march for effective legislation as it relates to wages and hours has been virtually blocked first by a majority report of a special commission named by former Governor Hoey to make a study of labor legislation and conditions and secondly by recommendations made this week by Governor Broughton. A minority commission report favored a 48-hour week and a minimum wage of 25 cents an hour; the law not to effect certain classes of labor including farm workers and domestic servants. The proposed bill, with most of its teeth knocked out, now provides for maximum hours, 48 for female workers and 55 for male workers. No minimum wage is mentioned.

On other legislative fronts within the capitol, much talk is being heard, but few tangible results are discernible. In the Assembly yesterday it was proposed to give school teachers a ninth salary increment, reorganize the Department of Conservation and Development and minor local bills. The liquor question has not been asked, indicating that no answer will be forthcoming this session.

A number of new bills were introduced in the House yesterday. One would provide a school for delinquent Negro girls. Another would provide supervision of burial associations. Still another would provide \$90,000 to aid the enforcement of the compulsory school law. And still another would fix a minimum of \$10 for old age pensions.

Today, the House received bills for the election of justices of the peace, and senate reapportionment. The bill carrying a 50-cent fee on auto licenses for hospitalization of auto wreck victims was passed in the senate on second reading.

Jury Is Selected For Bertie Murder Trial

George Peel, Windsor colored man charged with the brutal murder of E. W. Gray, aged store employee, in Windsor two weeks ago today, is now on trial for his life in the Bertie County Superior Court. Large crowds have milled in and out of the courtroom since early yesterday, but no evidence of mob violence was reported.

The selection of a jury was completed early this afternoon after a special venire of 175 Bertie County citizens had been exhausted and a special venire had been summoned from Halifax County last night. Not a single man in the group of Bertie citizens qualified for a jury seat. Most of the 65 men summoned from Halifax County were examined before a thirteen-man jury was finally selected.

Testimony will be heard this afternoon at 2:30 when the court convenes. Judge R. Hunt Parker, presiding, advised the jurymen that the case would likely continue into next week, that if they wanted clean linens or other articles from home they would have to send messengers. It could not be learned whether the court would hold night sessions.

Two attorneys were appointed earlier in the week to represent the defendant.

MORE CASH

Additional checks are being received in this county for distribution among Martin farmers cooperating with the soil conservation program. Thirty-eight checks, amounting to \$1,234.06 and representing twenty-two applications, were received yesterday, boosting the total amount of money received to date to \$16,082.50. This amount was distributed to 209 farmers and tenants, and represents 197 of the approximately 1,600 applications for payments under the 1940 soil conservation program. To date, there are approximately 150 farmers who have not signed application forms for their payments.

Revaluation Books Submitted By Two Boards of Assessors

Having completed their work some time ago, the boards of assessors in Williams and Griffiths Townships this week filed their listings with Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes in connection with the quadrennial revaluation program ordered by the Martin County Commissioners last December.

No totals are carried in the revaluation books, and at this time it is impossible to determine the trend in values. However, the listings are being tabulated as to cleared and wood lands by the tax supervisor who will submit totals and average values placed on both types of land to the county commissioners when they meet as a board of equalization and review.

It is possible that the county board of equalization and review will alter the values by a horizontal in-

crease or decrease to bring the townships into line. In other words, if one township places an average value of \$50 on one acre of cleared land, and another township averages only \$30 on an acre, the board will, after studying various factors, bring them into line.

The revaluation work is just about complete in the county, a report from the Williamston board today stating that the work here would be handled in its entirety some time next week.

Those owners who are of the opinion that their properties have been valued too high or out of proportion to values placed on other properties are reminded that they will be given an opportunity to appeal to the county commissioners when that body sits as a board of equalization and review the latter part of March.

