

## Call Thirteen Cases In Recorder's Court At Monday's Session

### County Tribunal Suspends Work for Two Weeks For Superior Court

Judge W. Hubert Coburn held the county recorder's court in session until late noon last Monday trying to clear the docket and make ready for a two weeks' vacation while the superior tribunal takes over, the hall of justice during that period for the trial of civil cases only. The county court will resume its work on Monday, April 28. The clerk announces that neither the recorder's nor the superior court will be in session next Monday when the lawyers, judge and court officers will observe the day as an holiday.

Thirteen cases were called in the county court last Monday with Solicitor D. E. Johnson at the prosecutor's bench. Very few white spectators were present, but the defendants' colored sympathizers were there in fairly large numbers, the group almost crowding one side of the auditorium.

Proceedings: Charged with violating the liquor laws, Paul Harrell pleaded not guilty. The court did not agree with his plea and he was adjudged guilty, prayer for judgment having been continued in the case until April 28.

Willie Owens pleaded not guilty in the case charging him with violating the liquor laws, but he was adjudged guilty at the end of the evidence. Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost and a \$10 fine.

The case charging Russell Brown with violating the motor vehicle laws was not pressed with leave. In another case charging him with operating an automobile with no license, Brown pleaded guilty, the court suspending judgment upon the payment of the case cost and \$8 to Willie Ward and \$2.25 to a trial justice.

Charged with receiving stolen goods, Sam Dickens and Henry Lawrence were found not guilty. A third defendant, Grady Salisbury, facing a similar charge pleaded not guilty. His guilt was established and the court suspended judgment upon the payment of a \$10 fine and the case costs.

William Huff, Jr., pleaded not guilty in the case charging him with violating the liquor laws. Finding him guilty of possessing liquor illegally, the court suspended judgment upon payment of the cost.

K. D. Langley pleaded guilty to an assault with a deadly weapon charge, and the case was continued under prayer for judgment until April 28.

Charged with drunken and reckless driving, R. B. Spruill was found guilty of reckless driving and was fined \$25 and taxed with the cost. Borrowing a large truck week before last, Spruill went on a wild ride in the streets of Williamston, endangering human life and property.

Before entering upon the trial of George Norris, charged with issuing a worthless check, counsel for the defendant made a motion for dismissal on grounds of jurisdiction and the action was dismissed.

Samuel Williams, returned to the county from Portsmouth for trial in the case charging him with bastardy on two counts, was found guilty and sentenced to the roads.

While no entry was immediately made in the case charging Joseph Walter Bailey with drunken driving, a continuance is understood to have been granted until April 28.

## More Names Missing From the Tax Books

Turning to the election registration books, authorities are finding more names missing from the county tax books. Only half of the precinct books have been checked but in those six districts 338 names were found missing from the assessment lists.

It has been pointed out that the names will have to be checked more extensively before definite cases charging tax dodging can be brought. The check-up continues, Commissioner C. D. Carstarphen in charge, stating that a review of the automobile registration would be made as soon as possible after the election books are checked for missing names and property.

The half-complete report shows the following number of white and colored election registrants with their names missing from the books, by precincts: Goose Nest, 81 white and no colored; Robersonville, 86 white and 15 colored; Cross Roads, 65 white and two colored; Bear Grass, 43 white; Gold Point, 22 white, and Hassell, 25 white.

## Martin County Man Will Go To War-Torn England

Garland C. Bland, Martin County minister, will leave in the near future for Canada where he will join the Canadian troops embarking for England and other foreign points. Mr. Bland will accompany the troops as a relief worker, if he passes the examination.

## ARMYING IN OLE VIRGINY



Eight of Martin County's selectees are now with Uncle Sam's Army in Virginia. Leaving the county on March 21, the young men were inducted into the service at Fort Bragg, later going to Fort Belvoir, not far from the nation's capital. They are: front row, left to right, James Russell Silverthorne, Julius Melvin Warren, Wheeler Martin Ward, James Elmer Stalls; back row, Arthur Nicholson, Roy Avant Hinson, Woodrow Wilson Ray, and James Claude Ambrose.

## Special Court Term To Convene Next Tuesday

### TRAVELER

That Martin County men do quite a bit of traveling and into distant states is evidenced by the frequent changes in address filed by registrants. One young Martin County man registered in Blackfoot, Idaho. A month or two later he established an address in Phoenix, Arizona. From there he moved to California, and now he has an address in Kansas City.

