

Judge Robt. Coburn Calls Few Cases In The County's Court

Courtroom Is Almost Empty During Brief Session of Tribunal Monday

With only five cases on the docket, Judge Robert L. Coburn and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson had an uneventful task in handling the regular session of the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday morning. Spectators, with the exception of a few in the seats reserved for colored citizens, almost passed the court by. At one time there was only one white person in the audience and he apparently was paying no great attention to what was going on inside the bar. The court was in session hardly more than an hour, but the increasing number of non-support cases is proving baffling to Judge Coburn. In addition to one on the docket for trial Monday, Judge Coburn heard about two others. As a usual thing, the defendants are directed to pay a few dollars each month for the support of their offspring and settle with the court for costs in handling the case. There is some talk about imposing maximum road sentences on those who would deliberately run away from or who would not do their best in supporting their offspring. It is possible that the dependents would be placed in the hands of the welfare department while the father or husband served his sentence on the roads.

Proceedings in the court: Wesley James, charged with failing to support his wife and child, was adjudged guilty as to the non-support of the child. The case was not pressed as to the non-support of his wife. He was sentenced to the roads for a term of six months, the court suspending judgment upon the guaranteed payment of \$6 each month for a period of twelve months for the support of the child. He was also directed to pay a \$47 hospital bill at the rate of \$5 each month, and to settle with the court for handling the case. James is to make the first \$6 payment not later than next Monday and make other payments on the first Monday in each month. Bond was required in the sum of \$100 to guarantee judgment compliance.

In a second case, Jones, charged with bigamy, waived preliminary examination. Probable cause was found and he was bound over to the superior court for trial in March. He was required to furnish bond in the sum of \$100 for his appearance at the next term of superior court.

In the case charging Mrs. Eddie Bell Mitchell with drunken driving the defendant pleaded guilty. Prayer for judgment in the case was continued until next Monday. Nathan T. Perry pleaded guilty of driving an automobile while in an intoxicated condition and was required to pay a \$50 fine and the court costs. His license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for one year. A six months' sentence on the roads was suspended. The court did not press the case charging Perry with operating an automobile without license.

Adjudged guilty over his plea of innocence, Lewis Belcher, charged with assaulting another, was fined \$10 and taxed with the court costs.

Valuables Stolen From Missionaries

The theft of highly prized articles from Christian missionaries in a Christian land and in a Christian home was reported here this morning by Dr. Charles A. Leonard, Sr. Believed to have operated while the family was engaged in religious services, the thieves entered the home of Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Smith with whom Dr. and Mrs. Leonard were making their home in the Baptist parsonage and carried away the valuables. Dr. Leonard stating that the theft came as a surprise and a shock.

Among the things stolen were the following: An old oval Chinese painting on silk in a carved-wood frame; an old bamboo vase with in-pay mother of pearl and other semi-precious stones; two navy blue satin pieces about five feet in length heavily embroidered; one 24-inch needle-work piece; one large satsuma bowl; two medium-sized satsuma bowls; one large thousand-flower Chinese plate; two Chinese vases with blue border design top and bottom flowers and rocks in center; one thousand-flower satsuma rose bowl; one small bamboo-pattern salt and pepper stand; one Hawaiian carved wood tray; embroidered handkerchiefs and towels.

These articles were especially prized by these missionaries, some being presents given by Dr. Leonard to his wife over a number of years. The robbery was a bold one, for these things were taken from off the mantles of the hall and sitting room and from the China closet in the dining room. The thief is thought to have taken them when the family was out at Christian services. "Any information that will lead to the arrest of the guilty party will be appreciated, and a reward will be given to any one finding the articles," Dr. Leonard said.

Victory Book Campaign To Be Held In Martin County Soon

Having successfully met several appeals as a result of the war, Martin County citizens are being called upon again—this time to contribute their proportionate number of books to the Victory Book Campaign. To supply books for soldiers, sailors and marines in the various camps, forts, posts, stations and on ships, the United Service Organizations are calling for ten million books. Reports state that several million books have already been given to the organization for distribution.

An organization for handling the campaign has just been perfected with R. H. Goodman, of Williamston, as chairman. He is being assisted by Miss Elizabeth House, regional librarian, and others. Tentative plans for handling the collection of books are now being formulated but no date for the canvass has been fixed.

