

## Two-Weeks Term Superior Court Gets Under Way Here Yesterday

### Colored Man Serves As Jurymen for First Time in Many Years

### Criminal Docket Completed At Noon Today; Start Cases Tomorrow

The Martin County Superior Court opening a two-weeks term here yesterday for the trial of both criminal and civil cases, attracted about as little attention from the general public as any term held here in recent years. The absence of mere curiosity seekers was noted, but the litigants, witnesses and lawyers almost filled the court auditorium. No sensational cases were on the docket, and what few there were attracted only passing attention from the fast-traveling world outside.

Two unusual features marked the opening of the court, but they were handled as routine matters, and the court was soon at work after a prompt opening. A shortage of jurymen was barely avoided when juror after juror pleaded with Judge Cranmer for his dismissal. Mr. George R. Roberson explained that his 81 years of age would make jury service difficult for him, and Judge Cranmer willingly excused him, advising the old man to return to his home in the Robersonville community and rest. Another and another juror asked to be excused, and on down the line the judge granted the requests, even excusing Mr. E. L. Ward who explained that he traveled a regular route for the Harrison Wholesale Company. When a count was made, there was enough material left for the grand jury and five to spare for the trial jury. Tales jurymen were quickly summoned, and the court work continued.

W. Sam Faulk, the first colored citizen summoned for jury service in this county in more than a generation, reported for duty dressed in his best. Excuses for dismissal were just about all used by others, and Faulk did not ask to get off as it was said he had planned to do. He was selected for service on the grand jury, and made them a good man, it is understood.

Following the fairly lengthy charge of Judge E. H. Cranmer, who comes here from Southport, the court started the wheels of justice to turning. Fernando Williams, Jamesville white man, drew six months in the case charging him with driving an automobile while intoxicated. Williams maintained a plea of not guilty, but his plea was overruled, and the sentence was two months greater than the one imposed by Judge H. O. Peel in the county court a few weeks ago.

Lester Whitaker, charged with drunken driving, pleaded guilty and drew a six months sentence on the roads. In a second case charging larceny and receiving, Whitaker pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for 12 months, the term to begin at the expiration of the first.

Chester Terry was found guilty by jury of larceny and receiving, and Judge Cranmer sentenced him to the roads for 15 months, pleas of Whitaker's counsel for leniency carrying little weight.

The high spot in the first-day proceedings probably was the case charging Willie Land with fleeing James Worsley, aged colored man, out of about \$263. Land pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the state prison for a period of three years. Other members of the flim-flamming gang have not been arrested, but a wide search is being conducted for them, reports from the sheriff's office state. Worsley was a willing witness in the case, but he is understood to have recovered very little of his money.

The judge explained in his charge that there were still prohibition laws, and when the first liquor case—that of Annie Bellamy—was called, a 12-months jail sentence was imposed, the sentence being suspended upon good behavior.

A second liquor case, charging Norman Jones with violation of the prohibition laws, was continued until the December term.

The case charging Jesse Keel with the removal of a landmark was continued pending a complete survey of certain land to determine if an old stump, removed by Mr. Keel, really was one of the line markers.

James Bordon Stanley, young white man, charged with attempting to break into the P. P. Peel store was sentenced to the roads for three months.

Geo. Ruffin, the young colored

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## Over 1,000 County Farmers Have Signed Leaf Contracts

The proposed four-year program for tobacco production control was given a stamp of approval last week in this county, when well over 1,000 farmers, or more than 85 per cent of the growers signed the new contracts. One or two districts reported more than 90 per cent of the eligible farmers signed, the others stating that no great opposition had been expressed, that the farmers were just slow to act. Hamilton was believed to be leading in the campaign, preliminary check of the activities made yesterday revealed. Williamston was reported lagging in the movement, many farmers just putting off until tomorrow what

they could do today, it was explained.

All contracts have been returned to the county courthouse where the sign-up will be continued. Present indications point to a sign-up of well over 95 per cent, some believing the percentage will be even greater than that figure.

