

MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ADJOURNS TODAY

Few Cases Cleared From Calendar During Last Week of Session

The March term of Martin County Superior court was adjourned today after clearing just a few cases from a crowded docket since Wednesday of last week. Apparently the court just could not get going for one reason or another. Two or three important cases were continued for plaintiff counsel, and considerable time was given to the trial of one case.

Only four cases have been removed from the docket since Monday, and the court continued until late yesterday completing the last one.

Resuming its work Monday afternoon, the court handled two cases before ordering a recess Tuesday afternoon, much time having been spent handling the case of the Atlantic Joint Stock Land Bank and H. C. Roberson against L. D. Hardison and others. The controversy centered around the location of a boundary laid along a swamp, and the defendants claimed the swamp extended to that point where the high waters reached. There was a difference of 17 or more acres, the court deciding in favor of the plaintiffs.

Calling the case of T. W. Holliday against George W. Mizelle, the court listened to the evidence for about three hours and called a halt. The differences were settled amicably out of court. Neighbor Holliday asked damages claimed to have resulted when the defendant's stock ran at large.

Proceedings not previously reported are:

The case of R. E. Williams against J. W. Eubanks was ordered off the docket when it was shown a settlement had been reached outside the court. Plaintiff Williams was directed to pay the cost of the action.

Calling the case of C. M. Minton, Bertie County man, against the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company Wednesday morning, the court worked on the case until yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock, when it was turned over to the jury. With the exception of about an hour for supper, the jury argued the case until nearly 10 o'clock before finding a verdict favoring the plaintiff.

The controversy started when Minton took an option on timber rights belonging to Frank Barber and the timber was later sold to the Farmville-Woodward company. Counsel for the defense asked the right to argue that the verdict be dismissed or set aside this morning at 10 o'clock.

County Red Cross Chapter Raises \$45 For Flood Victims

No Drive for Donations To Be Made Chairman H. A. Biggs Said Today

The crying appeals of thousands of flood sufferers in twelve or more states have been heard by comparatively few people in this section, according to Harry A. Biggs, chairman of the Martin County chapter of the Red Cross. Twelve contributors had responded to the pitiful call up until this morning, donating \$45.25. No doubt, other contributions will follow shortly, but right now it is apparent that this chapter is not measuring up to the situation both as to the needs of the sufferers and the ability to give.

No drive for donations has been made and none will be considered, Mr. Biggs said today.

Donations are acknowledged, as follows: Albert Perry, W. C. Manning, Mrs. Erah Cobb, Mrs. J. G. Stator, Mrs. A. R. Dunning and C. O. Moore, \$5 each; B. S. Courtney, \$3; Mrs. E. P. Cunningham, \$1; Mrs. Fannie S. Biggs, \$1; Methodist Sunday School, \$9; Leman Barnhill, \$1; others, 25 cents.

Rehabilitation work in the flood-swept areas will continue for several months, and late reports indicate that a greater damage than was first estimated has been found.

Machine Shop Opens for Business Here This Week

The Williamston Machine Works, Williamston's newest enterprise, opened for business in its new building on Houghton Street, extended, just in front of the Planters Warehouse this week. The shop, equipped with modern machinery and employing experienced mechanics, is prepared to handle all classes of repair work for farm or factory.

Early Morning Fire Damages Robersonville Business Places

Fire of undetermined origin swept the David Grimes Drug Store in Robersonville this morning about 3:30 o'clock, causing a damage of several thousand dollars. A few minutes after the alarm was sounded calling Robersonville's volunteer firemen to the Grimes' store, fire was discovered in the general mercantile store of C. T. Smith just a few doors away.

The Smith fire was brought under control by the use of chemicals, but it was reported hose lines connected with the town's water system were necessary to check the

Grimes fire. While the origin of the fires could not be definitely determined, it is possible that spontaneous combustion was the cause. Damage to the Grimes building was estimated at \$1,000, and the loss to the stock, mostly in the drug department at the rear of the store, was believed to be in excess of \$3,000. Damage to the Smith building will hardly exceed \$50, but the stock was considerably damaged by smoke, it was said.

Robersonville's firemen were reported to have handled well the assignment given them at the early morning hour.

Voluntary Control for Tobacco Is Abandoned

SEED LOANS

Around 75 applications for seed and feed loans have been filed by farmers in this county at the office here so far, it was learned yesterday. The applications ask for an average of \$103 each.

Many applications have been approved by the county committee, and the papers have been forwarded to Washington, but no checks have been received and none is likely to reach here within a week or more.

No closing date, after which applications for will not be acceptable by the county office, has been mentioned. It is believed, however, that most of the applications will have been filed before April 15.

Plans Go Forward For Union Church Meeting In April

Week-day Services Will Be Held In Watts Theatre Week After Next

Plans for the union church meeting to be held in the Roanoke-Dixie Warehouse here are going forward rapidly, it was announced today, and large crowds are expected for the services beginning Sunday night, April 5.