REGISTRATION

Final plans for holding the 20-45 draft registration in this county on Monday, February 16, have been completed and are now being State Selective Service headquarters for approval or changes deemed necessary. The program will likely be made public some time next week, R. H. Goodman, member of the county draft board, said this morning.

While the plans for the registration have not been made public, it is certain that business houses and the schools will be asked to furnish volunteers for handling the work.

Farewell Service For Rev. Mr. Smith In Baptist Church

Various Congregations Will Take Part in Union Service Sunday Evening

The various religious congregations of the town will participate in a union service at the Baptist Church here Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock to mark the close of a successful pastorate by Rev. James H. Smith. The several ministers will have parts in the program, it was announced. Resigning his pastorate here to go to the Eller Memorial Baptist Church in Greensboro, Rev. Mr. Smith will preach his farewell sermon Sunday evening and a large crowd is expected to hear him in his last message as pastor of the local church.

Rev. William R. Burrell, former pastor of the local church, has been named to supply the Baptist pulpit here until Mr. Smith's successor is named. Dr. Burrell is well remembered by the people here, and they are glad to learn that he is returning even though for no definite stay.

Making ready to leave next week for his new pastorate, Rev. Smith addressed the following note to his friends in Williamston and Martin County:

"Friend Rome Biggs reports that Mr. S. S. Brown calls Williamston the Garden of Eden and says that Paradise is just across the Creek. Several years ago I was told that those who stay a while in Williamston never want to leave. There is something in it. Beyond a doubt, people who are privileged to live anywhere in Martin County have found the special favors of our Heavenly Father.

"Soon after arriving here in September, 1935, I made the statement through the courtesy of the Enterprise that I wanted to be a friend to everyone. Of course the only way to have friends is to be one, but my efforts at making friends have more than doubly been repaid. Your friendly spirits bind me and my family eternally to you. Our new address is 1307 Summit Avenue, Greensboro, N. C.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever." Hebrews 13:20-21."

HEDGING

While admitting that there is a farm labor shortage in this county and that it may become serious, neighbors declare that Farmer Henry Early up in Goose Nest has done a bit of hedging, that he got unusually busy when he was threatened by actual work. According to the neighbors, Mr. Early went off and made a deal with one of the largest families he could find, and that he now has more labor than he had last year.

Just a short time ago, Mr. Early, faced with the possibility that he would have to go to work himself, declared the future looked gloomy.

Mr. Goodman explaining that definite plans and dates are pending the receipt of certain materials and instructions from the State headquarters. It is quite likely that the campaign will be handled through the public schools, churches, Sunday schools, direct solicitations and pick-up stations. No quota has been assigned this county, but in order to help build up ample library facilities for members of the armed forces, this county is expected to donate several hundred books. While most any type of book is acceptable, the librarians are hopeful the gifts will not be limited to cheap books and books of little recreational value. Complete plans for the canvass are expected from Chairman Goodman within the next few days.

Red Cross Fund Is Near \$3,000 Mark In County Chapter

Late Contributions Made in Emergency Drive Amount To \$63.40

Late contributions to the Red Cross Emergency War fund have brought the total amount raised in the Martin County chapter just short of \$3,000, the total raised being nearly \$1,000 in excess of the quota assigned the chapter, Special Chairman V. J. Spivey announced this week. Additional contributions, amounting to \$63.40, were reported this week by Chairman Spivey, boosting the amount raised in the emergency drive to \$2,954.36.

Ably handling the drive and bringing it to a very successful close, Chairman Spivey believes that a prolonged war will necessitate other calls in the future. For the present time, Martin County citizens, or certainly most of them, can rest assured that they have successfully met the first challenge that war brought to them through the appeals of the American Red Cross.

Contributions not previously acknowledged are, as follows: J. C. Norris employees, \$5; L. F. Waters, Jamesville, \$1; Johnson-Matthews Co., Inc., Hamilton, \$12.50; J. F. Jordan, collected from Dardens, \$17.40.

Williamston R.F.D.: Clayton Revels, \$1; William Ward, \$1; Rome Rogers, \$1; Joseph S. Griffin, \$1; Hoyt Revels, \$1; Frank Holliday, \$1; Arthur Revels, \$1.

