

Regular Term Superior Court Began Monday

Judge Stresses Menace of Crime Conditions in the Country

The June term of Martin County superior court, Judge R. A. Nunn, presiding, convened here Monday morning. Of the four terms of our superior court, we have two business terms, March and September. The June term is always regarded as the rush term, and the December term is generally called the rest term.

The court found so little on the criminal docket that it adjourned at 11.30 to give the grand jury time to consider the few bills before it, there being only about half a dozen for their consideration.

The following grand jury was drawn from the hat: J. L. Croom, foreman; Simon Lilley, Stephen E. Manning, Eli Rogerson, W. J. Melson, H. H. Cowan, Gordon G. Bailey, W. J. Litley, J. H. Rogers, W. T. Roberson, Jesse Bailey, J. F. Bailey, Coy J. Roberson, John R. Gardner, D. A. James, J. G. Barnhill, Jr., J. Daniel Biggs.

Judge Nunn did not take up a long time in his charge to the grand jury but stressed the menace of the crime conditions of the day, saying that we appear not to think seriously on the fact that we are killing three times as many people every year in our State by the careless and unlawful handling of automobiles as were killed in the greatest Indian massacre ever staged in our State. Yet the horrors of those massacres have come down to us, even to this day. We don't appear to think so much about a few hundred people being killed by automobiles annually.

The need to bring the unlawful handlers of automobiles to the bar of justice to answer for their unlawful acts was pointed out as one of the duties incumbent upon the grand jury.

The judge quoted the best figures available, which show that there are 10,000 people murdered in the United States every year and less than 100 pay the death penalty. He further stated that according to the State and Federal reports there have been 175,000 unlawful killings in the United States during the past 20 years, and that only 1,500 of them have been executed. About 18,000 of the murderers are now in prison, State or Federal, and 20,000 have died, leaving more than 135,000 murderers now at large in this country, which means that we have 10,000 more murderers in our country than we do soldiers in our standing army.

We have about one hundred times as many murders in this country each year as in England, but they execute about as many as we do. It is, according to the opinion of many who have put much study on the crime condition, the belief that few criminals are caught in their first criminal law violation, but generally go through the same game many times before being detected.

The judge suggested that our jails should not be so fine that men would want to break into them rather than to break out.

Jamesville Juniors Defeat Locals 9-5

The local junior baseball team made up of small boys from around the town lost to the Juniors at Jamesville in an interesting game at Jamesville 9 to 5 last Friday.

The game had its features, Brown starring behind the bat and Gaylord performing well in the box. A return game will be played here tomorrow.

Messrs. R. L. Perry and H. C. Green were court visitors here yesterday.

STRAND THEATRE

WEDNESDAY

Shirley Mason and Johnny Harron in "ROSE OF THE TENEMENTS"

Juvenile Comedy "The Sea Scamps"

And FREE TICKET to See Ken Maynard On Friday Night

Always a Good Show.

License Bureau Has Sold But One-Fifth of Its Tags

2,842 Tags Remain To Be Sold Here, A Number Large Enough To Cause Confusion Later

The figures given out by the local auto license bureau at noon yesterday showed that a few less than one-fifth of the licenses at the agency here had been sold. According to that statement, there remain 2,842 plates, a number large enough to cause confusion and waiting before the first of next month.

In spite of the slow sale, the plates are going faster this year than they did last. As compared with the last year's sales for the same length of time, the tags this year are selling just two and one-quarter times as fast. The ratio, however, should be much greater since the time is limited to one month.

Officials of the bureau stated that the sale to local people was still lagging, and unless business picked up at once, there would be much waiting in line to contend with by auto-tag purchasers.

The bureau, operating under the supervision of the Carolina Motor Club, this year have been empowered to make transfers, thus making it unnecessary for the car owner who has changed autos during the year to apply at Raleigh for his tag. Last year the agencies were authorized to do this, but it was late in July when the order was given. This year the new duty was assigned to the bureau the 15th of this month.

Counter Proposal Is Submitted V. E. & P.

