

## Judge Coburn Bears Down On Shoplifter In Recorder's Court

### Colored Boy Sentenced to the Roads for 3 Months for Interfering with Officer

Presiding over the regular session of the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday, Judge W. H. Coburn took a definite stand against shoplifting even in its simplest form and against those who would interfere with an officer while in the performance of his duty. Charged with pocketing a ten-cent bottle of finger nail polish in a Williamston dime store last Saturday evening, S. L. Woolard, colored boy, was sentenced to the roads for three months. Woolard pleaded not guilty, but the store manager saw the law violation, and the defendant got a bit tangled up with his defense. Russell Moore, Woolard's friend, told the arresting officer that if Woolard was jailed, he would have to lock him (Moore) up too. Warned to stay away, Moore followed the officer to the police station, and after making a threat or two against the officer, he was jailed.

The court was not in session very long and no large crowd was present to hear the proceedings.

The case against Linwood Williams was not pressed when the prosecuting witness told the court that he could not say definitely who cut him. Williams, young Jamesville white man, was charged with assaulting Will Knox with a pocket knife in Williamston several weeks ago.

The case charging W. K. Parker with not listing property for taxation was not pressed.

Charged with larceny and receiving and assaulting a female, Orlander Perkins pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for a term of four months.

Willie J. Roberson was sentenced to the roads for a period of sixty days in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon.

In the case charging Hallis Peel with non-support, the court allowed the big sum of \$1.50 per week for the support of the defendant's wife and child. Peel is to reappear at the end of six months for further judgment. Bond was required in the sum of \$75 to guarantee that the \$1.50 is paid each week. Peel was found guilty over his own plea of innocence.

Ed Williams was found not guilty in the case charging him with assaulting a female.

Charged with drunken driving and operating a car with improper license, Jesse Whitley, colored, was sentenced to the roads for a term of three months on the drunken driving charge. The road sentence was suspended upon payment of a \$50 fine and the court costs. His license to operate a car was revoked for one year. A nol pros was taken as to the alleged operation of a car with improper licenses.

In the absence of Solicitor Don E. Johnson, Attorney W. Clarence Griffin prosecuted the docket. Solicitor Johnson is studying at State College for several months, and it could not be learned immediately whether he plans to resign, or return occasionally to handle the job or look to the members of the county bar to carry on the work. As far as it could be learned, the county commissioners have not been advised of the solicitor's plans.

## Justice J. L. Hassell Handles Seven Cases

Following a lull in activities during the past few weeks, business showed a marked gain in Justice J. L. Hassell's court here this week. The trial justice has handled seven cases since Monday and has one or two others on his docket for consideration, including the one charging John Bryant with manslaughter.

Jesse Whitley, colored, had a tough round with the law recently. Convicted in the county court for drunken driving, he was fined \$50. Justice Hassell fined him \$10, cost included, for being drunk on the streets. Accompanying him here Monday, Whitley's father-in-law was quoted as saying, "Now you are something. You spend 85 cents for a pint of liquor to get into trouble, and then have to spend \$85 to get out of trouble."

J. H. Harrison, out-of-county man, was taxed with \$6.50 costs when he appeared before the justice on a charge of public drunkenness.

Wheeler Martin, of Jamesville, was fined \$5 and taxed with the cost in the case charging him with driving a car without an operator's license.

Charged with speeding through Everetts, Ned Grimes was fined \$5 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with being drunk and down, Matthew Bond was sentenced to the roads for 30 days, the court suspending the sentence upon payment of \$7.50 costs.

Charged with disorderly conduct, Baldy Rogers and Robert Lee were fined and taxed with the costs amounting to \$10 each.

Probable cause appearing, the case charging Alonza Biggs with an assault with a deadly weapon, was sent to the superior court for trial when Officer John Roebuck picked him up.

## LATEST ARMY ADDITIONS



Receiving fifteen Martin County men last week, the Army accepted an even dozen and in the number are listed some of the county's most promising youths. They are, first row, left to right, Archie Benjamin Griffin, William Nathan Cherry, Robert Thomas Pritchett, Robert Asa Edmondson, Jr., and Craven Baker Roebuck; second row, Dave Dickerson, James McKimmon Saunders, Jr., with head bowed, George Wiley Keel, Irving Clifford Griffin, Kelly B. Cowey; third row, Jesse David Heath, Jesse Dennis Wyane, Cyril Harrison Respass, Woodrow Bullock Sugg and Earl Woodley Griffin. Edmondson, Respass and Pritchett, the latter a volunteer, were rejected.

