

PROCEEDINGS IN MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Age-old Coltraine-Roberson Case Finally Cleared From Docket

No great number of cases have been cleared from the civil docket by the superior court here so far this week, but the court finally settled an old, old case, the completion of which is sufficient for calling the entire term a success.

Centered around a small tract of land in the Hardison Mill pond in Griffins Township, and which is generally considered of very little value the case was brought by John R. Coltraine and wife against S. D., L. H., and W. T. Roberson. The case has been hanging fire in the courts for several years, the evidence having a volume second to that recorded in the Smithwicks Creek church case.

The Robersons were declared owners of that tract of land deeded to them by Nicholas Manning. The court further ordered the plaintiffs to pay their own witnesses and the defendants to pay theirs.

In the case of Lucy Whitehurst against E. L. Whitehurst, Judge Crammer dismissed the action where in the plaintiff had served notice on the defendant to show cause why he should not pay plaintiff alimony and plaintiff's attorney fees.

A divorce was granted R. L. Edmondson against Mary Edmondson, the plaintiff basing his plea on statutory grounds.

Judge Crammer, before adjourning court at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon, non-suited a number of cases and cleared the calendar for the week.

Two cases, Slade, Rhodes and Company against Ferd Barnhill, and Barnhill against Rhodes, involving title to certain lands, were sent to referee. Attorney J. C. Smith, referee, is to have the reports ready for consideration at the November term.

The case of Davenport against Davenport was non-suited.

A judgment in the sum of \$718.19, less two small payments, was granted the Standard Fertilizer Company against Waters and others.

The case in which Lloyd Warren claimed fertilizers bought of the defendants, V. L. and J. H. Roberson, were improperly mixed or of inferior quality, was non-suited.

A judgment in the sum of \$5,912.77 was granted the Hines Estate against J. W. Hines.

A non-suit resulted in the case of Nathan Lilley against Ben Lilley, the case centering around the ownership of one acre of land.

Two cases, Ayers and Keel against W. T. Thomas, and W. T. Thomas against Ayers and Keel, were settled by consent judgment.

The court will continue the trial of civil cases next Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock, a review of the calendar showing no important matters or any of any great public interest being scheduled for trial.

Grand Jury Report Finds Little Fault

Martin County's government was given a stamp of approval by the grand jury following investigations ordered by Judge E. H. Crammer this week. Only two recommendations were made, the jury ordering repairs made to the county home cellar and the water pump there overhauled.

The report stated that all magistrates' reports had been properly filed, and that all guardians' accounts were up to date. The county home was found clean and sanitary and the inmates well satisfied. An inspection of the prison camp was ordered for the first time since it was located in this county, the jury stating that the camp and county jail were in good condition.

Comparison of Enrollment

With six of the eleven white schools reporting an increase in enrollment figures, a record-breaking opening was experienced for the schools in this county last Monday morning when 3,391 children reported for work. The enrollment this year exceeded that of last term by 76 pupils, the elementary department showing a gain of 18 pupils and the high school division reporting a gain of 58 students. It was the first time in recent terms that the high schools of the county had not reported a decrease in the number of advanced students, and it was a sizeable increase, too.

The figures below give an enrollment comparison in the elementary and high school departments for the opening this year and the one last term.

Table with 4 columns: School Name, 1935-36 (H.S., Ele., Total), 1934-35 (H.S., Ele., Total). Rows include J. C. Blyden, J. C. Blyden Jr., J. C. Blyden Sr., etc.

Rigidly Enforce Law Barring Sale of Scrap

TAX WARRANTS

The distribution of tax-free cotton marketing certificates to the 2,038 farmers in this county is now under way, Assistant of Cotton Control T. B. Slade stating today that the farmers are in no hurry to call for them, since the main cotton marketing season is still a few weeks off.

