

Answer Is Filed In Case Asking \$5,000 Damages of Bottler

Defendants Deny Allegations In Complaint Filed By County Man

Vigorously denying the allegations set forth in a \$5,000 damage suit brought by Willis Bullock, Martin County man, after drinking from a Pepsi-Cola, contaminated by a dead mouse, the defendants, M. O. Minges and others, this week in the superior court of this county made a motion for a bill of particulars setting forth the nature of evidence which the plaintiff proposes to present when the case is called possibly next November.

Farmer Bullock, after drinking the contaminated drink purchased from Merchant Asa Harris, in Bear Grass, was taken desperately ill and was treated in a Williamston hospital on April 21st. Suit to recover \$5,000 was filed on June 28th.

The answer to the complaint was filed by defense counsel this week and reads, in part, as follows:

The defendants allege that in the bottling of Pepsi-Cola and other beverages, every reasonable care and precaution is and was taken; that the defendants have no information nor advice as to whether or not plaintiff ever purchased a bottle of Pepsi-Cola marketed by these defendants, and it is specifically denied that the defendants marketed or placed in the hands of dealers for sale to the public any bottle of Pepsi-Cola, which when the same left the plant of these defendants was not wholesome and suitable for consumption, and that the methods and machinery in use by the defendants in said bottling plant are those in general and approved use by like bottlers, and the defendants have discharged every duty it owed to the public.

"And the defendants, further answering plaintiff's complaint, allege and say:

"1st—That on and prior to the 21st day of April, 1941, in the maintenance and operation of the bottling plant at Greenville, for bottling beverages known as Pepsi-Cola, every reasonable care and precaution is and was taken and exercised, and all bottles used were thoroughly sterilized and inspected, and the machine and methods in use by the defendants on and prior to said date were those in general and approved use by bottlers of beverages for public use, and the same degree of care, precaution, inspection and methods were in use for several months prior to the 21st day of April, 1941, and are now used and in use by the defendants in said bottling plant, and the best and latest methods and machinery is and was used; said machinery and methods being the type in general and approved use, with a sterilization and inspection system, strainer and purifier that is in general and approved use by like bottlers, and in the operation of said plant, the defendants employ competent help and assistance, and every care and precaution is taken and each and every bottle of Pepsi-Cola bottled by the defendant is thoroughly inspected before leaving the plant of the defendants for delivery to the public for consumption and the defendants use every reasonable care and precaution possible in the operation of said business.

"2nd—That defendants alleged that if any foreign substance was found in a bottle of Pepsi-Cola by the plaintiff, which is specifically denied, the defendants allege and say that the same was placed therein, if bottled by the defendants, after said bottle had been inspected and left the plant of these defendants, and was either placed therein

(Continued on page six)

Funeral Today For Mrs. Chloe Lanier

Funeral services for Mrs. Chloe Biggs Lanier, prominent Williamston native who died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. K. Silvernail, in Mandeville, La., last Monday night, will be held in the Church of the Advent here this afternoon at 5 o'clock. Rev. John W. Hardy, rector of the church, will officiate. Interment will follow in the family plot in the local cemetery.

Mrs. Lanier, almost 75 years old, had not been in very good health for some time, but she was getting along very well and a little over five weeks ago she left here to spend some time with her daughter in Louisiana. She had been making her home here with her cousin, Miss Anna Crawford, and a host of friends here were awaiting her return this winter. News of her passing came as a decided shock to the people of the town who remember her as a faithful teacher in the local schools and as a loyal friend.

The funeral party left Mandeville Wednesday evening and is due to reach Rocky Mount this afternoon at 2:50 o'clock. The body will be brought here in a Biggs funeral coach and carried directly to the church where the services will be held.

Real Spirit of Patriotism Is Found In Aluminum Drive

Many have sung, "God Bless America" with a discordant note and proclaimed their patriotism, but the real spirit of patriotism was expressed by a Williamston housewife yesterday when she hurriedly dumped her noon-day meal out of an aluminum cooker into a bowl and willingly surrendered the bit of precious metal for national defense.

Convincing one or two areas overlooked by the Scouts, Officer Allsbrooks learned that the utensil was 24 years old. But despite its age, the pot was quite usable, the owner, Mrs. H. V. Wheeler, explaining that she had preserved the aluminumware by constant cleaning and care.