Williamston: Virginia Griffin, \$1; Emma Brown, \$1; Earl Miller, \$1; James Coburn, \$1; Margaret Spruill, \$1; Albert Wilson, \$1; Bill Wilson, \$1; Mrs. John Cook, \$1; Mildred Ray, \$1; Ruth Moore, \$1; Vergie Daniel, \$1; Marion Pender, \$1; Thelma Hoddard, \$1; Rosie Jones, \$1; Elizabeth Respass, \$1; Virginia Hunter, \$1; Mittie Bell Wimbush, \$1; Laverna Cain, \$1; Annie Bell Goss, \$1; Mary Lee Purvis, \$1; Beatrice Wiggins, \$1; Vernice Hodges, \$1; Mattie Goss, \$1; Margaret Peel, \$1; Walter Darrell, \$1.

Ned Laughinghouse Now Believed Safe

Missing since last April when he was injured on the ill-fated Egyptian steamer "Zanzam", which was sent to the bottom in the South Atlantic, Ned Laughinghouse, former Williamston resident, is now believed safe in a German concentration camp. A brief announcement came out of London night before last, stating that the remaining passengers on the liner had been reported safe and that they were being detained in a concentration camp. No names were given in the report, but it is believed that the men referred to were Mr. Laughinghouse, a Canadian doctor and a British ambulance driver.

While the report could not be definitely established, it brought a renewed hope for his many friends and his loved ones who have borne up bravely despite mental torture these past long months. Hearing that Mr. Laughinghouse was reported a prisoner in a German concentration camp, local people expressed the opinion that it would be no more than fair to round up and throw behind bars every German national in this county and keep them there until an exchange could be effected.

First Graders Make The Local School Honor Roll

The names of the following pupils appear on the first grade honor list in the local school for the recent term period, it was announced today by Miss Grace Talton, teacher: Honor Roll I: Joyce Ward, Marie Peele, Mary Ann Manning, Carolyn Bullock, Jimmy Peele, Betty Lou Dudley, Nanette Harrison, Jean Holoman, Jean Howard, Barbara Anne Peed, Joyce Anne Cowan. Honor Roll II: Gloria Taylor, Janet Williams, Harrell Everett, Jr., Preston Hughes, Hugh Lindsay, Jimmy Osteen, Jerry Savage, Zadie Pate, Sally Roberson, Patricia Shone.

REMEMBRANCES

By CHAS. SMALLWOOD
Williamston, N. C.
DURING 1870's and '80's

Mr. Tom Biggs was a drummerman. All "traveling salesmen" of today, were "drummer-men" of "yesterday."

He drummed tobacco of brands calculated to make all chewers his friends, therefore, the merchants followed the whims of their customers, and became customers of Mr. Tom Biggs and his brands. He had read the Biblical command: "Let not your right hand knoweth what your right hand doeth," and applied it to his movements among his customers and his competitors. He never let Drummer John know whether Drummer Tom was bound, or when May-be he thought that perchance Drummer John had seen fit to change his "line" since last they met, from boiler plugs to be screwed in, to tobacco plugs to be bit off, therefore becoming a competitor in Drummer Tom's "line."

Anyway his habit was never to leave word behind as to where he had "driv-off to". In speech he somewhat stammered. In conversation he was quite agreeable. He seldom, if ever, disputed the statement of another, but had an individual method of side-tracking any comment on any subject with the broad statement that—"Well, it's cor-cor-cordin to how a feller's raised."

One day he carelessly applies this remark with no thought as to how it would fit in, but fit-in it did and to a belittlement of that fellow's raising, and Mr. Tom immediately had some further explaining to do, which he readily did to the other fellow's satisfaction, and all was well between the two drummers again.

He and I were pretty crony, for man and boy; and one time he descended to let me know that he was going to Washington and if I wished to go along, he would drop me off at Father's, and pick me up next morning on his way back, giving me a night with the home-folks, and which I gladly accepted. Never a dull moment occurred during the drives. On the way back, the morning was cool and crisp, and as we neared Mr. Simon Ward's, he cleared his throat and said, "We—we—got to stop here, and see Uncle Simon; he wouldn't think I'd been ra-ra—raised right if I passed him by. See—see that apple orchard over there? This is a bran—d—dy cellar, and it never goes dry." We stopped, and I joined the two men in a "nip."

