

## PROCEEDINGS IN MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

### Court Adjourns Wednesday Afternoon; Heard No Civil Cases

The Martin County Superior Court had a busy day last Wednesday, turning out the cases in rapid order and at the same time handling the murder charge preferred against Harvey L. Gardner.

The case charging Hubert Clark with embezzlement was continued for the state.

A nol pros with leave resulted in the case charging Leland Roberson and John E. Wells with arson. This case developed more than a year ago when several buildings were burned at Ray's Camp on Gardner's Creek, near Jamesville.

A nol pros resulted in the case charging Closs Roberson with larceny and receiving.

Perrell Keel was given a six-month suspended sentence in the case charging him with larceny and receiving.

The case charging Bryant Hill with an assault with a deadly weapon and the one charging Jim Davis with larceny and receiving were not prosed.

Roy Lanier was sentenced to the roads for a period of 65 days for entering a house in the night time.

A nol pros resulted in the case charging John Hassell, colored, with false pretense.

Coy Bland and Dennis Whitaker, pleading guilty of entering and larceny here several weeks ago, were sentenced to the roads for a period of four months.

For the alleged theft of tobacco in Cross Roads Township, Whitaker was sentenced to the roads for a period of fourteen months, the sentence to begin at the expiration of the first. Clarence Wynn was found not guilty in the case and E. L. Williams was sentenced to the roads for a period of nine months.

Pleading guilty of larceny and receiving, Theodore Lawson was sentenced to the roads for a period of 18 months.

Joe Wheeler James was sentenced to the roads for nine months on a house-breaking and larceny charge.

Charged with entering and stealing, Charles Ben McKeel was sentenced to the roads for four months, and Elder Lee Gardner was given a six-months suspended road sentence.

## CAROL PROGRAM AT SCHOOL HERE

### Collection of Gifts Will Be Given To Needy Next Tuesday Morning

The local high school will stage a program in keeping with the Christmas season next Tuesday morning at 8:40 o'clock when a collection of gifts will be turned over to the Woman's Club welfare committee for distribution among the poor.

Under the direction of Miss Bessie Willis, the juniors are staging a play at that time patterned after Dickens' Christmas Carol. The following will take part: Scrooge, Walter Cook; Bob Cratchett, Wheeler Martin, jr.; Mrs. Bob Cratchett, Lavinia Lilly; the Cratchit children, Maynard Mobley, Shelburne Hall, Hazel Martin, Katherine Harrison; nephew of Scrooge, Raymond Matthews; and Tiny Tim, Peter Julian Raynor.

The Christmas carol is regarded as the most popular Christmas story outside of the Bible, and well sets forth the joy one gets by serving others. Old Scrooge looked upon Tiny Tim with contempt and without a thought for the poor, but after the old miser becomes acquainted with the cripple he saw life in a broader way and was made happy.

Last Wednesday was potato day in the school. Yesterday was canned-goods day. Miscellaneous articles are being collected today, and next Tuesday a round-up of the gifts will be made in connection with the enacted story.

## Baptist Sunday School To Help Community Needy

"Each Member of the Sunday School Bringing Some Food Article for Distribution to the Needy During Christmas Week" is the slogan at the Baptist Sunday school Sunday morning.

In this way the church is trying to teach the children the great lesson of sharing with others. And it is expected that a sizeable amount of eatables will be brought into the church at this service. A committee will then be appointed, charged with the task of properly distributing the same during the immediate days before Christmas.

The pastor will preach Sunday morning and again Sunday evening following the sessions of the B. Y. P. U.

## Santa Disappoints Many; Is To Arrive Tomorrow by Air

There might be a Santa Claus next week despite the depression, but there was no Santa Claus here last Monday or Tuesday as scheduled. Advertised to visit here last Monday in his airplane, the jolly old gentleman from the north just failed to arrive, the landing field being too wet for a safe landing. And there was much disappointment among the kiddies and a few grown-ups, too. Many children searched the skies Monday until dark hoping to glimpse the universally loved man winging his way to earth here. But he did not come that day, and when Tuesday was spent, the little tots gave up in despair.

His failure to arrive has not disheartened the children one bit, for they are betting big on a visit next Christmas Eve, but Santa will hardly be in an airplane. He'll probably be on foot in most cases. Finishing their work for the day the Macedonia school children commandeered Mr. J. L. Holliday and his truck and came here to meet the plane and see Santa in person. Imagine their disappointment when he failed to see him. Santa Claus, scheduled to visit here last Monday but failed to show up on account of the weather, is expected to land at the Skewarkey field tomorrow morning.