Varies from the One of Power Company's in One or Two Cases

In a special meeting yesterday afternoon at the treasurer's office in the Dixie Warehouse, a counter proposal to the one presented by the Virginia Electric & Power Co. was approved and signed by the mayor, clerk, and commissioners. The counter-proposal was drafted in the main by Mayor Gubern, and was read before the meeting.

The proposal varies in only one or two instances from the one prepared by the power company.

The terms of the power company's proposal provided for the purchase of the distribution system and franchise only. The counter-proposal prepared by the town provides for the sale of certain equipment along with the franchise and at an increased price. One or two other changes were noted, but they were considered of minor importance when it comes to a matter of acceptance or rejection.

The proposal goes to Mr. J. T. Chase, manager of the Carolina Division of the Virginia Electric & Power Company, at Roanoke Rapids, today. It is not known just how long it will require for the proposal to go through the proper channels and find its way back here. The proposal provides for a general vote of the people of the town, and should it be accepted by the power company it will then be put to a vote. Sixty days will be required for this process. Other features of the proposal provide for the taking over of the plant here not later than July 1, 1928.

Wide Speculation As to Ford Models

Mr. Ford is certainly holding to his "dope" relative to the new type of car his company is about to put on the market. But while he is doing that, speculation as to the details of the new car are running wild. According to street talk, we are to see a Ford patterned after a Lincoln, so far as its body is concerned, and propelled by a motor similar to one seen in another make of car. As far as speed is concerned, this car will run around 76 miles an hour and then not have its throttle open. The car has both four and six cylinders, two being carried as "spares," we presume. Anyway, that's a story, with all due respects to the author of the statement.

Bible Study at the Baptist Church

Wednesday night, at 8 o'clock, the Baptist congregation will resume their regular mid-week Bible study. Having had no meetings for two weeks on account of the revival at the Christian church, the pastor is anxious that the people come back in godly numbers to this service; and he asks that they kindly be present on time.

The book studied this week is Luke's Gospel. Renan called it the most beautiful book in the world. While the pastor could wish that those coming would read the entire book, he is especially anxious that the first two chapters be read closely.

Regular Meeting Juniors Thursday

The Junior Order will hold its regular meeting next Thursday night at 8 o'clock in the hall over the Peele Jewelry Store. All members of the order are urged to be present.

Test Fire Siren Tonight at 7:45

The electric siren recently installed by the town as a fire signal will be sounded tonight at 7:45 by Fire Chief Henry D. Harrison. The siren is guaranteed to carry a sound four miles under any conditions, and it is to determine the validity of the guarantee that the siren will be turned on this evening. Firemen will be sent out four miles from town in each direction a few minutes before the time set for the test, and a check will be made by them. Citizens are asked to ignore the alarm.

Committees of Board Named

Committees Will Hear Complaints; Report Findings to Board

At a recent meeting of the board of town commissioners, standing committees for the various town departments were named. These committees will hear complaints and recommendations from the citizens and will, after investigating the matter, take it before the board of commissioners. In this way first-hand information can be given the board by the committees, and much time is saved.

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Tobacco Men of U.S. Meeting in Morehead City

Will Ask for First Week in September as the Opening Date

Messrs. Jim King, W. I. Skinner, and Hubert Morton, of the local tobacco market, left this morning for Morehead City, where they will attend a three-day meeting of the Tobacco Association of the United States. It is the first meeting of the association in this section, and one of the largest in the organization's history is expected. Kentucky, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and other States will send large delegations to the meeting.

The committee on markets will consult the wishes of the local organizations in the various belts in fixing the dates for the openings late in the summer and early in the fall. The Eastern Carolina tobacco men are expected to ask for a date in the first week of September. However, it was suggested at a meeting of the East Carolina tobaccoists at Wilson some few weeks ago that August 29 be mentioned as the opening date. At that time, in August, the Georgia and South Carolina markets will be well underway, it is thought.

A. B. Carrington, president of the association, of Danville, Va., arrived at Morehead City yesterday for the meeting.

Local Church Revival Ends

Baptismal Service Held Last Night in the Christian Church

The meeting at the Christian church closed Sunday night followed with a baptismal service on Monday night.