Then there were other stories heard in connection with the collection of the precious metal here. One patriotic husband slipped all the

aluminum utensils out of the kitchen and the boss of the house had to go buy other pots and pans to maintain a balance in the cooking schedule. She, of course, bought enamelware.

A complete report on the aluminum collection in the county is not available at this time, but according to L. B. Wynne, chairman of the drive in this county, the drive is progressing very satisfactorily. Some estimate that more than 1,000 pounds of the metal will be collected in the county before the drive is concluded next Tuesday. Several hundred pounds have been collected here so far, and the bin in front of the town hall is bulging. Roy Peel added possibly 150 or 200 pounds to the pile when he tore up four old race horse machines confiscated by the sheriff some time ago. The collection here far exceeded expectations.

Completion Of River Fill Delayed By Rain

EMPTY AGAIN

When it happens a third time, Jailer Roy Peel will possibly think little or nothing about it, but he shouted last Tuesday afternoon when the old horse-gow was emptied for the second time in less than a week. On Wednesday of last week, the jail was emptied for the first time in four years, and the second time in about eight years.

Jailer Peel just allows that people are getting good, but there is the sneaking possibility that the officers are resting on their laurels after keeping the jail occupied for so long a time.

Geo. Williams Dies At Home In This County Wednesday

Funeral Services Held Yesterday Afternoon For Well-known Citizen-Farmer

George Williams, well-known citizen and farmer of Williams Township, died at his home Wednesday morning at 2 o'clock following a long period of declining health. A sufferer of Bright's Disease for a number of years, Mr. Williams was taken seriously ill about six weeks ago, following an illness from which he had partially recovered. He was 62 years old.

Possessing a friendly character and of a jovial nature at all times, Mr. Williams knew everyone as a friend. He was always cheerful, and if he had troubles or worries he kept them well hidden behind a broad smile and a pleasant voice. Operating a small farm, he farmed for a living and by the sweat of his brow he had succeeded. He was recognized as a leader in his community, lending his time and support to all worthy undertakings, including the church and education. Unpretentious in his manner and thoughtful of others, Mr. Williams will be missed in his community.

Mr. Williams had been an active member of the Methodist Church at Holly Springs for a long number of years, attending its services regularly and taking an active interest in its work.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Bettie Roberson, of Williams Township. She survives with one daughter, Mrs. R. J. Hardison, of Williams Township. He also leaves a sister, Mrs. Andrew Hoard, of Williams Township, and a brother, John Williams, of Jamesville, and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the home by Rev. B. T. Hurley, pastor of the Holy Springs Methodist Church, and Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister. Interment was in a new family cemetery, near the home.

RIPENING

While the situation is fairly well in hand, as a whole, a few farmers in this county and large numbers in other counties are having a difficult time in "burning" their tobacco fast enough. The leaf, they say, is ripening so rapidly that much of it is burning in the fields before it can be harvested. One Martin County farmer is said to have harvested his crop three times in seven days, and was barely handling the leaf in time.

In some of the nearby counties, farmers are said to have left several leaves on the lower part of the stalks to save that which was ripening higher up. Harvesting work is half completed on some farms, but for a majority, the work is just getting underway on an extensive scale.

Planning Series Of Tonsil Clinics For Children of County

Definite Arrangements and Dates Have Not Been Fixed by Health Office

Health authorities are planning to hold a series of tonsil clinics for Martin County children, but definite arrangements and dates have not yet been fixed. Dr. John Williams, health officer, states that he will be glad to hear from parents whose children need their tonsils removed.

Discussing the topic, Dr. Williams said: The Martin County Health Department has a record of many children who (in our opinion) should have their tonsils removed.

There are several ways the situation can be handled. All those who are classed as indigents and on support by the county and therefore unable to pay a private physician can be transported to a hospital where a nominal fee for operating room, examination and anesthesia amounting to ten dollars will be charged the county and the operator donates his service as his contribution to a worthy cause.

Then there is the party pay clinic. By this method the patient is asked to come to an improvised hospital (generally some club house or school). A fee of ten dollars is charged everyone. The operator generally operates on 25 children and they are held over until the next morning when another group is called in. The operator is generally an eye, ear, nose specialist. Such a program has been carried out in this State for many years without any serious damage but the State Medical Society realizing that there was an element of danger in these clinics as they thought the best place for the work was a well organized hospital went on record to ask that no improvised hospital be organized in a county that had such an institution.