Mr. Simon Ward was another Martin County man of stability and renown. And I might say here, along with conventions, that I cannot recall the time I first learned the taste of "toddy." Early in my child-days, Father would return from the fields around noon, mix a mint-juley for himself, and hand around a spoonful to us children. Near thirty years ago, after becoming engaged to be married, I decided to place the habit among the by-gones, and have never tasted "toddy" since.

I still think it OK for some folks some times, if they know when those times be; but I am sure they are no more for me.

Well, during that drive with Mr. Tom Biggs, I said to him, "Mr. Biggs how come you to let me know you were going to Washington? Folks say you won't tell about where you are going." And he said, "Cau—cause I thought you might want to go long."

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Number Marriages Increases In This County Last Year

Weddings in County Last Year Pass 200 Mark for First Time in Three Years

Battling against depression, marriage health laws, and war conditions in addition to his own ups and downs, Dan Cupid had had a hectic career in this county during the past eleven years, a review of the marriage license records in the office of Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger will show.

On an average, 107 licenses were issued to white and 127 licenses to colored couples during each of the past eleven years. During the early part of the depression, the issuance got down to 62 for the white and 64 for the colored. A quick recovery was effected in 1933 after Roosevelt took over and there were 103 licenses issued to white and 166 to colored couples. Dan maintained his equilibrium during the next five years or until 1939 when the marriage health law was passed in North Carolina. The issuance to white couples dropped from 126 in 1938 to 81 in 1939. The issuance of licenses to colored couples dropped from 158 in 1938 to 78 in 1939. A slight gain was recorded in 1940. Believe it or not, the war year of 1941 saw the number of licenses jump from 92 in 1940 for the white to 126 or 19 above the average for the 11-year period. The number of colored marriages jumped from 81 in 1940 to an even 100 last year, but even then the 1941 figure was 20 below the average for the 11-year period.

The issuance last month was the largest since 1938.

Make Plans for Fight On Infantile Paralysis

"March Of Dimes" Going Forward on An All Out Scale

Band To Appear in Two Special Concerts in Support Of Paralysis Drive

Plans for an all-out drive in this county against infantile paralysis were announced virtually complete today by Campaign Chairman W. Iverson Skinner who points out that the campaign is expected to reach a fitting climax between now and the end of the month. The drive is already underway, and marked support has already been given in some sections of the county. Mr. Skinner said, adding that the outlook was bright for the movement in the county this year.

The "March of Dimes" is already on the road to victory, according to Mr. Skinner who announces that Robersonville had already raised several hundred of the thin coins. Williamston will start its drive tomorrow when members of the Junior Woman's Club assisted by several high school seniors launch an all-out canvass for dimes or larger contributions. Contributions will be recognized by a special pin or button Saturday, January 24th, has been proclaimed "March of Dimes" day in Williamston by Mayor John L. Hassell.

In connection with the "March of Dimes," the campaign chairman has arranged for two special band concerts, one in Bear Grass next Wednesday evening and the other at Farm Life on next Thursday evening. Admission will be by the special button emblem. The concerts have been arranged without cost to the drive against infantile paralysis, Mr. Skinner explained.

Supplementing the "March of Dimes" drive, Miss Pauline Dewey has been named to handle the canvass through the Works Progress Administration organization.

"Planting" eighty special coin collectors in nearly every part of the county a few days ago, Mr. Skinner states that they are receiving a liberal support as a whole.

The schools are also participating in the drive to raise funds to carry on research and fight infantile paralysis, but no report on the progress there is available at the moment.

According to present plans, the campaign will be brought to a close on Friday evening of next week when the birthday ball will be held in the Williamston gymnasium.

Red Cross Sewing Project Expanded

Anticipating a greater need for clothing and other articles, the production unit of the Martin County Red Cross Chapter is making preparations for an enlarged program.

Mrs. A. R. Dunning, chairman, said today, Junior Red Cross girls are to be called in soon to learn to knit. A request for the loan of eight Works Progress Administration sewing machines has been filed and their delivery is expected.