No time limit for completing the contracts has been announced, but it is certain the campaign will be closed within the next few days, and those farmers who have not signed and desire to cooperate in the program are asked to call at the courthouse at their earliest convenience to give the matter their consideration.

## Ideals Back of Laws Stressed by Cranmer

### MAURICE WATTS DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS MONDAY

### Descendant of Family Long Prominent in Affairs of Martin County

Maurice D. Watts, well known local citizen and World War veteran, died at his home on Haughton Street here shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday morning, following a long illness. He had experienced ill health for several years, but was fairly active most of the time until just a few weeks ago, when his condition grew worse and he entered a hospital for treatment. Since that time he has been confined to his bed, but was conscious up until a very short while before his death.

About two years ago Mr. Watts resigned his position with the postal department on account of failing health and underwent special treatment in a government hospital at Hines, Illinois. He was there several weeks on two occasions, and while his condition improved, he never regained his health.

The son of the late J. Wig Watts and wife, Ophelia Hardison Watts, he was born here forty years ago, spending all his life here except for short periods when he attended school and had employment in West Virginia. When a young man he married in West Virginia, and Mrs. Watts, with two daughters, Misses Jean and Julia Watts, survives. He also leaves two brothers, Messrs. W. B. and J. W. Watts, of this place, and one sister, Mrs. Robert Heydenreich, of Alexandria, Va.

Mr. Watts, popular with both the young and old, interested himself in the religious and civic activities of the community, freely offering his services in the promotion of both. He found pleasure in befriending his fellowman, and during the past several years gave much of his time in the religious program of the Presbyterian church here and at other points in the county. He found peace in his flower gardens, where plants and flowers of much beauty were cultivated and cheerfully distributed to the churches and to the homes of friends. While he joked about life, he found peace and comfort during his last days through the association with his Maker.

Funeral services are being conducted from the home this afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, pastor of the Presbyterian church, assisted by Rev. Charles H. Dickey, former local Baptist minister. Interment will follow in the family plot in the local cemetery.

Sales on the local tobacco market continue heavy, the offerings yesterday sending the poundage well over the two and one-half million mark, and to lead the sales of last season up to the same time. The 2,555,848 pounds sold for \$467,187.12, a resulting average of \$18.28 for the season to date.

Yesterday the sales totaled 235,198 pounds and brought

### Also Defines Anew Meaning of Initials "A. B. C." in Address

### Outlines Principles Underlying the Constitution Or Bill of Rights

Addressing the Martin County grand jury at the opening of a two-weeks term of superior court Monday, Judge E. H. Cranmer, highly esteemed jurist from Southport, stressed the ideals of mankind behind the laws rather than dealing directly with the laws themselves. It was an able charge, and one that unhesitatingly held high to principles upon which our constitution and laws are founded.

The jurist explained that all laws rest on three principles, "Live honestly," "hurt nobody," and "render every man his dues"; that happiness comes from within and not from without. He dealt with the provisions of the state constitution, and explained that he was glad the bill of rights had not been changed with each new moon. The constitution foundation rests on God, and the state or nation trying to live without God will die. Without religion, Rome fell and other civilizations passed out of existence, and the same will prove true with other nations and states, he declared. The security of a state or nation does not rest with the army, navy, or officers of the law, the judge explaining that it rests in the home, where the children are taught honesty and virtue, and it is the duty of the grand jury to protect that home.

One can well wonder why the children of today are not worse than they are, judging from the example set for them by their parents, the judge continued, advising parents to train the child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

He pointed out the equal rights of man under the constitution, explaining that it provided liberty, enjoyment of the fruits of one's own labor and the pursuit of happiness. All men are equal before the law, and when laws are not strong enough to protect the humblest, it cannot protect the strongest. There is only one right way to administer justice to all, and when more than one way is employed, a civilization cannot exist.