I believe the best way the parents of the children whom we have advised can handle the situation is to go to their family doctor first. Let him decide if we have been correct in our diagnosis of the throat condition and then get his advice on how to handle the operating end. He will know all the physicians in the county and surrounding country who perform this operation. He knows that even in the clinics ten dollars for the cost will have to be raised and he also knows good operators who will take their ten dollars which covers the actual cost of the operation and then extend credit for the balance of the fee which is generally fifteen more dollars. I do not believe there are many people in this county (not on relief) who cannot manage to pay the doctor the other fifteen dollars over a period of a few months and every physician I have talked to seems willing to extend this credit to the people who are interested in their children and willing to meet the operators half-way.

Personally I have conducted many of these part-pay clinics and up to now have never lost a child. In every case specialists were the operators, but while I have never lost a baby I have seen many in such condition that I wished they were in places prepared to take care of any

Rumors stating that two-tenths of a foot of dirt would have to be placed on the fill from one end to the other were declared unfounded by Superintendent Rice and Resident Engineer Coleman yesterday. "Just as soon as we can repair the rain damage and round up the fill again, we will be ready to turn it over to the commission or anyone," the superintendent said.

A report from district engineering headquarters this morning stated that a foot or more on five or six hundred feet of the fill just south of Conine Creek bridge would have to be cleared from the road and replaced by a different filler. The loading machine was moved from the pit on this side of the river yesterday afternoon to the pit in Bertie County possibly in preparation for handling that particular work. The dirt there now just won't dry out and pack, authorities declared.

Engineers estimated that more than 100 loads of dirt were washed from the fill sides near the Bertie highway by a single rain earlier in the week.

While work on the project here continues to drag for one reason or another, reports from other sections of the State declare that projects far more extensive than the local one have been completed in their entirety.

(Continued on page six)

Selectees Leave In Big Numbers

Northeastern Carolina boosted the Army population considerably at Fort Bragg Wednesday when it sent 127 of its young men to do service in Uncle Sam's armed forces. Without exception, the group, the largest to move here since the Selective Service Act was created, was about as quiet and serious as any seen so far.

Coming in from several of the northeastern counties, the young men boarded three special buses after overflowing the regular schedules and moved on toward Wilson where they had dinner before continuing to Fort Bragg.

Twenty-three Martin selectees were in the group. Twenty-seven were scheduled to report for duty that day, but two of them, George Lee Roberson and A. Earl Roberson, volunteered for service in the Army Air Corps and were already at work out in Missouri. Another one, William H. Mizelle, was deferred when claims of dependency were established. A fourth one, William L. Jones, was found to be over 28 years of age. Jones had gotten his birthday date mixed up, but a birth certificate from his home town down in Alabama placed him on the deferred list.

Daylight Saving Time Effective On July 28th

North Carolina To Run Up All Clocks Sunday at Midnight

Proclamation Issued Today By Mayor Placing Williamston On New Schedule

Beginning Monday, July 28, North Carolina and several other southern states will go on daylight saving time, meaning that all clocks will be advanced one hour at or near midnight on Sunday. The daylight saving schedule is to be discarded on September 28th.

The new time schedule is being adopted here in accordance with a proclamation issued by Mayor John L. Hassell today. The proclamation was issued locally after President Roosevelt and Governor J. M. Broughton had pointed out that the action would aid the National Defense Program and relieve an apparent shortage in electrical energy. The daylight saving time schedule is already in effect in a large number of states, and all southern states except Georgia and Florida are to adopt the new system beginning on Monday.

Mayor Hassell's proclamation: "Whereas, President Roosevelt has requested Governor Broughton that North Carolina and all other states in this area go on a daylight saving basis and, Whereas, there exists in this area an electric power shortage and experts advise that the daylight saving plan will result in tremendous saving of electric power, thus making a surplus available for defense purposes, and Whereas, Governor Broughton has issued a proclamation calling on the people of North Carolina to adopt daylight saving time beginning Monday, July 28th, and ending September 28th.

"Now, therefore, I, J. L. Hassell, Mayor of Williamston do call upon the citizens of Williamston to join in with the rest of the State and move their clocks up one hour beginning Monday, July 28th.