That's just a sample, the draft board clerk explaining that large numbers of county colored registrants are shifting about over the country and in Virginia particularly. And it's a fact that quite a few don't bother to give their new addresses. The FBI set-up has been very successful in running down such cases, however.

## High School Packed For Presentation Of Historical Pageant

North Carolina in a pageant presentation was well received at two performances here Tuesday afternoon and evening, an interested public packing the high school auditorium and overflowing the aisles for the final event. An estimated 800 persons crowded into the auditorium that evening after reports on the handiwork of the actors, actresses and directors "leaked out" following the afternoon presentation.

Written by members of the elementary school faculty and supported by a cast selected from all the lower grades, the pageant was given a high creditable rating by the audience. The report of the judges is to come later. Reflecting careful direction and earnest practice, the presentation was crowded with highlights from beginning to end, and the music was well adapted to the times and events portrayed in the fast-moving historical review.

The program was centered around the following events:

- Act I Out of a Wilderness the State Evolves. A Noble Failure (1584-1589). Scene 1: First Sight of North Carolina. Scene 2: The Lost Colony. B. Permanent Settlement (1627-1753). Scene 1: The Cabin Raisin' (English Settlers from Virginia). Scene 4: First Religious Meeting (Quakers). Scene 5: Coming of the Scotch. Scene 6: The First Church Bell (Moravians). Scene 7: French Settlers from the James. Scene 8: An Encounter with Indians. Finale for Act I.
  - Act II Growing Pains (174-1861). Scene 1: Edenton Tea Party. Scene 2: "Is de Yankees coming, Mammy?"
  - Act III North Carolina Today.
- Similar pageants have been presented in five other schools, and Oak City and Hamilton will stage theirs next week.

### GAS REBATES

Martin County farmers, entitled to tax rebates on gasoline used in tractors and for the operation of other farm machinery, must file their claims not later than next Tuesday, April 15, according to Mr. G. H. Harrison of the Harrison Oil Company here. Claims to tax refunds on all gasoline used by farmers during the months of January, February and March will be considered by the State Department of Revenue.

The offices of the Harrison Oil Company have willingly offered to assist farmers in preparing their claims.

## Crowded Calendar Awaits Attention Of Superior Court

Plaintiffs Seeking More Than \$51,000 in Thirty-six Civil Cases

Following a poor session two weeks ago, members of the Martin County Bar are priming their guns for a fat term of the superior court here during the next two weeks. Judging from the docket, one would say the depression is over for the lawyers, maybe.

The special two weeks term, called for the trial of civil cases only, is facing a crowded calendar, but despite the fact that there is much work to be done, the court will observe Easter Monday as an holiday and delay its session opening until Tuesday. Judge A. Hall Johnston, of Asheville, will preside.

There are thirty-six cases on the calendar. Fourteen of the plaintiffs, suing for a total of \$51,793, are asking damages ranging from \$30 to \$15,000. But the calendar is not based entirely on cold cash. Two plaintiffs are suing, one to recover a Boston Bull pup and another to recover a cow, and then there are those cases involving boundary line disputes, claims and judgments.

While the calendar is made up principally of cases of no great importance there are several involving considerable sums, the trial of which is likely to require much time. George W. Lee headlines the calendar with a \$15,000 suit against D. M. Roberson, trading as Roberson's Slaughter House. Lee lost four fingers in a power-driven meat grinder and had the ligaments in his arm torn. Suit to recover \$15,000 was brought soon after the accident on November 26, 1940, but an answer was filed only a few days ago. The defendant in his answer claims the plaintiff was negligent, that he contributed to his own injury, that he was inattentive to his job and that he was playing with other people at the time of the accident.

The other \$15,000 suit is being brought by Mrs. Marcella Coltrair against William J. Haigood whose truck struck and killed her husband, Will Coltrair, near Washington on September 25, 1936. Mrs. Coltrair (Continued on page four)

## Town's Political Front All Quiet

The political front is shrouded with disturbing inactivity as the town makes ready to select its nominees for mayor and town commissioners. Mayor John L. Hassell is announcing his candidacy for re-nomination, but the five board of commissioners incumbents are maintaining silence, one report indicating that no active campaign will be waged by them for re-nomination and that outsiders will not wage an active campaign for any of the jobs.

Scheduled for Thursday evening of next week at 8 o'clock in the courthouse auditorium, the nominating convention is most certain to attract a fairly sizable crowd. The convention will name its candidates subject to election for two-year terms as mayor and members of the board of commissioners.