He pointed out that feature of the constitution guaranteeing the right of every one to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and referred to the duty of

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## YOUNG GIRL DIES FROM INJURIES IN AUTO ACCIDENT

### Several Others Hurt, One Seriously, Near Here Friday Night

The second fatal accident on the highways of this county so far this year was reported just to the west of here early last Friday evening when two cars crashed in a head-on collision, fatally injuring Miss Donnie Mae Tetterton and injuring several others, one seriously. Miss Tetterton, her skull fractured and face badly cut, died in a Washington hospital shortly before noon the following morning without regaining consciousness. Fon Coffield, well-known negro of Robersonville, his throat punctured by a steering wheel rod and hurt internally, is not expected to live. He was reported to be getting along as well as could be expected this morning, however. C. B. Hardison, driver of one of the cars, had his knee cap shattered, and Raymond Heath suffered a bad cut on the neck and a possible fracture of the skull, but they are expected to recover. Miss Annie Marriner, young white girl, and a fourth party in the Hardison car, was not badly hurt.

Several versions of the wreck have been given here, but no definite facts have been established. It was first reported that Coffield, driving a new Terraplane, was going out of Williamston and met the Hardison car, an old model Ford coupe, carrying the two boys and girls.

Later reports state that Coffield was coming into Williamston and attempted to pass a car and small trailer attached. Unable to pass the car, Coffield is believed to have attempted to slow down and get back on his side of the road. His car struck the trailer but Coffield was unable to pull his car back to his side of the road, it was said. The cars struck just to the left of each radiator middle, throwing Miss Tetterton through the Ford windshield and into the windshield of the Coffield car. The left wheels and running gear on both cars were twisted under the engines.

Patrolman Hunt was going out of town, and riding just behind the Hardison car. He is said to have run off the road to miss the wreck. He did not know whether Hardison was going out or coming into town, stating that the lights on the car made it difficult for him to see.

John Roebuck, driving toward Everetts, said he was crowded off the road in front of the Edgewood dairy by a new car which he thought was that of Coffield. A few seconds later he heard the crash, explaining that Coffield was driving rapidly when he met him and was forced off the road.

Health and Roberson, young men of Williams Township, are in a Washington hospital where they are expected to recover.

Funeral services were held for Miss Tetterton, 17 years old, at the Weede Cemetery, near Plymouth, in Washington County, Sunday afternoon by Rev. Mr. Taylor, Plymouth minister. Miss Tetterton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Tetterton, of near Edenton, was visiting Miss Marriner near here. Besides her parents, she leaves one brother, Woodson Tetterton. The family moved from near here to Chowan County about two years ago, and are natives of Washington County.

Officers stated this morning that a charge of manslaughter would likely be brought against Coffield if he lives.

The other highway fatality in the county this year was in sight of the Friday night wreck, Henry Purvis, colored man, having been killed by a hit and run driver a short distance this side of the railroad underpass several months ago.

Mrs. T. Marvin Britton has returned home after undergoing a tonsil operation in Durham and visiting relatives in Chapel Hill.

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## Increased Enrollment at County Schools Monday

### First Tobacco Rental Checks To Be Distributed This Week

The first of the 1935 tobacco rental checks will be delivered this week, Tom Brandon's secretary, Miss Mary Cerstarphen, announcing that 635 checks, amounting to \$16,056.79, would be placed in the hands of the farmers just as soon as necessary arrangements for the distribution could be completed.

Cards are being prepared and will be placed in the mails about Wednesday, advising the owners to call for the checks. Farmers are especially requested not to call for their checks until they receive a card directly from the agent's office.

Several hundred more checks are

due farmers in this county, but they have not been received from Washington, as yet. The owners will be notified immediately after the checks reach here when to call for them.

Many farmers, probably 500 or more, will not share in the rental payments this year, since their contracts were altered. Any adjustment, either upward or downward, disqualifies the grower from participating in the rental payment.

No peanut benefit checks have been received, but the farm agents say never give up, for those checks are expected ere long.