"As loyal patriotic Americans I am sure the citizens of Williamston will gladly join in this or any other movement that will aid our Nation in this emergency."

While the value of the new time schedule may not be definitely determined in the minds of many, it is quite apparent that local people will gladly observe daylight saving time even if it offers a means of aiding defense.

Legally the Governor lacked authority to proclaim daylight saving time for the State, but he stated that responses to the suggestion indicated that the change not only would be adopted universally in the State but that it would be done with willingness.

Instead of following the original plan of beginning the new time on August 1st, the proclamation was made effective as of Monday, July 28th, meaning that all clocks will be advanced Sunday midnight.

The change will lop an hour off Monday, July 28, and will add an hour Sunday, September 28th, the first thereby being 23 hours long and the second 25 hours long. Due to fewer daylight hours in winter, the practice is not deemed necessary after September 28th.

Governor Broughton said that of the 75 mayors he wrote regarding the change, 74 had responded favorably, and one did not answer. He said 35 boards of county commissioners had indicated they would place their county administrations on the

(Continued on page six)

Jewelry Store Here Robbed Last Night

Gaining an entrance by breaking through a skylight, robbers stole and carried away from Peele's Jewelry Store here last night watches and rings valued at between \$650 and \$800. An accurate estimate of the loss cannot be determined until inventories can be checked, Edwin Peel, of the firm, said today. Police are working on the case, but up until early this afternoon no clues had been found. The State Bureau of Investigation was notified and a special officer is expected here to assist in the case.

Centering his attention on the front show case, the robber took at least twenty costly wrist-watches there. Several expensive pocket watches, several cheap pocket and wrist watches and about a dozen rings were taken from a second showcase. While the robber made a heavy "haul," he overlooked several good takes, including a \$70 pocket watch which was within easy reach as he traveled up and down behind the counters.

COTTON STAMPS

Held up by an incomplete shipment, cotton stamps will be ready for distribution to Martin County farmers possibly by tomorrow and certainly by next Monday, it was learned from the office of the county agent this morning. In those cases where the compliance has been checked, the farmers are being notified by direct mail to call for the stamps. Farmers, participating in the surplus cotton marketing program, are asked to await direct instructions before calling for their stamps.

The office of the farm agent states that all the stamps, about \$23,000 worth, will be placed in the hands of the participating farmers as rapidly as possible.

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

Calling nine cases for trial, Judge W. H. Coburn held the Martin County Recorder's Court in session until early afternoon Monday before clearing the docket. Several of the cases were hotly contested by the defendants, causing the court to remain in session much longer than usual. A fairly large crowd was present for the proceedings.

After hearing all the evidence in the case charging H. U. Peel with drunken driving, Judge W. H. Coburn ruled he was not guilty as charged.

The case charging Major "Yank" Lloyd with an assault with a deadly weapon was continued until August 4th.

Ella Mae Williams, one of the few women ever charged with drunken driving, pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to jail for one month and had her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for one year. The jail sentence was suspended but is to be invoked at the discretion of the court at any time during the next year. A woman defendant was in the court not so long ago for alleged drunken driving.

Pleading not guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving, Clarence Williams was found guilty by the court placing a \$50 fine on him, revoking his license for one year and taxing him with the cost.

John Moore pleaded not guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving. He was found guilty and was sentenced to the roads for two months, the court later suspending the sentence with the understanding that it is to begin at the direction of the court at any time within two years. Moore is to remain of good behavior and not violate any criminal laws during that time. He was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with being drunk and disorderly, Linwood Williams was sentenced to the roads for thirty days.

Charged with non-support, Joseph Harrell was directed to pay into the court for the use and benefit of his child the sum of \$8 a month for the next twelve months and to report to the court at the end of that time for further judgment.

The two cases charging Walter Wallace Bailey, fifteen-year-old lad, with stealing gasoline from Will Brown's and Asa Harris' filling stations in Bear Grass some time ago were remanded to the juvenile court for hearing before Judge L. B. Wynne. Adjudged guilty over his plea of innocence, the lad was ordered committed to a reformatory. The order was delayed on condition that the youth go to Norfolk and live with his brother and remain of good behavior during the next two years.