John E. Pope is opening the registration books in his office on Washington Street tomorrow. Registration, according to past custom, is not required of those participating in the primary convention, but one must register if he has not done so in past years to participate in the May 6th election. The latter event is virtually a meaningless one in that it decides nothing. If there is any battle of the ballots, it will take place at the convention or not at all.

## Draft Board Calls Two White And 15 Colored Trainees

### Nineteen Martin County Men Scheduled To Leave For Army Next Week

Direct calls are going out today for two white and fifteen colored trainees with instructions to pack up and get ready to go to the Army. The two white men being called will join two young men who volunteered only this week and leave Thursday, April 17, for Fort Jackson, S. C. The fifteen colored trainees will leave Friday, the 18th, for Fort Bragg. The two white volunteers, Lemman Fouch Keel, of Williamston, and James Hileary Daniel, of Oak City, were advised of their date of departure when they volunteered. By offering their services, the draft was delayed for two other men in the call list. Keel and Daniel will be joined by William Edward Ross, of Robersonville, and Charles Vernon Whitehurst, of Parmele.

The colored contingent is made up entirely of volunteers, but the draft board clerk advises that the volunteer list is about exhausted and that the order of selection will likely be directed to the regular draft list within a short time. According to unofficial reports received here, heavy demands for colored trainees are to be expected during the next few weeks. However, no draft quotas have been assigned since those for the 17th and 18th were received week before last.

Names of the colored volunteers leaving next Friday are: Rufus Lee Knight, Sterling Williams, Jr., Wilson Griffin, Robert Woolard, Sidney Woolard, Luther Byrd Harrell, Thurmon Earl Collier, George Andrew Revander, James Lee Barfield, Joseph Ellis Smallwood, Charlie Langley, Haywood Spruill, Hulen Spruill, Willie Brown, Oliver Raymond Rodgers.

Several appeals for deferment have been filed with the draft board during the past week or so. All of them have not been acted on at this time, but in the other cases it is understood that deferments have been granted not to exceed 90 days in length. Two appeals were granted for thirty days only, meaning that the employers will have to get successors or leave the job unfilled at the end of that time. The draft board is giving strict attention to deferment claims, and it is understood that where dependency was offered as the basis of an appeal for deferment in one case, welfare authorities learned that the claimant was actually living off the reported dependents. In such cases, the one making the appeal is automatically returned to the No. 1 classification.

After sending out 350 questionnaires during the past two weeks or more, the board has ordered a delay. All but thirteen of the questionnaires have been returned, and delinquent notices in those cases were placed in the mails Wednesday. According to reports coming from a number of the registrants quite a few people who agreed to assist in filling in the questionnaires are shirking the duty. One registrant a few days ago was sent from first one to the other, and spent the greater part of a day before he could find anyone who would assist him.

## Continue Round Up Of Dogs In County

The round-up of dogs in this county for vaccination continues according to schedule. Forced to his bed by illness today, Dr. Osteen turned the duties over to Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Roy Peel who are carrying on the work. They are in the Hardison Mill area today, incomplete reports stating that a complete round-up of the hounds is in progress there. A preliminary check shows that more dogs are being vaccinated in the county than ever before, that recipients of relief, WPA workers and others who are hardly able to furnish food for their own mouths have a hound or two sharing their meager food rations.

### Press Group To Hold Meet Here Tomorrow Evening

Members of the Northeastern group, North Carolina Press Association, will hold their regular monthly meeting here tomorrow night at 7 o'clock. Representatives from Elizabeth City, Windsor, Jackson, Hertford, Gatesville, Edenton, Ahoskie, Scotland Neck, and Plymouth, will attend the meeting. Mr. Robert Madry, publicity director of the University of North Carolina will speak to the group.

### HIGH WATER

After holding to an unusually low level during recent months, the old Roanoke is now on another rampage. While no damaging high water is expected, the stream is scheduled to overflow its banks at this point by about six inches late Sunday. A crest will be reached at 11 feet that night, according to a report released today by Hugh Spruill, bridgekeeper.