Dr. A. F. DeGaffery preached Friday night on the subject, "When the Chief of Sinners Was Converted." In his sermon, he pictured Paul going down to Damascus, believing himself to be a devout religious man, but without the knowledge and love of Christ. He then showed Paul when he had learned of the Christ and His love.

On Sunday, "The Mind of the Master" was the subject. That morning the evangelist attempted to show how he Master revealed himself to all those who saw Him, which was the exemplification of His life to man.

The closing sermon Sunday night was based on the subject, "Making Light of Christ and Salvation." The fact that those who have made the most of Christ and salvation have triumphed and rejoiced is proof that it is the way of life, and as further proof those who have failed to improve their talents and their time have met sorrow and condemnation.

Town Automobile Tags Are Selling Slowly

Chief W. B. Daniel stated this morning that if he depended upon receipts for town automobile tags, he would be forced to join the ranks of some charitable institution in order to get meat and bread. In other words, the chief has sold around twenty tags thus far, and he allows that there are around two hundred automobiles in town that are supposed to carry the plates.

Chief Daniel is following the law to a certain extent as laid down by the State regarding the purchase of auto license. The State is giving no extension of time this year, according to license bureau officials; so the chief says that since his tags are so cheap, he will be obliged to follow the same course and grant no extension of time.

Cars Badly Damaged in Wreck Saturday

Two cars, a Buick sedan, owned by Mr. Herbert Hopkins, of near Hamilton, and a Ford coupe, belonging to Will Williams, colored, were badly damaged when they met in a head-on collision near Jamesville Saturday night. The damage to the big car will run over two hundred dollars, it is estimated. No small amount will be required to put the Ford in running shape.

Rod Rodgers, a passenger in the colored car, was hurt, but not seriously. The two cars were pulled into local garages and are now awaiting repairs. It was stated that the driver of the colored car was drunk at the time of the accident.

Martin County to Get \$33,923 From State Equalization Fund

Local Tobacco Men Making Plans for Banner Season

Committee To Appear Before Kiwanis Club Here Tomorrow and Outline Plans For Season

For four hours last Saturday local warehousemen sat and threshed out problems facing the local market this year. Committees were appointed to look into certain matters that will have to do with the successful operation of the market this year. All the tobacco men present were most sincere in stating their faith in the local market this year, saying that the market here had one of the brightest prospects for a banner year it has ever had. They pledged their support in no uncertain terms, and with the cooperation of the citizens of the

town the warehousemen do not hesitate to look forward to the coming season as a bright one.

The business in the main dealt with the management of the warehouse business, such as buying baskets, printing, trucks, and other things used in the operation of a warehouse. However, committees were appointed to look after those details nearest the public. Messrs. W. T. Meadows, Victor Shelburne, and L. H. Barnhill were appointed a committee to appear before the local Kiwanis Club tomorrow and outline the plans for conducting the market this year.

200 Per Cent Increase Over Amount Given Last Year

The State Board of Equalization has completed the allotment of the \$3,500,000 special school fund. The first congressional district gets \$284,492.03, an increase of \$142,594.58 over last year, when the district got \$141,897.45; making our quota just twice as much as last year, with \$697.13 to spare.

Only two counties in the State received less this year than last, Camden and Dare. Beaufort County gets the largest increase. Last year they received \$5,660.58; this year they were given \$53,087.73, a net increase of \$46,289.08, or 680 per cent, which is about one third of the entire gain for the 14 counties of the first district.

Martin County receives this year \$33,923.43, as against \$11,627.00 last year, a net increase of \$22,296.43, which is an increase of nearly 200 per cent.

All of the counties in the district draw from the equalization fund this year, but neither Pasquotank nor Pitt received anything last year. This year Pasquotank draws \$4,083.51, and Pitt \$5,178.06.

Revaluation Figures

The revaluation of property listed for taxes in the various counties, as reported by the same board, resulted in the lowering of the total taxable property in five counties of the first congressional district, as follows: Beaufort, \$2,169,633; Chowan, \$25,389; Currituck, \$132,546; Gates, \$6,839; and Hyde, \$488,713; a total reduction of \$2,903,114. The other nine counties of the district showed an increase of \$9,423,072.