Arrested in Washington last weekend, the boy was brought to this county Sunday afternoon. When Sheriff C. B. Roebuck loosened his hold on him to open the courthouse door, the lad bolted and tore down the street. Neighbors intervened and caught the lad but not without meeting a determined resistance.

MOVING DAY

Housed by the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion in the hut on Watts Street here during the past three years, the public library is moving to its new quarters in the town hall the early part of next week, it was announced today. The new library room is located in the back of the town hall and is accessible through the alleyway between the hall and Attorney Wheeler Martin's office.

Hitler Bugged Down In Russia; Japanese Moving In Far East

Hitler Will See Moscow Just As Soon As He Can See His Own Ears, Stalin Says

With Hitler bogged down, at least temporarily in his invasion of Russia, attention in the war across the seas is now shifting to movements taken by the yellow Japs in the Far East. There is wide speculation over Japan's move toward Indo-China, some believing that the action is bringing war ever closer to America. No action has been taken by this country in opposition to the move, but many had expected that economic pressure would have been applied by now. Such action is certainly believed timely by many people, who are anxious to see the shipments of vast oil supplies to Japan stopped.

Sanctioned by Germany's puppet government at Vichy, France, the action of the Japs placed them nearer vital points of interest to the United States and Britain, and is being tolerated only by appeasement. It is also claimed that the Japs, heeding Hitler's call for help, are pushing toward the Russians in Siberia.

By moving swiftly in to her newly-won positions, Japan was establishing herself strategically about midway between Britain's two great Far-eastern bases of Singapore and Hongkong, each about 800 miles away, and approximately 1,000 miles across the China Sea from the powerful United States Naval base of Cavite, guarding the approach to Manila Bay in the Philippines.

Over in Russia, Germany is paying an enormous price for her gains which have been stalled following a second large-scale offensive. Old Joe Stalin, about the only guy who has offered Adolf any opposition, sized up the Russo-German situation yesterday when he said that Hitler would see Moscow when he can see his own ears. It will be recalled, by Hitler's timetable and the all-wise prophecies by one Robert Rice Reynolds in this country, Hitler was to have been in Moscow, weeks ago. Claiming nearly two weeks ago they had captured Smolensk on the road to Moscow, the Germans now state that they are moving forward "according to plan" west of the town.

Soviet forces striking deep behind the German line of advance were reported officially to be spreading "panic" among stalled Nazi columns struggling to maintain their positions and protect vital lines of communication.

Fierce fighting was reported underway at various points behind the German "panzer" spearheads pointed at Moscow on the central front and it was alleged that German officers have been given orders to shoot soldiers seized by panic in breaks-through of Russian tanks.

Private advices reaching Moscow told of huge pockets of Russian troops behind the German lines and of large-scale battles delaying the Germans' attempts to get their blitzkrieg rolling again toward Moscow and Leningrad.

The official army organ Red Star said that a Russian infantry battalion, counter-attacking across the "River P" in an unidentified sector, routed a German tank column and air corps staff and killed a Nazi air force general. As the Germans retreated in disorder, the Russians were said to have hurled gasoline-filled bottles, destroying 39 tanks and 26 trucks and setting fire to a munitions depot.

Thursday morning's high command communique told of "intense fighting" on the western Leningrad, Moscow and Ukrainian fronts and described lashing attacks deep in the German rear by Red army units and guerrilla bands which were said to have inflicted heavy losses in men and materials.

Heavy fighting was said to be underway around Porkhov, 150 miles south of Leningrad, in the Polotsk-Nevel region; around Smolensk, and in the vicinity of Bhatomir, 80 miles west of Kiev.

(Continued on page six)

Contagious Disease Cases Are Reported

Contagious diseases, more or less common among school children, held a fairly firm foothold in this county during the second summer vacation month, the health office reporting twenty such cases during June. Whooping cough led the list with twelve victims, three white and nine colored. Eleven of the cases were in or near Williamston and one was in Robersonville. It is quite possible that some cases were not reported, and that the cough will spread to large numbers when the schools reopen if it is not checked by that time.

There were two cases of chicken-pox among the colored population in Jamesville. A white child in Everetts had the German measles, and four others in Williamston, two white and two colored, had the old-time genuine measles. A colored person in Jamesville fell ill with tuberculosis during the month.

A case of scarlet fever has been reported in Williamston since last month.