At the present time the sewing room is using material left over from the first production quota, and special attention is being given a knitting project. Persons having scrap wool are urged to donate it to the production unit. Seeing the Red Cross flag waving in the wind on the Woman's Club lawn, O. S. Winborne contributed a dollar and May Bell Smith gave 25 cents. This money and other contributions are used in purchasing "findings," Mrs. Dunning said.

The chairman points out that the new production quota will be assigned shortly, and that the sewing room is expected to operate on an extended schedule. Mrs. Dunning stated that she was greatly pleased with the interest now being shown in the work, and that when the new quota is assigned, more persons will volunteer their services.

Sister Of Resident Of County Dies In Hospital

Mrs. F. A. Cherry, sister of Mrs. W. Oscar Peel, of this county, died in a Washington hospital last Sunday following an operation. She had been ill only a short time, the end coming unexpectedly.

Mrs. Cherry, daughter of the late Thad and Sally Jackson, was born in Beaufort County 41 years ago. Funeral services were conducted in the Old Ford Christian Church last Monday afternoon, and interment was in the family cemetery, near the home, in Beaufort County.

EXAMPLE ON FOOT

Much has been said about conserving our tires, but so far little has been done about it; or, at least, that which has been done was hardly discernible. Word comes from Hamilton that Don G. Matthews, well-known county business man, is setting a worthy example by walking to and from Sunday school and church. He reminds others that feet were made before autos.

The change from tires to feet, some fear, will result in a marked decrease in attendance upon religious services. With attendance already at a low figure, the new situation is really an aggravating one.

Few Car Stamp Tax Sales Are Reported By Local Post Office

Delay in Meeting Demand Should An Expected Rush Develop

Selling less than 100 of the Federal motor vehicle tax stamps since last Friday, the local post office today explained that it is quite likely there'll be some delay in getting the little stickers for car and truck owners in this section should an expected rush develop toward the end of next week. The office has been supplied with only 400 of the stickers, and repeat orders can be made only twice each month, meaning that when the supply is exhausted several days will elapse before additional stamps can be made available.

It has been definitely stated that no motor vehicles are to be operated on the highways on and after February 1st without the stamps, and those persons who must operate their vehicles should make plans to get the stamps at once.

According to reliable information, all cars and trucks owned and operated by the State, county, towns are not subject to the federal use tax and will not have to display the stickers. Cars owned and operated by public employees are not exempt.

In addition to the 400 tax stamps delivered to the Williamston office for sale, other post offices in the county will handle the stamps. Jamesville and Robersonville have a total of 200 each, and Dardens, Everetts, Parmele, Hassell, Oak City and Hamilton have fifty stamps each, according to a postal bulletin released by the Department a few days ago.

It could not be learned immediately just how the Federal Department of Revenue would check up on the tax stamp sales. Unofficial reports state that a close check will be made, and that those who do not pay the tax are subjecting themselves to drastic measures in the Federal courts. It has been rumored that gasoline purchases will be limited to those who display the stamp on their windshields or dashboards. Another rumor states that special agents will confiscate those cars, trucks and motorcycles found operating without the stamps.

As far as it could be learned here, state, county and local officers have not been called upon to assist in checking the purchase of the stamps.

Trouble with the new stamp revenue plan is already being reported in some sections of the country. Thieves are stealing the little stickers from other people's cars and placing them on their own. It is possible, however, that proof of purchase can be established by a check of the cards mailed to the Collector of Internal Revenue who in this State is located in Greensboro.

When properly affixed to the windshield or dashboard, the stamps can be removed only with difficulty. To assure continued ownership, some owners are using transparent tape to support the glue.

MARCH OF DIMES DAY

Whereas, the dread disease, infantile paralysis has its many victims in our land, and whereas, since 1934 the birthday of President Roosevelt has been set aside for raising of funds to aid the needy afflicted with this malady, and whereas, we are approaching another birthday of the President when our people will be called upon to contribute again.

Now, therefore, I, J. L. Hassell, Mayor of Williamston, do hereby proclaim Saturday, January 24, 1942, as "March of Dimes Day" in Williamston and ask the people of this community to contribute as many dimes as they can in the interest of this humane cause.