The increase in our own county was from \$16,029,910 last year to \$17,685,897 this year, a net gain of \$1,655,987. While the additional \$22,000 over last year coming to our county from the State equalization fund looks pretty good, it does not amount to so much when we consider the fact that our valuation has been increased by \$1,600,000, which, in effect, will mean that Martin County will have to pay more than half of the additional \$22,000 which we will receive from the equalization fund; and means a gain of only ten or twelve thousand dollars.

On the other hand, take our sister county of Beaufort, which gets an increase from the equalization fund of \$46,000; and a reduction of taxable property of more than two million dollars. This will have the effect, in the long run, of increasing Beaufort County's quota to around \$70,000.

Fourteen counties in the State lost in valuation; two remained the same, and eighty-four were increased; the net gain for the State being \$196,012,163.

Only two counties lost as much as \$2,000,000 each, Beaufort and Burke. Johnston County gained more in tax value than any other county in the State. Robeson County, which is Governor McLean's home county, will receive the largest sum from the equalization fund.

Runs Into Rear of Ford Roadster

Fernando Bland wrecked his Ford touring car and knocked the rear wheel off a Ford roadster belonging to a man from Greenville last Sunday afternoon when he ran his car into the other one at a point just this side of the bridge across Beaver Dam Swamp, on highway No. 90, between here and Everetts. Mr. Bland's wife and child were hurt in the accident, but not seriously. They were carried to Robersonville where their wounds were dressed.

Just how the accident happened no one could learn, for Bland was insistent when he stated it was no one's business. It was stated, however, that Bland was apparently drunk when he ran his car into the roadster. Sheriff Roebuck was called, and he went to Robersonville but found that Bland had stopped off in Everetts while Mrs. Bland and the child went on to Robersonville. When the sheriff returned to Everetts, Bland had left, but papers have been issued and he will be called before Judge Bailey here next Tuesday.

Rev. Louis Mayo Holds Services at Everetts

Rev. Louis A. Mayo is preaching each night this week at the Everetts Christian church. He will probably continue to hold services through all of next week. Rev. Mr. Mayo was pastor of the church at Everetts several years ago, and while there he gained many friends who welcome the opportunity to hear him again.

Representative Of The Organization Gives Its History

About 75 cotton farmers met Mr. M. G. Mann at the city hall Monday, where they received final payment for their cotton in the short-term pool of 1926.

Mr. Mann, who was formerly vice president of the First National Bank, of Tarboro, which position he resigned to take charge of the field service department of the North Carolina Cotton Growers Association, with headquarters at Raleigh, gave the farmers something of the history and working methods of the association.

In the first year's operation, money was hard to borrow and storage and insurance was high, and for that year each bale pooled cost \$8.00. This year the cost has been reduced to \$4.30 per bale, which includes the salary of all employees, storage, insurance, stationery, rent, and all other expense of every kind and nature.

One of the greatest advantages which the cotton association has made possible for the farmer is the better grading. Five years ago the only grading considered was by color. The association has procured staple-grading, which has placed 43 per cent of the cotton produced above the standard 7-8 middling basis. This alone has brought the association farmers \$228,290 more than they would have received under the old system of grading, where the length of the staple was not considered.

The association has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in what is usually classed as "country damage," which in former years ran very high. Mr. Mann says that during last season they had only one case of "country damage," which was charged to the member shipping.

The association has established a credit which enables it to procure loans at the minimum rate of interest.

A farmer now can sell his cotton through the growers' association for less expense than he can through a commission merchant. He can also have the assurance that he gets the advantage of expert grading, which is recognized on every market in the world.

Small Child Dies In Rocky Mount Hospital

The little eighteen months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Al Latham of near Plymouth died Saturday morning in the Rocky Mount Sanatorium where it was taken following an acute attack of colitis.

Funeral services were held from the home of its parents Sunday afternoon with the Christian and Methodist ministers of Plymouth officiating. A large crowd of friends assembled at the services to express sympathy to the young parents, this being their only child.

Mrs. Latham is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Roberson of this county and has many relatives here.

Leaguers to Have Picnic Thursday

The Senior Epworth League of the Methodist Church will have a picnic next Thursday afternoon at 5.30 at Riverside Park. The members of the league are requested to prepare a basket.