## Greater Interest Is Shown by Parents In School Activities

### Hamilton Reports Largest Elementary Gain of Any School In County

Successful openings featured the beginning of a new term for the white schools in this county yesterday, according to individual reports coming from several of the principals. Pupils returned to their respective schools eager for work. Parents attended the opening-day exercises in greater numbers than ever before, and teachers with an assured salary increase, however meager it may be, looked forward to the term with more interest and a greater determination to make this the most successful year in the history of the schools.

At only one place, Everetts, was there a shortage of teachers in the county. The second-grade position, made vacant by the resignation of Miss Williams just a few days ago, could not be filled in time, but the second-graders were well handled. In reporting the faculty members there last week, the name of Mrs. H. B. Russell was listed as teacher of the second grade. While some patrons of the school had suggested she accept the position until a regular teacher could be employed, her appointment had not been considered by the school officials, members of the local committee said, explaining that it was the custom there not to employ married teachers.

Several applications have been received for the position, but no acceptance had been made today, it was learned. Despite the teacher shortage, Principal Russell reported a very good opening yesterday, with attendance about the same as it was at the beginning of the 1934-35 term.

Oak City reported a big opening, the pupils and patrons crowding the auditorium to capacity. Increases were reported in both the elementary and high school departments. A feature of the opening was the large enrollments in the agriculture and home economics departments, the first enrolling 45 and the latter 36 to include every boy and girl in the eighth grade.

Jamesville reported an increase in its first-day figures over last year, Professor Jordan stating that an increased enrollment was recorded in the agriculture department.

Gold Point had its two teachers, even if one was selected only a short period before the opening. Miss Mildred Hinton, of Belvidere, and Mrs. Lillian Baker, form the faculty there.

At Williamston the largest first-grade in the history of the school was reported, Principal D. N. Hix counting some over 130. Just how the small number of teachers will handle so many little tots is another

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## TAX FREE COTTON

Arrangements for distributing cotton tax warrants for free marketing of cotton allotments are being completed in this county this week, and farmers will be notified direct within the next day or two when to call for their warrants, Mr. T. B. Slade, assistant in cotton control, said today.

The exact amount of cotton Martin farmers will be able to market free of tax could not be learned, but it is understood the allotments are about the same as they were last year.

## Two Doctors Form Partnership Here

The association of Doctors Joseph H. Saunders and W. F. Evans for the practice of medicine was announced here today, the announcement stating that for the present, or until suitable quarters could be found, the doctors would maintain their individual offices. However, the partnership is effective at once.

Dr. Evans only recently located here, and maintains an office on the second floor of the Margolis Bros. building.

No arrangements for the newly formed partnership quarters were announced.

## Rev. Mashburn Conducting Revival Meet at Jamesville

Rev. C. B. Mashburn, Christian minister of Farmville and formerly of Robersonville, is conducting a series of revival meetings in the Christian church at Jamesville this week. Services are held nightly, and the public is invited to hear Mr. Mashburn.

## Legion Auxiliary To Meet With Mrs. Harris Saturday

The regular monthly meeting of the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion Auxiliary will be held Saturday afternoon, September 21, at 3:30 o'clock in the home of Mrs. W. P. Harris, Robersonville. It is hoped that every member will make a very special effort to be present for this meeting.

## High Water Interferes With Hunting of Deer

High water along the Roanoke River is holding down the number of deer hunts in this section, reports indicating that very little success was had where hunts have been held.

The season for taking deer opened this week, but it will be several days before much hunting will be possible in the Roanoke River low grounds, it is understood. The law prohibits the shooting of deer in flooded areas.

## High Schools Lead Elementary Grades In Percentage Gain

### More Than 3,400 Children Enter Eleven White County Schools

"At no time in recent years has there been a greater interest in the education of youth," Superintendent James C. Manning said in reporting the return of more than 3,000 children to the 11 white schools in this county yesterday. The opening day attendance figures showed a substantial increase over the record-breaking enrollment in the same schools last year, and ordinarily later enrollment figures show a slight upward trend, and it is believed that within the next few days an increase of more than 100 children will have enrolled in the Martin schools to set an all-time attendance record in the history of educational training in this county.