## Registration Revealed Cold Facts First Year

### NO SHORTAGE

There may be a shortage along the Eastern Seaboard, but this section is virtually assured an ample supply of gasoline for the next few weeks. It is fairly apparent however, that the bulk distribution of the fuel has undergone changes and that the business is not being handled on a leisurely schedule.

A big oil barge is unloading at a local dock approximately 130,000 gallons of gasoline today. The shipment is one of the largest ever handled here at one time, it is believed. The barge tanker was brought in by an old sea trawler, one report stating that the boat was used as a submarine chaser or tender in the last war. Grounded for two days in Albemarle Sound this week, the boats docked here last night.

## Start Drive Monday In Martin District For Scout Movement

### Five Towns Asked To Raise Total of \$687.34 For Section's Youths

Beginning next Monday, a special committee composed of R. H. Goodman, chairman, Wheeler Martin, Hal Dickens, D. V. Clayton and Garland Woolard, will start a drive for the Boy Scout movement in this district. Five towns, Robersonville, Everetts, Jamesville, Windsor and Williamston, are asked to raise a total of \$687.34 or more as its share of the cost of financing the East Carolina Council. While they are to make the drive personally in Williamston the canvassers are asking others in the four remaining towns to head the drive in their respective communities.

While Scouting activities have reached a fairly low point in this county, there is still much interest in the movement, and the prospects are bright for a strong organization of the youth in this district. As chairman of the fund campaign, R. H. Goodman stated that a survey shows that nine out of every twelve boys in this county would like to be a Boy Scout, that with the aid of the citizens of this section, many of the youngsters may have Scouting. Mr. Goodman, declaring that America's future lies in its youth, continued: "Scouting trains American youth the American way. The story of Scout training is being told today by 11,000,000 Scouts and Scout trained citizens dating back to February, 1907."

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## Alonza Biggs Jailed For Assaulting Man

Charged with assaulting Tom Outerbridge with intent to kill, Alonza Biggs, colored, was arrested here this week and placed under bond in the sum of \$500 by Justice J. L. Hassell at a hearing last Wednesday morning. Unable to raise the amount, Biggs is resting in jail.

Waiving examination at the hearing, Biggs said nothing and the prosecution offered the testimony of only two witnesses. Very little evidence was brought out, but when it was declared that Biggs attacked the man first with a pistol, then with a shot gun and then threatened to beat him over the head after shooting him down, Justice Hassell decided to hold the man for trial in the superior court.

The attack took place near Skewabke the early part of last June. Biggs evaded arrest until this week when Officer John Roebuck picked him up.

## Peel Is Resigning Place On Board of Town Commission

### Mrs. Fannie C. Staton Seeking Place On Local Town Governing Board

M. Luther Peel stated yesterday he would tender his resignation as a member of the local town board of commissioners to avoid a conflict with his recent appointment as full-time tax collector for Martin County. Under the State Constitution, Attorney General Harry McMullan ruled that one could not hold an elective office and fill a second public position by appointment. There have been times when a public official held both an appointive and an elective office, but according to a ruling coming from the office of the attorney general this week, the practice was and is contrary to the spirit of the constitution.

Empowered by law to name a successor, the four remaining town commissioners are not expected to take any action before the next regular meeting of the board on November 3rd. It is expected that Mr. Peel will tender his resignation at that meeting, and it is possible that the naming of his successor will be delayed until the regular meeting in December.

Mr. Peel was elected last May for a two-year term, and his successor will be named to serve until the first Monday in July, 1943.

Not certain that Mr. Peel would be required to resign following his acceptance of the full-time tax collector's place, very few names have been mentioned in connection with the position on the board. Mrs. Fannie C. Staton announced publicly that she would be a candidate for the place. Her name will be considered along with those of any other candidates, a member of the board was quoted as saying yesterday. One or two other names have been mentioned in connection with the position, but not publicly. It is understood that the board, working to maintain a fair geographical location of its membership, will first consider candidates filed by citizens in Mr. Peel's section of the town.

Members on the board receive \$10 for each regular meeting, the positions of clerk and treasurer providing a slightly larger remuneration.

## Army Isn't So Bad, Selectee Declares

"The Army isn't so bad, and we are all having a good time so far," Irvin Clifford Griffin, local young man who left with fourteen other Martin County youths for service in the armed forces, said in a letter received here yesterday.

While there is a bit of homesickness noticed between the lines of the letter, the selectee offered no complaint and declared that the food is much better than he expected and that they get plenty to eat. Meals are served, the private said, at 6:30 in the morning, 11:30 a. m. and 5 in the afternoon.