## Fishing Nearing Record Peak At Jamesville at Noon Today

Held back by cold weather during the past several weeks, fish started traveling up the Roanoke in great numbers early today, one report from Jamesville stating that the fishery there was dipping the herring up by the tens of thousands. The catches were so large that the battery was blocked in the early hours of the morning, and fishing operations were halted temporarily or until the catches could be cleared. Operations at the Jamesville plant are fast nearing a peak for the season, one report stating that the catches are larger than they were at the same time a year ago. Under favorable conditions, the seines will likely be dipping as many as 15,000 of the fish from the stream at one time by next Monday. Judging from past reports, hundreds of visitors

are expected to descend upon the fishery on Easter Monday. As many as a 1,000 or 1,500 people are said to have visited the fishery on Easter Monday in years gone by. High water is threatening the fishing at Jamesville, and it is possible that the owner will have to suspend operations tomorrow or Monday. The stream is still rising gradually and will likely reach a peak at Jamesville Monday. However, a favorable west wind will help hold the water to a normal level and operations can be continued. It was stated this morning that the owners plan to continue operations just as long as it is possible for them to do so. The water was almost on a level with the battery this morning, but normal operations were in progress.

## Contract for \$14,000 Well Is Let By Town

### Bids For Surfacing Several Streets To Be Received Soon

### Work On Fourth Deep Well To Get Underway Within Next Thirty-Days

Taking steps to replenish a rapidly diminishing water supply, the town board of commissioners in a special meeting here last Wednesday morning let a contract for a fourth deep well, the contract going to the Layne-Atlantic Company, of Norfolk. The Virginia firm was the only one to submit a bid, but before the contract was let, the contract figures were compared with the cost of similar wells recently dug in this section of the State.

The actual bid for digging the well was \$9,033.75. Town Engineer Henry Rivers explaining that it was possible to install a different type of material at possibly a smaller cost, but they are not recommended, generally. Pumps, including an auxiliary gasoline engine and electric motors will cost an additional \$3,993.65. The pump house and foundations will cost \$1,601 and a booster tank for temporary storage of water after it is taken from the ground and before it is pumped into the mains will be installed at a cost of \$287.

Supported by a recognized guarantee, the contract calls for at least 300 gallons of water per minute. The well is to be sealed to a depth of at least 180 feet with concrete to eliminate any possible contamination by surface water, and a bronze screen with gravel pack is to be placed at the well bottom to keep out all sand and as an added purifying system.

A representative of the company, meeting with the commissioners, explained that all equipment is now in operation on defense projects for the United States Army, but that those contracts would be completed shortly and that work could be started on the well here within 30 days. Completion will follow within 45 or 60 days after the work is started.

Plans call for locating the well on the Knight property near the municipal swimming pool, but a definite location cannot be determined until tests are made to determine the potential water supply (Continued on page four)

## Mayor J. L. Hassell Has Busy Week Here

Justice J. L. Hassell has had a busy week in his court here this week, the increase possibly being a spurt before the spring-summer slump. Eight cases have been handled during the past three or four days, the defendants, in most instances, being allowed their freedom upon payment of the court costs.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging William Speller with simple assault.

Elmer Swain and Irving Stalls, charged with an affray, were released upon payment of the costs. L. C. Buchanan, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was directed to pay the costs.

Judgment was suspended in the case charging Onward Gardner with operating a truck with an excess load on it.

Nelson Keith, charged with peddling without license, was directed to pay the cost and leave town.

Burl Bryant, charged with operating a truck without an operator's license, was fined \$5 and taxed with the cost.

Ned Grimes was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost for firing a straw field in a restricted area without a permit.

Daniel Ryan, charged with disorderly conduct, was sentenced to the roads for 30 days, the court suspending the sentence upon payment of the case costs.

### POLE CLIMBER



Rounding a curve between Oak City and Hamilton a short time ago, Fred Blackman, of Enfield, lost control of his car and really climbed a telephone pole with it in the above picture. The bumper of the car is hanging over the pole crossarm. Picture, courtesy of Patrolman Pit Saunders.

## Series Of Meetings Will Explain Plans For Peanut Control

### Campaign For Referendum April 26 Will Get Underway Next Week

Plans for a campaign to explain the proposed production control program for peanuts were completed in this county today, and beginning next week a series of meetings will be held in the several districts. Each of the meetings will be held promptly at 8 o'clock and farmers are urged to attend that they may make up their minds as to how they are to vote in the referendum to be held on Saturday, April 26.

The meeting schedule: Tuesday, April 15, Bear Grass, Everetts, and Oak City.

Wednesday, April 16, Farm Life, Hamilton and Jamesville.

Thursday, April 17, Robersonville, Williams and Hassell.

On the following Monday, April 21, a county-wide meeting will be held in the agricultural building, Will Rogers, of the AAA, and R. Flake Shaw, secretary of the State Farm Bureau, will address the meeting.