Martin County has been allotted 1,797,474 pounds, or about 3,760 bales, of tax-free cotton this year, the amount being about the same as it was last year. In marketing the 1934 crop, Martin farmers found it necessary to purchase warrants for around 554,000 pounds of cotton. It is believed that very few surplus warrants will have to be purchased in the county as a whole, since many farmers reduced their cotton acreage, and apparently increased their tobacco output.

Washington County Man Sues to Recover Leaf Marketing Tax

Government Collects \$200 On Tobacco Sold Here Several Days Ago

A. L. Alexander, well-known Washington County man, started suit in the Federal courts a few days ago to recover around \$200 tax paid by him for marketing tobacco. Mr. Alexander, not a contract signer, sold a quantity of tobacco on the Williamston market, and, having no marketing card, the government representatives required payment of the 33 1-3 per cent tax, which amounted to approximately \$200.

The suit was filed before Judge J. M. Meekins, but a hearing in the case has been postponed pending a decision to be handed down by the United States Supreme Court in a case similar to the one in question.

Although a widely known farmer, Mr. Alexander did not grow any tobacco on his farms during the years of 1931, 1932 and 1933. This year he applied for a contract on the parity basis from the government to plant 15 acres, but it was not granted. However, Mr. Alexander planted the tobacco anyway. When he sold his tobacco at the Planters Warehouse in Williamston the tax penalties amounting to \$200 was asked by the government. This is 33 per cent of the amount that he received for the weed, and the government demanded that he pay.

This fund has been deposited in the Branch Banking and Trust Company at Wilson to the joint account of S. A. Ashe, clerk of the Federal court, and Mr. Alexander. As soon as it is decided whether the government has the constitutional right to collect these penalties the money will be drawn by the winning party.

Gardner and Cherry To Pitch In Game Sunday

Slim Gardner, pitching for Robersonville, and Dick Cherry, twirling for Everetts, his home-town team, will face each other on the mound in a special game to be played in Robersonville Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, it was announced today.

Violators Will Be Prosecuted and Contracts Revoked

Scrap Buyers Are Required To Pay State License Fee of \$1,000.00

Iron-clad rules will be enforced in the marketing of scrap tobacco in the State this year, according to reports reaching here this week from state departments of revenue and agriculture. No one was prosecuted in this county for the alleged illegitimate sale of scrap tobacco last season, but several contracts were revoked, it is understood. This year however, violations will be prosecuted and in addition to the agriculture department will cancel contracts, it was stated.

It was pointed out that independent dealers in scrap will be required to pay a \$1,000 license fee in each county he buys scrap tobacco. Committee men will be instructed to report any sales of scrap in their communities to special dealers, and the authorities will investigate each case.

E. Y. Floyd, extension tobacco specialist, said in a letter to the county agent here this week: "The only legal way to sell scrap tobacco will be for a grower to take his scrap tobacco to the warehouse or the redrying plant and have this tobacco put on his allotment card as he does any other tobacco. No grower can afford to sell tobacco for less than 6 cents per pound, and I believe by really stopping the sale of scrap tobacco, we will keep at least 25,000,000 pounds off the market this year that generally sells for a very low price, which should increase the price of tobacco from 1 to 2 cents per pound that is sold on the warehouse floors."

"I hope that everybody will cooperate to help keep the low grades off the market, such as scrap, and in case you find that you are unable to do this, please let me know, and we will see if we can get a man to come into your county and clean up the illegal sale of scrap tobacco for your county."

Victims of Wreck Are Improving

Late reports indicate that C. B. Hardison, Raymond Heath and P. H. (Pons) Coffield, victims of an automobile accident here last Friday night, are getting along very well. Hardison continues in the hospital with a badly injured knee, but Heath, released from the hospital this week, is able to be up and apparently is all right.

Coffield, probably the most seriously injured of the three, was reported some better today, but his condition continues critical. While his injuries are now considered not so serious as first reports indicated, it is feared that developments will follow and probably prove fatal as his physical condition before the wreck was weak.