Leaving here Wednesday of last week, the young men were given physical examinations the following morning, Griffin stating that two or three of the group were a bit disappointed when they measured up to the physical standards. That afternoon nine of the fifteen were inducted. Friday morning three of the remaining six were sent home. Two of the last three were inducted that afternoon, and it was beginning to appear that Griffin would not be accepted and would not be rejected. Monday morning they signed him up, but at that time he had not been issued regulation clothing. Griffin said, "I didn't bring an extra shirt so I had to wear one since last Wednesday. It is blacker than the proverbial pot and smells worse than the pulp mill does in Williamston when the east wind is blowing. None of the other boys had an extra one I could borrow and I could not buy one on the post."

Continuing, Private Griffin said, "We are not on the main post yet. We are in a new section that was probably built by Martin County farmers. We are almost men without a country since we can't leave the post until we are transferred to some training center. This will be within a very short time. Our lieutenant said it was very doubtful that we would be stationed within a thousand miles of home. He said they want to get us a long way from home to wear us out or get us away from our mother's coattails."

"Private Pete's" letter sounded a sour note when he said, "It is very likely that none of us will get home before Christmas, if we get there then."

He continued, "We haven't heard from home since we left, and we can't give addresses until we are placed in a permanent post. Some of us are in financial difficulties, but there is nothing we can do about it. Some, one also stole a little change from Archie Griffin. I am sleeping with my pocketbook. I have heard of boys working their way through college, but I think we have the first one working his way through the Army. Jesse Heath is shining shoes. He has been all around the post drumming business."

## First Peanuts From The New Crop Are Sold Here Tuesday

Even before the open market announced its price schedules and with part of the crop still in the ground, new peanuts started moving to local warehouses and cleaners here this week, marking the opening of this county's second biggest marketing season. Early diggings and harvesting are advancing the marketing season a few days ahead of a normal schedule, but the movements have been comparatively light to date.

Sales have been so light that a definite price figure can hardly be announced. The first three crops to move sold for \$4.75 to \$4.90. No. 1 bunch sold for four and three-quarters, and jumbos sold for 4.90 cents.

Very few buyers have gone on the market so far, and the sales reported so far were handled, more or less, to determine the quality of the new crop. Reports from the fields state that pickers are now being operated in large numbers, and that the crop will likely start moving in volume within the next two or three weeks if price schedules are acceptable to

the growers. Reliable reports seem to indicate that a majority of the growers are going to withhold their crops from the market until the price reaches 5 cents or a point even higher than that. All peanut marketing cards have not been prepared, but the office of the county agent will have them ready within the next few days. Any farmer who plans to sell his crop immediately may get his peanut marketing card by calling in person at the office of the county agent.

The quality of the crop is said to be about normal, and while the quantity will not measure up to the record established last year it is described as being about on an average with the yields over a period of years. It is estimated that production will average around 11 bags per acre this year.

First sales reported on the local market last season carried a price of 3 1-4 cents, and were made on October 17th.

Later reports state that one lot of extra good goobers was sold for five cents.

## Fall Crops In County Damaged By Dry Spell

### Most Small Streams In County Dried Up; Farmers Haul Water

### Few Cover Crops Are Seeded In County As Result of Dry Season

Without rain since August 20th, this section is now in the throes of its most serious drought on record. While the damage is possibly greater than it appears to be, the section is fortunate in that the dry spell did not come during the main crop season.

Fall gardens and winter cover crops have been virtually wiped out and preliminary reports state that the sweet potato crop has been greatly curtailed by the extended dry weather. As harvesting progresses, reports state that the peanut crop was not damaged as much as many expected a few weeks ago. Farmer Will Taylor said this week that he could gather hardly enough food from his garden for a single meal. Few farmers attempted to sow winter cover crops, and fields and gardens in this section will have a barren appearance this winter, no doubt. The dry weather has aggravated the forest fire program, and losses are believed to have reached a new high for the season of the year.

Withholding complaint following one of the most bountiful harvests in recent years, farmers are acting to meet the situation the best way they can. Those farmers having only shallow wells are hauling water from springs and their neighbors' deep wells to water their stock and in some cases for home consumption. More wells have been cleaned out this year than in any other period, but even then the efforts to relieve the situation have failed in many cases. Quite a few farmers are hauling water from the town water system here, while others are carrying water in buckets from the back of their fields to their homes.

Reports state that it is possible to walk across Sweet Water Creek in certain places in Williams Township on dry land, and according to one claim, the Hardison Mill pond is dusty. Most of the small streams have dried up, leaving large numbers of fish to die. The old Roanoke, (Continued on page four)

## Delinquent Tax List Larger Than In 1939

That prosperity in eastern Carolina and Martin County is not shared by all is quite evident in Williamston's town delinquent tax list which makes the first of four public appearances today.