The encouraging feature, as pointed out by school authorities, was the increase in the number of high school pupils. During the past several years, high school enrollments have hardly held their own and during the past several terms the number of pupils attending the last four grades actually decreased from preceding terms.

The most marked gain in enrollment was reported in the Williamston High School, where 205 pupils reported for work yesterday, as compared with only 160 last term. The gain in the high school was partly offset by a decrease of 19 pupils in the elementary school. Principal Hix explained that the increase in the number of high school pupils was traceable mainly to the large seventh grade of last term. He could not account for the decrease in the elementary school, and neither could it be determined the first day just how many additional children gained admittance to the first grade by a change in the age requirements. Reports from over the county indicated that some children were so small that they were carried to the schools in the arms of their parents.

Total enrollment figures, while subject to correction, were placed at 3,411, as compared with \$3,315 a year ago. The high school number was increased from 741 to 819, a gain of 78, while the elementary pupils were increased from 2,574 to 2,692. In connection with the increased numbers turning to the high schools in the county, considerable interest was reported in the commercial school at Robersonville, Principal R. I. Leake reporting 25 enrolled there the first day. Robersonville also reported a substantial increase in its high school enrollment, and a gain in the elementary pupils. Gold Point reported one of the largest losses in the number of elementary pupils in the county.

Baffling problems in the opening of the schools were centered around the transportation task. A record for packing, and one that would make sardines appear at great freedom, was reported at Oak City. Ninety-two children were handled on one bus, and the only solution to the problem was to crowd another bus to balance the crowded conditions.

## Lieutenant Jones To Speak At Kiwanis Meeting Here

Lieutenant Lester Jones, of the State Highway Patrol, will address the regular meeting of the local Kiwanis club Thursday evening of this week at 6:30 o'clock, President E. F. Moseley announced today. His topic will center around highway safety and work of the patrol, it is understood. Patrolmen Hunt and Stewart will be special guests of the club at the meeting.

## No One Hurt When Cars Run Off Road Near Here

No one was hurt and very little damage was done when two cars, one driven by a Hyman boy of this place, sideswiped each other and ran off an embankment near the Roanoke River fill last Sunday evening. The other car was driven by a colored man from Windsor. The accident will be discussed in the Bertie courts Thursday.

Large crowds from here visited the scene of the accident, following the two highway patrolmen there.

## Local Market Is Attracting Many New Customers

Sales on the local tobacco market continue heavy, the offerings yesterday sending the poundage well over the two and one-half million mark, and to lead the sales of last season up to the same time. The 2,555,848 pounds sold for \$467,187.12, a resulting average of \$18.28 for the season to date.

\$42,285.68, or an average of \$17.99 a hundred pounds. Much common tobacco has been placed on the floors here during the past few days, and the poor quality tends to hold the average down, but there is no doubt but what tobacco is cheap, and plenty cheap. Prices today were about the same as they were yesterday, with some farmers believing they were hardly as strong. Sales will be completed

ed about 3 o'clock this afternoon. One of the largest blocks ever experienced here was reported last Friday when nearly all the offerings in one house were left unsold at closing time late in the afternoon. Brisk activities on the market made it possible to lift the block and clear the floors late yesterday afternoon. Despite low prevailing prices,

scores of farmers selling here yesterday stated they received more than they expected for their offerings, explaining however, that prices do not compare with those of last season. Comparisons have been made by many, and more and more customers are turning to the Williamston market as a result, declaring that it is one of the best places in the belt to market tobacco. During the past few

days there have been more new customers added to the ware house patronage here than in any like period in the history of the market, and new friends are being added all the time. Williamston warehousemen are doing all in their power to get their patrons good sales, and the outlook, despite medium prices prevailing over the belt, is encouraging for the local market this season.