Coffield is said to have described the wreck, explaining that he started by an automobile and trailer, that he did not see the Hardison car until too late to pass or pull back behind the car and trailer, which he said had no rear light on it. He is said to have claimed he was not driving fast at the time.

DISSOLVE ORDER HOLDING UP TAX SALE IN PARMELE

Charges of Irregularities In Town Affairs There Are Proved Unfounded

The temporary order restraining the officials of the Town of Parmele from selling property for delinquent taxes was dissolved by Judge E. H. Crammer here this week, automatically making the sale necessary, it is understood.

Judge Walter L. Small granted the temporary restraining order at the request of R. S. Bullock and W. S. Sherrod and others, who maintained that the tax collector, J. T. Wildman, was not legally qualified to handle the collections and had not given bond. Other complaints were advanced in the application for the restraining order, but none could be maintained when the matter was carried before Judge Crammer this week. In fact, it was pointed out that the affairs of the town, while conducted on a small scale, were conducted after a strict business fashion, and the order issued on August 31 stopping the sale scheduled for the 2nd of this month, was without foundation, it was declared.

Young Man Admitted To Bar In County This Week

John Robert Jenkins, jr., promising young lawyer of the Parmele section, was admitted to the practice of law in this and other counties of the state by Judge E. H. Crammer in the Martin County Superior court here yesterday morning.

The young attorney has not announced his plans for locating, it was learned. He attended Duke University and the University of North Carolina law school.

Mrs. Elizabeth Biggs Rogerson Dies Here Yesterday Evening

Funeral Services Are Being Conducted From Home This Afternoon

Mrs. Elizabeth Biggs Rogerson, widow of William Henry Rogerson, died at the home of her son, Mr. J. Kader Rogerson, on William Street here yesterday evening at 7:10 o'clock, following a stroke of apoplexy which she suffered just a few minutes before. Mrs. Rogerson had finished the evening meal only a short time when she was taken critically ill, and died within a very few minutes. Just prior to the stroke she appeared in her usual health and was enjoying the company of the children when she was taken. However, she had been in failing health for some time, and had only recently recovered from a week's illness. She was fairly active for her advanced age, and interested herself in the activities of the home and the care of the children there.

Mrs. Rogerson was born in Bear Grass Township 84 years ago last July 14, and was the last member of a large and old family in that section. Since the death of her husband 14 years ago she had made her home with her sons, and had been here for about two years. About four years ago she joined the local Baptist church, and in the absence of the pastor, Rev. E. C. Shoe, Baptist minister of Robersonville, and Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, local Presbyterian minister, are conducting the last rites at the home this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Interment will follow in the local cemetery.

Six children were born to the union, but only three, Mrs. J. S. Gurganus, and Messrs. J. Kader and Eli Rogerson, all of Williamston, survive.

4,000 Colored Children To Return To School Monday

Four thousand or more children are expected to enroll when the 26 Negro schools start the new term in this county next Monday morning. Arrangements for the opening are being completed at a meeting of the principals and county school authorities in the colored school building here.

The superintendent's office offered no comments as to the expected enrollment the first day, but it is believed that the Williamston plant will be crowded considerably more than it was last year. The Robersonville school faces many disadvantages and much confusion is expected at the best when classes are started in the Holiness and Baptist church buildings there. The school building was burned last spring, and its replacement has been delayed pending action by federal authorities on an application for funds to advance a large school building program in the county.

Last year the 26 schools enrolled 3,894 children in the elementary department, and the two or three high schools reported 178 pupils, making a total of 4,072 pupils.

Low Prices Are Causing Confusion in Bright Belt

Sales on Local Market Pass Three Million Mark Today

Sales on the Williamston tobacco market carried the poundage well over the three-million mark today, conservative estimates placing the sales at about 225,000 pounds to be sold before closing time late this afternoon. Up until last night, the market had sold 2,967,874 pounds of tobacco for \$539,416.52, the resulting average up to that time being \$18.15 per 100 pounds. The average represents every pound sold, and it is agreed that the inferior quality grades have predominated the offerings on the floors here so far this season.