After dwindling in two successive years, the list changed its course upward and shows \$4,564.34 in 1940 real estate taxes uncollected as compared with \$3,860.07 for the tax year of 1939 and \$4,312.70 for the tax year of 1938.

The names of 46 white and 90 colored property owners appear in the list. While the amount of unpaid real estate taxes was showing an increase, the number of delinquents declined slightly.

A comparison of the number of accounts unpaid and the amounts due for the tax years of 1939 and 1940 follows, by races:

White	47	\$2,753.81
Colored	101	1,108.26
Total for 1939	148	\$3,862.07
White	46	\$3,618.54
Colored	90	945.80
Total for 1940	136	\$4,564.34

## American Warship Attacked Today in The North Atlantic

### Russians Make Ready For a Last-Ditch Stand at Moscow Against Invaders

The United States warship, "Kearney," was torpedoed in the Atlantic 350 miles south of Iceland this morning by a submarine, the Navy Department announcing at noon that the ship, badly damaged, was limping into port under its own power. The nationality of the attacker was not announced immediately, but it was generally believed that the attacker was a roving German submarine. The attack took place in the same waters where the United States Destroyer "Greer" dodged a submarine attack several weeks ago and where United States ships are well within the neutrality zone. According to unofficial but reliable reports, other American ships were ordered to the scene of the attack with directions to run down and destroy the attacker. No lives were lost and according to preliminary reports no one was injured.

Reverberations were instantaneous in the Nation's capital. Senator Claude Pepper, of Florida, asked for swift revenge, and called for two sinkings of German ships for every one of ours that was attacked or sunk. "A few more of these attacks, and we will be forced to clean out the Atlantic," Secretary of the Navy Knox was quoted as saying.

The isolationists, headed by Senator Gerald P. Nye, blurted out that the attack was to be expected.

The formation of a new Japanese cabinet is in the making with the blessings of the army already upon it. The old army general is seeking the navy's support, and if that is granted, a middle-of-the-road group will take over Japan's destiny. The old general, reports state, will have no dictation from Germany, but it is possible that the shake-up is nothing more than a frame-up to hold the United States at bay until the opportune time to strike comes. A member of our house of representatives said today that it was time to quit soft-pedaling with Japan and take action.

On the Russian front, terrific fighting continues with the German invaders gradually closing in on Moscow, late reports stating that the Nazis are now within forty miles of the Soviet capital. While the Russians are experiencing a terrible pounding with the number of killed, wounded and captured running into the millions, all is not going well with the Germans. Vast numbers of the invading hordes are being killed and wounded and the advance is being made at vast cost in equipment and supplies.

Moscow, the reports continue, is being evacuated preparatory to a last-ditch stand against the barbarian invaders. The capital is being transferred to Kazan, 450 miles east of Moscow, where Russian leaders will continue to direct the fight. American representatives in Russia were said to have moved yesterday and a few Russian leaders are said to have already gone ahead to make ready for setting up the government in its new location.

Reports from the front tell of mass slaughter unequalled in all military history. Their lines breached and bleeding by an apparently ever-increasing invasion strength, the Russians continue to fight on the approaches to Moscow. One report intimated that the Soviet forces were still "alive and struggling" against the German assault which is being implemented with everything the Nazi army and arsenal can produce.

A communique early today summed up the situation in this manner: (Continued on page four)

## 7,270 Names On The County's Tax Books

As a result of the quadrennial property revaluation this year, the number of names on the county tax books has been greatly reduced. In years past it was the custom to bring forward the names of everyone, and as a result the books carried the names of many who were either dead or who had moved their places of residence. Last year there were nearly 8,000 names on the book. This year there are only 7,270 names on the new tax books. A list of the numbers of taxpayers follows, by townships:

Township	White	Col.	Tot.
Jamesville	525	334	859
Williams	221	117	338
Griffins	340	96	436
Bear Grass	375	93	468
Williamston	1080	620	1700
Cross Roads	311	127	438
Robersonville	833	523	1356
Poplar Point	161	61	222
Hamilton	335	319	654
Goose Nest	423	376	799
	4604	2666	7270

The 7,270 property owners, including those who owe poll tax only, are receiving this week pink slips notifying them that their taxes in the sum of \$205,459.84 are due and payable for the year 1941. The average taxpayer in the county will pay \$28.26 as his part in maintaining the county government, its institutions and agencies.