J. L. Hassell, Mayor.

Singapore Is About To Fall; Australia Preparing For Japs

Conditions Believed Critical As Invaders Push into Pacific Southwest

Threatening to cut off defenders of Singapore by a pincers movement, the Japanese are continuing their ruthless drive into the Southwest Pacific. Late report describing conditions critical in that area. Little is known about plans for aiding the hard-pressed defenders in the Far East, but it has been openly declared that unless reinforcements are made available at once the fall of Singapore is to be expected. Apparently anticipating such reverses in Malaya, Australia is working feverishly in an effort to prepare for a Japanese attack on its own territory. The fate of General Douglas MacArthur on Bataan in the Philippines is uncertain, late reports stating that the Japs have placed their entire 14th army in action there and that more men are being poured into action in support of an estimated 250,000 already there.

The Japanese are said to have already invaded Australian territory about 800 miles from the mainland, and air attacks have been directed within about 300 miles of Australia itself. The New Britain Island last night was in a state of alarm. Air Minister Arthur S. Drakeford and Army Minister F. M. Rorde issued a joint communique at midnight announcing that after two attacks by 40 Japanese bombing and fighting planes yesterday, the Rabaul garrison sighted a fleet of 11 ships, including warships, off the coast and that 30 minutes later radio communications with the city failed.

The Japanese ships were 30 to 40 miles from Watum Island, which is 15 miles northwest of Rabaul, when sighted by Australian scout planes.

Rabaul, frequent target for Japanese air raiders in the past month, suffered further damage to defense installations in the two attacks yesterday, which came at 9 and 10 a. m. It had been apparent for several days that the Japanese were "softening up" the city for an invasion, and Drakeford had announced that the sea-borne attack probably would come on Wednesday. The withdrawal of women and children from the city was announced yesterday.

Early extension of the Japanese landing operations from New Britain Island to New Guinea, whose important bases are only 400 miles southwest of Rabaul, also was feared. Three Japanese aircraft carriers, supported by other naval vessels, were known to be in the vicinity of New Guinea, Ford disclosed. He said the information came from army air intelligence.

An encouraging report was heard today from the indomitable Dutch whose airmen scored twelve direct hits on eight Jap warships, including a plane carrier and several destroyers.

An encouraging note also came from Bataan where MacArthur and his men were said to have beaten off another Jap attack. But the invaders continued regardless of tremendous losses.

The British are meeting with reverses in Libya and are withdrawing in Burma and in the Malaya Peninsula.

Russia is continuing her drive against Hitler's gang toward Smolensk.

At the Rio de Janeiro conference, Argentina apparently wants to do some more bargaining before breaking with the Axis.

Bookmobile Will Make Fifth Trip

The BHM bookmobile will make its fifth trip in Martin County according to an announced schedule beginning next Monday. Announcing plans for the first trip, the librarian, Miss Elizabeth House, stated that an additional 500 books had been made available for distribution in the county next week. Last month, the bookmobile reported increases in the number of borrowers and books distributed.

The schedule: Monday, January 26: 9:15, C. B. Allen's Service Station; 10:00, Hamilton School; 11:05, In front of Hamilton Bank; 12:45, Gold Point School; 1:35, Jim Johnson's Service Station. Tuesday: 9:30, Hassell School; 10:20, Hassell Post Office; 11:15, Oak City School; 1:05, Wilbur Barrett's Drug Store; 1:45, Smith's Store on Palmyra Road.

Wednesday: 9:00, Williamston High School; 9:45, Everetts School; 10:35, J. S. Ayers Store, Everetts; 11:30, Cross Roads Church; 12:30, Elementary School, Robersonville; 1:45, Robersonville Public Library; 2:05, Robersonville High School; 2:30, Parmele Post Office.

Thursday: 9:00, Williamston Elementary School; 11:00, Farm Life School; 1:15, Corey's Cross Roads; 2:00, Bear Grass School. Friday: 9:30, Jordan's Store, Dardens; 10:25, Browning's Store; 11:00, Ange town by intersection of road; 11:30, Poplar Chapel Church; 12:45, Jamesville School; 2:20, Brown's Store, Jamesville.