Williamston is believed to be one of the few markets in this belt to show a gain in poundage over the sales up until the same time last season. During the first four weeks of the selling period last season, the market handled 3,158,606 pounds. The sales today will carry the total considerably above that figure. But along with all the other markets, it has suffered the slump in prices, as for the same period last season its average was \$28.03.

Despite prevailing low prices, farmers in this section continue to market their crops fairly rapidly, and while they admit they are disappointed with the price the crop is bringing, as a whole, they are agreed that Williamston is selling tobacco just as high and the advantages more convenient as any market in the belt.

Closing of Markets Advocated by Some Farmers of Section

Few Martin Farmers Plan To Attend Mass Meet In Raleigh Tomorrow

Low prices prevailing for the current tobacco crop is causing much confusion among farmers, state officials and AAA authorities of late. Farmers in some sections are talking the closing of the markets, while others are urging an immediate ruling by the AAA for a large reduction in the crop next year, and the withholding of inferior grades from the market this season, explaining that these two factors should be sufficient cause for a rise in present prices.

While many protests have been entered with the governor by farmers over the bright belt and others in the old belt just opened, no definite action has been determined, and right now there is no concerted effort for a marketing holiday. A ruling to decrease the crop considerably next year and hold off all inferior grades this season apparently are considered as the most logical weapons to use right now in a fight for higher tobacco prices during the remainder of this marketing season.

Martin farmers, as a whole, have voiced no open protests against prevailing prices, but they are agreed that tobacco is cheap and, no doubt, they will fall in line if a call to concerted action is made.

In the meantime, the domestic companies are offering low prices for tobacco, leading some observers to believe that they are attempting to create ill will among the farmers against the AAA and its policies. Tobacco quality might be considerably inferior this year, but the poor quality will not justify the price decrease, it is generally believed. Williamston, the largest market in the world, reported an official average of \$16.55 Wednesday, and reliable reports will show that tobacco is cheap everywhere. Kinston is said to have splurged itself this week when it broadcast to the world fabulous prices that are believed to have misled the general public, and sank a point in favor of the companies.

Much has been said about tobacco for export, but one exporting company, observers say, is leading in prices, while the domestic companies do not seem to be able to find anything that will suit them. It is the opinion of some that if prices do not advance and advance quickly action will be brought to effect a marketing holiday. A protest meeting has been called for tomorrow morning at Raleigh at 10 o'clock, but very few farmers are expected to attend from this immediate section.

The meeting was called by 300 representatives of growers in a meeting held in Raleigh yesterday. No definite program of action was outlined by the 300 representatives yesterday, but the possibility of closing the markets was mentioned as one way of tackling the situation.

Farm Life School Off To Good Start

The school at Farm Life had an auspicious opening last Monday, reported Principal C. B. Martin today. Exercises were held in the auditorium where a large number of friends and patrons had assembled. The devotional was conducted by Rev. W. B. Harrington and Mr. Frank Lilley, a member of the local board, welcomed the teachers, pupils and patrons. A very interesting talk was made by Mr. C. C. Coltraine.

The principal made a talk emphasizing the need of cooperation in school work, the preliminary activities pointing to a very successful term this year.

The patrons of the school will assemble Tuesday night, September 24 for the reorganization of the parent-teacher association for this term.

Presbyterians Plan Meeting At Bear Grass Next Week

Services will be held at all points Sunday at the usual hours. Revival services will begin at Roberson's Chapel Monday night at 7:45 p. m., with the Rev. D. F. Waddell, of Aholkie, bringing the messages.