Eastern Carolina Tobacco Faces An Uncertain Market

Congressman Kerr Says Lease Bill Will Not Help Tobacco Much

A few days ago, eastern North Carolina farmers entertained a greater hope for the future of their main crop—tobacco—when the commodity was included in the list of defense articles for Britain. The removal of the large stocks on hand was seen as a possibility. Now, Congressman John Kerr, of the second North Carolina district, comes along and declares that the inclusion of tobacco in the lease-lend bill as a "defense article" means nothing concrete. Possibly Mr. Kerr is right and that the resumption of normal tobacco purchases by Britain is necessary if the east Carolina grower is to escape a weakened market next fall.

Kerr contended that farmers would benefit little by lending tobacco to Britain, but must sell it for cash. He asserted that passage of the lease-lend bill would permit the British to turn their cash resources from armament buying to the purchase of tobacco and other agricultural commodities.

Pointing out that British shipments of gold to this country now approximate \$3 million dollars per month, Kerr said he planned to confer with both President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull to urge that a certain percentage of Britain's cash released from armament purchases by the lease-lend bill be earmarked for the purchase of tobacco and other agricultural commodities. In taking a stand somewhat different from that assumed last week by Representatives Bonner, Barden and Cooley, the Second District Congressman said he was backed by the counsel of Chester Davis, agriculture commissioner on the National Defense Advisory Commission.

"The tobacco growers, as well as exporters of tobacco, millions of pounds of which are stored in this country, are greatly exercised over the possibility of having this commodity considered a defense article available for removal under the pending lease-lend bill," Kerr declared.

"I regret to state that I do not think that we can dispose of our tobacco advantageously under this proposed act," he added. "In fact tobacco firstly is not a war material as contemplated in the pending bill; and secondly, it could not materially benefit the tobacco industry in this country to lend or lease tobacco to the British empire."

Stating that he had discussed the matter thoroughly with Davis, Kerr stressed that the defense commissioner is an expert authority on the Commodity Credit Corporation agreement with the British export buyers.

While tobacco growers in Martin County and other producers of bright leaf tobacco commonly used by the British are worrying over surplus stocks, there is a shortage developing in Great Britain. According to a recent report from England, the women there are smoking a lot more

(Continued on page six)

Negro Bound Over In Dynamite Case

Charged with dynamiting Buck's Place, a beer joint on Washington Street, three weeks ago, C. B. Williams, young local colored man, was bound over to the superior court for trial when Justice J. L. Hassell found probable cause at a preliminary hearing held last Tuesday night. Bond in the sum of \$200 was required, the defendant arranging his release immediately after the hearing.

While the dynamite explosion seriously injured no one, the case is regarded as among the more serious ones entered in the crime records here in recent months.

Williams denied the charge at the hearing and while no strong evidence was offered by the State at the hearing, Justice Hassell considered it sufficient to send the case to the higher court.

Anticipate Serious Turn In War Within The Next Few Weeks

February 25 Is Mentioned As Date Hitler And Japan Will Start March

Turning from one of actual combat to one of nerves, the European war is now believed advancing to a serious break. Uncertain of anything and everything, observers are now predicting that Japan and Germany will take simultaneous action on or about the 25th of this month when Hitler is expected to march through Bulgaria and on into the Mediterranean area and Japan drives toward the Dutch Indies.

There is much activity on the diplomatic front between several Balkan countries and Germany, and things are stirring in the Far East area. United States subjects have been warned to leave that area. Dutch ships have been ordered to neutral ports, and Japan is said to be moving ships of war mighty close to the Dutch Indies. British and Australian high officials are holding conferences, the action indicating that a show-down is expected there shortly.

The Balkan situation is critical for the British, reports stating that Bulgaria, Hungary and Yugoslavia are leaning toward the Axis. However, one bright spot is found in Turkey where late reports declare that the Turks will go into action against Hitler if he starts marching his troops across Bulgaria. Russia will have no part in checking the Germans in their expected march across Bulgaria.

On the war front, the Greeks report added successes, but the British drive against Mussolini in Africa has about reached a standstill.

This morning, British airmen attacked invasion points along the French coast, and air battles were fought over the English Channel, the Germans claiming they shot down nine British Spitfires.

Sensational news came out of Rome when it was declared that a number of British parachutists had landed in southern Italy allegedly to disrupt communications and wreck water and power plants. The Rome report stated that the men, descending in three groups, were rounded up before they could do any damage. London said it knew nothing about the invasion.