## Gardner Given 7 To 12 Years for Killing

### LICENSE SALE

The sale of 1933 State automobile license tags was off to a fair start here yesterday when 15 pairs of the plates were sold by the bureau located in the office of the Williamston Motor Company on Washington Street.

Griffins Township, usually taking the first of the series, was not represented in the sale. Nearly half of the sales were made to automobile owners residing in near by or adjoining counties, two sets going to owners as far away as Murfreesboro.

## TWO MEN HURT IN AUTO WRECK

### Roxobel Man Removed To Washington Hospital This Morning

S. Russell Lane, attorney, and L. P. Peel, both of Roxobel, were badly hurt in an automobile wreck near here on the Washington Road early today. The extent of the young men's injuries could not be determined shortly after the accident, but it was feared that Peel was seriously hurt. Lane was badly cut about the face.

Traveling toward Washington, Peel the driver, apparently went to sleep at the wheel. The car ran off the road and into a tree, near the home of Mr. H. C. Green. Every glass in the Chevrolet car was broken and the front end of the machine was smashed.

An ambulance was called and arrangements were made to carry Peel to a hospital.

The wreck was the third one reported on the particular road this week, two cars having been wrecked near Washington yesterday, and another wrecked near Skewarkey Tuesday evening.

## PLANNING WAR AGAINST RATS

### Orders for Poison Will Be Handled Cooperatively, Home Agent Says

Mr. A. E. Oman, connected with the United States Biological Survey, was in the county Wednesday morning of this week to determine the amount of interest in "rat extermination" in the county. Many women in the county have asked the home agent to secure such help from Raleigh. Every one knows the rat is the most destructive rodent in the world. Rats destroy produce worth several millions of dollars each year and owing to the rapid increase an epidemic of rats can be realized in a short time.

It has been estimated that a pair of rats could, in three years, produce 359,709,480 individuals. Keeping this in mind, peanuts, corn, and other grains in storage become products of the destructive rats and money wasted. Invite the rats on your place to a dinner of fish, grain, and meat, in which amounts of red squill have been added, which will kill rats. The bait is 50 cents, given any one at cost, and will be ordered for any one interested in destroying rats. If interested, place your order with the home agent that a combined order may be sent in directly.

## Usual Presbyterian Services In The County Sunday

The usual Presbyterian services will be conducted here, at Bear Grass and at Roberson's Chapel Sunday, it was announced today by the Rev. Mr. Piephoff.

## REPORTS MADE BY ONLY 3 OF TEN TOWNSHIPS

### Canvassers Are Said To Be Still at Work In The County This Week

Early reports encouraging to the perfecting of a marketing arrangement for the present peanut crop met with disappointment last Tuesday afternoon when only three townships reported any canvassing activities. But the time to say die is not now, as it is understood that the canvassers named at a meeting held Thursday of last week are still at work in their respective territories and a county-wide report is expected within the next few days.

Only three townships reported any activities at the scheduled meeting last Tuesday afternoon. The committees in the seven other districts just failed. No county chairman was named, and while the undertaking is on the edge of failure, there is still hope for a constructive organization. When the canvassing is completed, it is understood a county chairman will be selected and contact made with other units through out the peanut-growing area.

One hundred and thirty farmers in Griffins, Williams, and Williamston Township favored the agreement, pledging 25,561 bags of the goobers. The canvassers said they found it almost impossible to visit every farmer, but they were of the firm opinion that the agreement would meet with almost a 100 per cent success in their respective districts. A few of those agreeing to hold their peanuts off the market, refused to sanction the proposed selling arrangement; that is, through the central committee. A few favored the agreement from end to end, but refused to offer one out of every 100 bags to offset the expenses of the marketing plan.

Despite the starvation price offered at the present time, one or two farmers said they would not decrease their peanut acreage next year. A goodly number said they had their next year's crop, meaning they would not sell unless the price falls to advance, then they will not raise a crop next season. Many farmers stated they planned to reduce their acreage 50 per cent next year.

Of the 130 farmers filling in the information blanks, 60 were in Griffins Township, representing 7,844 bags; 29 were in Williamston Township, representing 8,865 bags; and 41 were in Williams Township, representing 8,851 bags.