Fair Premium Lists Being Mailed Out by Manager This Week

Premiums and Prizes Total \$2,550 at Roanoke Fair Here November 4-9

Several thousand pamphlets carrying attractive premiums offered by the Greater Roanoke Fair here on November 4-9, are being distributed this week by Resident Manager Harvey Walker. The premiums total around \$1,500, with the racing prizes adding another \$1,050, and compare favorably with any offered at district fairs in the state this year.

Department heads, named some time ago, are making arrangements for numerous and elaborate exhibits and the agricultural feature of the exhibition is virtually assured a rating considerably above standard. The names of the department heads and their respective departments are as follows:

- Agricultural and horticultural products: T. B. Brandon. Livestock: D. M. Roberson. Poultry: C. B. Siceloff; Walter Halberstadt, assistant. Vocational agriculture: R. C. Jordan, J. E. Mullins, assistant. Home Economics: Miss Lora E. Sleeper, Mrs. Myrtle Brown, assistant. School exhibits, girls: Mrs. Murphy Barnes. Girls' 4-H club exhibits: Miss Lora E. Sleeper. Boys' 4-H club exhibits: M. L. Barnes. Plants, Flowers, and Fine Arts: Mrs. Murphy Barnes. Farm Machinery: K. P. Lindsay. Colored home makers: Mary Gray.

Visiting Minister at Local Church Sunday Evening

Preaching service at the Christian church at 11 o'clock a. m. and at 7:30 p. m. The pastor will preach Sunday morning on "Getting the Most Out of Our Religion." Every member of the church, as well as visitors and friends, is invited to be present. The sermon deals with the joy side of the ledger of Christianity. You will be glad you came if you come.

Rev. Gilbert Davis, of Plymouth, will preach at 7:30. Come and enjoy his message. Fill the house. All young people are urged to attend all the services Sunday. Bible school meets at 9:45. Let's step into the old-time stride Sunday in Bible School attendance.

CALL FOR CHECKS

All but a few of the 635 tobacco rental checks have been distributed to farmers in this county. The checks, amounting to \$16,056.79, were only made ready for distribution a day or two ago.

Receipts from their tobacco sales failing to care for planned purchases, the farmers, or most of them, immediately called for their rental checks to relieve the situation. Other checks are due, and just as soon as they reach here, the owners will be notified direct to call for them.

Crowded Conditions Reported by Many Schools of County

Enrollment in Williamston Schools Nearly Reach The 800 Mark

All vacancies were filled in the white school faculties in the county this week, and activities in the schools were said to be approaching normal as the first week of the term drew to a close today.

The last faculty vacancy was filled when Miss Laura Boreaux, of Wilmington, accepted the position of second grade teacher at Everetts, filling the place made vacant by the resignation of Miss Williams just a few days before the term opened. Miss Boreaux entered upon her new duties yesterday morning.

Crowded conditions are reported in many of the schools, Principal D. N. Hix reporting about 60 beginners in one and about 60 in another room here. The high school enrollment jumped from 185 the first day to 195 yesterday, and the local elementary enrollment has also been increased, very slightly, however, Professor Hix said. Of the 195 pupils in the high school, 190 attended regularly this week. In the elementary department 572 of the 590 pupils, so far enrolled attended regularly this week. Today there were 785 pupils enrolled in the entire school, 762 of the number reporting each day this week, on an average.

Weekly reports from schools over the county will hardly reach the office of the county superintendent before late tomorrow or Monday, and until they are received and reviewed it cannot be learned whether any of the several faculties will be increased.

Orthopedic Clinic To Be Held At Tarboro Monday

Another orthopedic clinic will be held in the Presbyterian Sunday school building in Tarboro next Monday at noon, it was announced today. Free examination and treatment are given to all who are financially unable to pay.

Construction of Two New Homes Underway Here

Material is being placed on Marshall Avenue for the construction of two new homes, actual building activities to get under way within the next few days. The houses will face each other and are located about two-thirds of the way down the avenue from Haughton Street.