Late reports would indicate that the tension in the Far East is subsiding, Japanese sources declaring there was no cause for alarm. The tension is believed to have slackened because of Russia, the Japanese realizing that no help is to be expected from Germany or Italy if Russia were to strike while Japan is busy in the Southern Pacific.

Concerted pressure is being brought by Hitler on Turkey in an effort to gain an advantage in that area, but the Turks are said to be holding firm with the declaration that they will fight when Hitler starts his march across Bulgaria. A report from Bulgaria stated today that it was not a question of how and where Hitler would start through the Balkans, but when.

On the high seas, Germany is said to have sunk thirteen British merchantmen off the coast of Portugal yesterday, but the British, admitting that a convoy was attacked and damaged, has released no official report.

In this country Wendell Willkie, just a few days back from a trip to England, appealed for greater aid for Britain, and suggested that at least five or six destroyers be sent to Britain each month. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday approved the lease-lend bill, 15 to 8, and it will come up in the Senate next week. The bill has already been passed in the House.

Collect \$45,000 In Taxes Last Month

Tax collections jumped to a new high record for the month of January this year when the sheriff's office received a total of \$45,044.35 on the 1940 accounts. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, the county's largest taxpayer, paid in approximately one-half the amount. Up until the first of this month taxes were paid at par. A penalty schedule is now in effect, the amount increasing each month.

In addition to the unusually large tax collections, the office of the sheriff was busy handling other duties as outlined in the officer's following report for the month of January:

Warrants served, 18; capias served, 5; subpoenas served, 34; civil papers served, 25-36 copies; claim and deliveries, 2-3 copies; executions served, 2; investigations made, 10; ejectment proceedings, 2; number of arrests on jail record, 45; miles traveled 2 cars, 2904.

Pulp Mill Officials And Labor Heads In Meeting

Officials of the North Carolina Pulp Company and representatives of the union are holding a series of conferences at the plant in the lower part of this county this week reportedly for renewing or determining wage contracts for another year.

TO HEAD DRIVE



Goldsboro — Mrs. George E. Marshall, well known Mt. Airy club woman, has been named commander of the North Carolina Division of the Women's Field Army of the American Society for the Control of Cancer. She succeeds Mrs. D. S. Coltrane, of Raleigh.

William D. Ambers Died Early Today At His Home Here

Last Rites at Biggs Funeral Home Here Tomorrow Afternoon

William D. Ambers, retired local business man, died at his home on West Main Street here this morning at 2:50 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Suffering with diabetes, Mr. Ambers was forced to retire from active business about 1937. About six months ago he suffered a stroke of paralysis, and his condition was considered critical from the first. About two weeks ago he became worse, the end coming gradually. During his last illness he was without speech and virtually helpless a greater part of the time.

The son of the late William T. and Eliza Moore Ambers, he was born in Washington County 56 years ago. When a small boy he moved to Pitt County where the family lived about six years. Coming to this county in the early part of the century, he lived and worked on a farm near Everetts. After working in Robersonville about eighteen months, he returned to this section and a few months later entered the dry cleaning and pressing business with the late G. N. Gurganus. He operated the business for almost a quarter of a century or until ill health forced his retirement.

Mr. Ambers was possessed of a quiet and unassuming manner. His worries and troubles he reserved for himself, and enjoyed a large circle of friends in this section.

He is survived by one brother, Mr. Jesse Ambers.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Biggs Funeral Home here tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. James H. Smith, pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church. Interment will follow in the family plot in the local cemetery.

Local People In Automobile Wreck

Attorney and Mrs. B. A. Critcher and their daughter, Miss Alta, were bruised but not seriously hurt in an automobile accident near Angier early last evening. Mr. and Mrs. Critcher were able to return to their home here, and Miss Critcher is continuing her work in the Angier schools as head of the home economics department.

Mr. Critcher, driver of the car, swerved the machine to avoid striking a drunk who staggered into the road, and caused it to turn over. The car was wrecked.