## Announce Sermon Topics at the Church of Advent

Sunday morning in the Church of the Advent, Rev. E. F. Moseley will have for his sermon topic, "The Choice of Second Place," it was announced this morning by the rector. At the 7:30 evening hour, he will preach on the subject, "Does the Prince of Peace Have a Principality?" The public is invited to hear him.

## Minor Wreck on Main Street Here Wednesday

The front end of D. Gray's Chevrolet sedan was smashed when he bumped into the rear of a large truck on Main Street here late Wednesday evening. The truck stopped when a car was backed from its parking place into the street. The Chevrolet driver was unable to stop in time to avoid hitting the truck. No one was hurt.

## SANTA CLAUS IS GETTING PLENTY MAIL THIS YEAR

### No Depression When Time Comes To Call On Ole Santa Claus

There's no depression when it comes to calling on Santa Claus, judging from a few letters addressed to the jolly old man with the great big stomach by little boys and girls in the primary grades of the local school. However, there is a marked feeling expressed for their fellow chums, including all the less fortunate tots.

The letters for a cross-section of the wishes of the children in the first and second grades. Some of the children appeal to old Santa by referring to their unusually good conduct; others just take the visit from him as a matter of course. The letters are self-explanatory:

Dear Santa Claus: I am a little girl seven years old. I have been good. Please bring me a rubber doll and a crib. Come to see the poor children, too. Thank you. Love, MARY WEAVER.

Dear Santa Claus: I am a little girl seven years old. I am in the second grade. My birthday was December 5. Please bring me a doll carriage and a Patsy Ann doll. Thank you. Love, PATSY KING. P. S.—I live in Williamston, N. C., on Main Street.

Dear Santa Claus: I want an air rifle, oranges, apples, raisins, and a ball. Good-by, WILLIAM GARDNER.

Dear Santa Claus: I went out to the air field yesterday to see you, but you were not there. I guess the weather was too bad. I surely hope you will get here Christmas Eve and please bring all the other little girls and boys some things. Please bring me a pair of skates and a doll. Dear Santa, please remember all the little children everywhere. Love, Thank you, EVELYN GRIFFIN.

Dear Santa Claus: I went to the air field yesterday, but you were not there. I am sorry you did not come. I hope you can come Christmas night. Please fill the poor children's stockings well. Please bring me a bicycle and a leather coat and some fruit. Thank you. Love, DOROTHY WATSON.

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a police outfit and a pool table. I gave some of my toys to poor children. CONRAD GETSINGER.

Dear Santa Claus: I am a good boy in school. Bring me a drum and an automobile. MARSHALL ANGE.

Dear Santa: I looked for you yesterday. Please come, for I want to see you. Bring me a dolly in a trunk. I love you, DELLA JANE MOBLEY.

Dear Santa Claus: A dump truck. Confectioneries. JOHNNIE WHITAKER.

Dear Santa Claus: I have been good this year. Please bring me a doll, a carriage, and some confectioneries. I thank you, DAISY MANNING.

Dear Santa Claus: I want you to bring me a doll, some blocks, oranges, apples, and raisins, and a tea set. Good-bye, LILLIE MAE.

Dear Santa Claus: I want an apples, orange, some raisins, English walnuts, and negro toes. One box of pop-crackers, and a ball. I love you. CLARANCE PATE.

## Beaman Starts Habeas Corpus Proceedings

Habeas corpus proceedings were started this week by Thomas E. Beaman, United States commissioner held in jail here for the alleged acceptance of bribes, in an effort to have his bond of \$5,000 lowered. Federal Judge I. M. Meekins, now in Greensboro, is expected here next Monday, and will consider the case at that time, it was learned here today.

## Peanut Holding Movement Is On Verge of Failing in County

### WILL MAKE NO ADDITIONS TO PENSION LIST

### Might Not Send Checks to Widows and Veterans Before Christmas

That there will be no increases in pensions allowed widows of Confederate soldiers or no new applications considerations within the next sixty days was made certain in a letter from State Auditor Baxter Durham to Clerk of the Court R. J. Peel here yesterday. And there was some doubt as to whether the regular pensions will be paid at this time.

Mr. Durham's letter, addressed to Mr. Peel, follows: "You filed in this office certain applications for increase in widows' pensions and others for the pension roll. I regret more than I can say that there is not sufficient money in the appropriation to allow for any additions to the roll."