In connection with the production control program, the office of the county agent is releasing to peanut growers today the following letter: Under recently approved legislation peanut growers can adjust marketings of peanuts in line with demand and continue to protect prices for their peanuts.

Since 1933 farm prices for peanuts have been protected by a Government program. This program provided for acreage allotments and pay-

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### RAINFALL

The current year, after getting off to a dry start in January and February, ranged toward the damp side in March when more than three and one-half inches of rain was recorded at the weather station on Roanoke River here. January with its 1.82 inches was the driest on record. February with 2.54 inches was the driest February since 1934. Last month 3.59 inches of rain fell here to boost the three months total to 7.95 inches or about the same total as well reported for the same period a year ago but which was more than eight inches under the three months fall in 1939.

## British Are Facing Another Dunkirk In Balkans Today

### Engulfed Greeks Prefer Fight To Death Rather Than Surrender

Effecting a blitzkrieg comparable to that experienced by Poland, Germany has made startling advances into Yugoslavia and Greece since early last Sunday morning when the barbarian hordes swept down on open cities and defenseless women and children to shock the world again with their atrociousness. But as bad as the reports may appear to be, all is not completely lost in the Balkans, and it is quite likely that Hitler, after paying dear for much of his advance, will pay more dearly for his progress from now on.

Sweeping over sections where it was claimed mechanized equipment could move only with great difficulty, the German hordes took over a fourth of Yugoslavia at one blow, the yellow Croats deserting the Serbs and joining the Germans. There is a great deal of fight left in Yugoslavia, and if Hitler gains what he started out to gain, he will have to do more than he has done.

Trapped in eastern Macedonia when the German blitzkrieg thundered through to Salonika, valiant Greek forces made ready to die rather than to surrender. Early today they were reported to be gallantly fighting their way through the German ranks toward the Aegean sea where escape is possible.

Possibly out-manuevered in the early part of the struggle, the British and Greeks are now increasing their defenses for what some describe as a decisive battle. The Germans have not yet reached this main defense line, and the battle of the war is expected.

Late reports state that the Germans have swept west of Salonika and are threatening the main British-Greek line from the rear, one observer going so far as to say that the British are possibly facing another Dunkirk. The Germans, in late reports, claim that Yugoslavia is no longer a state, that it has been torn almost to bits.

While the Greeks withdrew from Salonika, several Greek forts and other centers of resistance, including the town of Kavalla, 80 miles east of Salonika on the coast, were said to be holding out valiantly.

The British while still retreating in Africa have been bombing effectively the German advance.

In the Far East trouble is expected again. Japanese are moving out of danger areas and a Jap-Dutch trade agreement has been rescinded.

A report from Baghdad today stated that pro-German elements were rising up in India to further harass the British.

As the blitzkrieg continues in Yugoslavia and Greece, new developments are hoped for in Turkey. Civilians are being evacuated from Istanbul, important Turkish city, to the interior, meaning possibly that Turkey is nearer war than official reports would indicate. Winston Churchill told Turkey and Russia that Hitler was marching rapidly (Continued on page four)

## Sues Pulp Company For \$30,000 Damage

Charging that pollution of the Roanoke River by the defendant's plant in the lower part of this county had rendered useless the fisheries near Plymouth, Roy Hampton, Plymouth man, this week filed a \$30,000 damage suit in the Washington County Superior Court against the North Carolina Pulp Company.

The complaint was filed for Mr. Hampton by Carl L. Bailey and the firm of Ehringhaus and Ehringhaus, of Raleigh. It states that great quantities of fish, including shad, herring, rock, perch, formerly came through Albemarle Sound into Roanoke River, passing the site of Mr. Hampton's fisheries on their way to spawning grounds in the upper reaches of the fresh-water streams.

The document claims that manufacturing operations for making bleached and unbleached sulphate pulp by the defendant company in the past three years have caused to be turned into Roanoke River, a great volume of "poisonous, deleterious and objectionable waste and substances" inimical to the fish inhabiting the water, in such volume and quantity as to interfere with their free and "long-established migration, passage and habit of said fish from the ocean on their way to spawning grounds" up this river.

## Joe Johnson Crashes Into Local Police Automobile

Said to have been blinded by the glaring headlights of an approaching car, Joe Johnson, Tarboro WPA worker, drove his old model pickup car into the rear of the town police car in front of the town hall here last night at 10:35 o'clock. The police car was parked. Very little damage was done to the cars, and no one was hurt. Johnson had been on Roanoke River fishing and was returning home.