"I hope that within 60 days we will be able to pay the applications from your county now before us. I understand what a severe disappointment this will be to the applicants, and I regret the circumstances that make this letter necessary."

Heretofore, pension checks were received by the court clerk here by or before this time of the month, and distribution was completed before Christmas. It is hoped, however, that the checks will reach here within the next day or two, and that the increases and additions will be approved within 60 days.

Several new applications have been made since the last payment six months ago, the applicants being in dire need of assistance.

## GROWERS AND CLEANERS MEET

### Advised Against Rushing Peanuts To Market At This Time

Peanut growers carrying their grievances to the door of the cleaners in Suffolk this week were urged to check the indiscriminate rushing of peanuts on the market and advised them to inaugurate a curtailment program calling for a 40 per cent reduction in acreage next year. It is the opinion of many—that the orderly marketing of the peanut crop and an expected acreage reduction next year will strengthen the market.

Peanut sections are pleading with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to purchase more than a million bags of the goobers and distribute them among the hungry just as the Red Cross is distributing flour and clothing at the present time. There is little hope for the government entering into the peanut market, and the main hope rests in the formation and maintenance of a selling agreement assuring the orderly marketing of the peanut crop, and a reduced acreage next season.

## Announce Schedule of Curb Market Operations

The curb market will be open here Saturday morning of this week, and Thursday morning of next week preceding Christmas, and Thursday morning of the following week preceding New Year's Day. It is hoped the patrons will keep the dates in mind. Holly, mistletoe and trees can be secured through the market. All sellers appreciate the patronage of those who have in any way helped to make our little market grow this year. Order your turkey at the market here Saturday. A few prices follow:

Eggs, 33 cents; butter 25 cents; turkeys, 3 cents a bunch; potatoes, 1 cent a pound, Irish and sweet; meal, 1 cent a pound; cream, 25 cents.

## Masons Elect Officers For the Coming Year

Members of Skewarkey Lodge, No. 90, A. F. & A. M., elected new officers for the ensuing year at their regular meeting Tuesday night, as follows: Milton J. Moye, master; J. C. Anderson, senior warden; V. J. Spivey, junior warden; W. R. Watson, secretary; R. J. Peel, treasurer; and Irving M. Margolis, assistant to the secretary. The new officers will be installed at the next regular meeting of the lodge, Tuesday night, December 27, at 8 o'clock, at which time the retiring and incoming officers will provide light refreshments for those who attend. Milton J. Moye, the new master, is expected to announce the names of the appointive officers within the next few days.

### 7 MORE DAYS

It is too late to shop early, and there are only seven more days to shop at all before Christmas. The longer one waits now, the more doubtful it will be for one to complete the task and have the gifts in the hands of the receivers before Christmas day.

Postal authorities state there will be no deliveries at all on Christmas Day or the day following, meaning that packages destined for delivery through the mails must be mailed within the next day or two.

Local merchants are receiving additional goods daily for the late shoppers, and you are invited to visit them. Beginning next week the stores here will remain open evenings, giving an added opportunity to shoppers to carry on their shopping.

## LONGEST RAINY SPELL BROKEN

### Promise of Snow In This Section Today Or Tomorrow

This section experienced its longest rainy spell this week than for months, old J. Pluvius pouring forth five days and nights, beginning last Saturday. But despite the frequent rains, no great amount of water fell during the period, according to Hugh Spruill, official measurer at the river, who reported two and eight-tenths inches from Saturday up to Wednesday night.

The rains had little effect upon the streams in the section, but they soaked the earth, making many roads almost impassable in various parts of the county. The roads are said to be in the worst condition now than at any time since the State took them over, but no serious traffic handicap has resulted. At least superior court followers were not handicapped very much, for they turned out in large numbers from all parts of the county while the tribunal was in session.

The skies cleared up yesterday morning, but rain or snow was predicted for today.

## Local Kiwanis Club Elects New Officers for Next Year

The Kiwanis Club elected the following officers for the year 1933 at their meeting here Wednesday, George H. Harrison, president; Frank J. Margolis, vice president; and Cortez Green, secretary-treasurer.

Mr. N. G. Bartlett, secretary of the East Carolina Chamber of Commerce, was present and explained the object of his organization's efforts in perfecting a holding movement among peanut growers of this section. Mr. Bartlett had just returned from a meeting with a group of Suffolk, Va., cleaners, who assured him that better prices for peanuts would be obtained if the farmers could be persuaded to stop rushing the commodity to market faster than the cleaners could take care of them.

The Kiwanis Club passed a resolution asking the Congress of the United States to purchase a substantial quantity of peanuts for distribution by relief agencies throughout the country in the same manner as government-owned wheat was converted into flour and distributed by the Red Cross. The price suggested was two cents a pound. This resolution will be forwarded to Congressman Lindsay C. Warren and Senators J. W. Bailey and R. R. Reynolds.

## R. G. Sexton Is Champion Hog Raiser in Jamesville

Dry weather might have wrought havoc with the crops in Jamesville Township this past season, but the section still has its champion hog-raisers. Mr. R. G. Sexton recently killed four one-year-old pigs weighing 1,397 pounds, an average weight of 349 pounds. He also killed a 2-year-old hog that weighed 646 pounds net. The loss in dressing was only 64 pounds, a very low percentage of loss.

## Sunday Services At The Jamesville Baptist Church

Rev. W. B. Harrington will conduct the regular preaching services in the Jamesville Baptist church Sunday at the usual hours, 11 in the morning and 7 o'clock in the evening. These two services will be the last held in the church there this year, and the pastor is anxious to have large congregations attend.

## JURY FINDS AGED MAN GUILTY OF KILLING HIS SON

### Calmly Hears Verdict and Registered No Complaint About the Sentence

Harvey L. Gardner, aged farmer living near here, was sentenced by Judge Frank A. Daniels in superior court here Wednesday afternoon to serve from 7 to 12 years in prison for killing his son, Willie Gardner, several days ago. Taking the case, the jury is understood to have immediately agreed upon a verdict, finding the old man guilty of manslaughter, but the decision was not announced until after a discussion that lasted for about 35 minutes.

The defendant calmly accepted the verdict and registered no complaint against the sentence. He was removed from the county jail yesterday and turned over to State prison authorities in Raleigh. The defendant will likely be transferred to the State farm at Caledonia, where he will have an opportunity to continue farming. Good behavior on his part will lessen his sentence by one-third, giving him a minimum sentence of four and two-thirds years, unless a parole or pardon is granted him.

Believed to have figured in more unnecessary trouble than any other man in the county, the defendant received this week his first sentence of any length. His activities were reviewed at length by Prosecutor Gilliam in his talk to the jury, but he only touched the high spots. Defense Attorney H. G. Horton, preached his argument before the jurors, finding little foundation in the evidence or the old man's record upon which to base a substantial plea for acquittal.

Octavius Gardner, 11-year-old son of the late Willie Gardner, was one of the main witnesses in the case, and despite his tender age he made a good witness.

Following the Gardner trial, the court heard one or two other criminal cases and continued the few civil issues scheduled for trial yesterday and today. The court adjourned late that afternoon.

## TWO HURT WHEN CAR TURNS OVER

### J. W. Garris and M. W. Rea Are Recovering from Wreck Injuries

J. W. Garris and M. W. Rea, of the Virginia Electric and Power Co. maintenance department, were painfully but not seriously hurt in an automobile accident at Skewarkey, near here, early last Tuesday evening. Both young men were hurt about the back, one receiving a bad cut on the elbow in addition to the injury to his back.

Driving a new Chevrolet roadster, the boys attempted to make the curve too rapidly, causing the machine to slide on the wet pavement and turn over. The car body was wrecked and some damage was done to the working parts, it was stated.

Both young men were forced to their beds and are said to be getting along very well at this time.

## Gift Day at the Everetts School Next Monday

Next Monday has been designated as gift day at the Everetts school. On that day the school children will bring contributions of food and clothing which will be distributed among the needy people of Cross Roads Township. On the same night at 7:30, a Christmas program will be presented in the school auditorium. Patrons and friends of the school who do not contribute through the school children are asked to bring whatever they wish to contribute to the cause of the needy at that time.

Monday evening's program will consist of several short plays, a Christmas pageant, and the singing of the Christmas carols by the high school glee club.

## Bethel Defeats Jamesville Basketball Team 15 to 13

The Bethel High School boys met the Jamesville boys for their first basketball game of the season Friday night at 8 o'clock on the Robersonville town court. A large crowd witnessed the game, which was hard fought and very exciting. The score at the end of the game was 15-13 in Bethel's favor.