The old question as to whether or not we have enough preaching is still open to debate in some minds, yet there are many people who do not attend church. The churches of Williamston feel it their duty to extend their friendship to all people whether they are affiliated with any denomination or not, and they have arranged to hold these special spiritual, friendly and good will services during the Easter season. On each week day and in addition to the regular program at the tabernacle, brief services will be held in the Watts theatre during the first week. The general program for the second week following Easter Sunday will be announced later.

There will be no high-powered evangelism in the meeting. The preachers of the town, those who visit you when you are sick, pray for you at all times and sympathize with you at death, will do the preaching. An urgent invitation goes out to everyone to attend the services and reap the benefits that true Christian cooperation brings to a town and community and the people therein.

Annual Senior Class Play Here Friday Next Week

Members of the senior class of the local high school have begun nightly practices on their annual play, which is scheduled for presentation Friday, April 3, at 8 p. m. The play chosen for this year is a comedy entitled, "For Pete's Sake," and includes a cast of twelve characters. Miss Annie S. VanDyke and Miss Imogene Riddick are directing the rehearsals.

TVA Phosphate Being Used in Alamance

Those using the TVA phosphate in Alamance County for demonstration purposes are adding from two to five pounds of lime with each pound of the phosphate.

There are 55 selected farms in Buncombe County under the new farm management demonstrations being conducted cooperatively by the Extension Service and the TVA.

South Carolina and Virginia Refuse To Cooperate in Plan

House Committee Agrees Agrees on Measure To Provide Compacts

While the plan for a voluntary control program for tobacco was abandoned yesterday, there is still some hope of handling the situation, according to reports coming from Washington today. Governor Ehringhaus' voluntary plan petered out yesterday when Virginia and South Carolina failed to send representatives to Raleigh to start the movement. Apparently the two states refused to play ball with this state because North Carolina failed to play ball with them several weeks ago.

Decision to abandon, temporarily at least, the voluntary sign-up campaign begun in the state this week came after a long conference of the growers' central steering committee with Governor Ehringhaus and Commissioner of Agriculture William A. Graham in Raleigh Thursday.

As the committee turned to the soil conservation program hope was held out that state compacts would be obtained to further the acreage reduction program.

The House of Representatives committee on agriculture yesterday agreed on a tobacco compact bill in a form which, in the opinion of the members of the North Carolina delegation, other interested Congressmen and officials of the Department of Agriculture, will permit effective control of the 1936 flue-cured tobacco crop.

While thrashing out all differences the committee did not report the bill. Although prepared to do so, at the request of Representative Harold D. Cooley, a member of the committee, another meeting of the committee was called for this morning.

Peanut Market Is Unusually Weak

With the market unusually weak, peanuts are reported to be moving very slowly in this county at the present time, despite the fact that about 15 or 20 per cent of the crop remains unsold in the country. The average price is ranging around 2-3-4 cents, with the very best grades commanding barely 2-7-8 cents a pound.

For nearly two months, many farmers were unable to move their crops over the bad roads and the price ranged around 3 cents during that time. Now that traffic on the secondary roads is beginning to move with some ease the market shows weakness.

Reports from local buyers yesterday indicated that very few peanuts were being offered for sale at the present price.

Three Carloads Soy Beans Shipped Here This Week

Three carloads of soybeans are moving this week from this point to markets in the Midwest, the beans selling for about 75 cents a bushel, f. o. b. Williamston. The shipments this week constitute a greater portion of the large-scale sales, a few farmers selling a truckload now and then for seed.

It wasn't so long ago that this county found it necessary to import seed for its bean crop, and, while its commercial production is somewhat limited, the trend is for larger surpluses annually.

JOS. B. CHERRY IS STRUCK BY AUTO; SERIOUSLY HURT

72-Year-Old Business Man And Farmer Expected To Recover

Joseph B. Cherry, 72-year-old farmer and business man, was badly injured when struck by a car in front of his home a short distance from here on the Hamilton road at 7:45 o'clock Wednesday evening. He suffered a broken arm just above the left wrist, a possible concussion of the brain and severe bruises on other parts of his body. Following an examination and first-aid treatment of his injuries by Dr. W. F. Evans here, Mr. Cherry was removed to a Washington hospital, where he is expected to recover if complications do not develop.

He was reported to be getting a long very well today.

Herbert Purvis, colored man living on Robert Everett's farm, about 6 miles from here, was driving the Ford car that struck Mr. Cherry. Following an investigation by Patrolman Hunt and other officers, Purvis was exonerated of blame for the near tragedy.

Mr. Cherry was said to have been going from his home to that of a neighbor across the road. He was almost across the road, it is believed, before he saw the car and started to turn back. Purvis, who was coming into Williamston, pulled to his left in an effort to run around the man, but Mr. Cherry continued uncertain of his direction and kept directly in the path of the car, it was said. Purvis finally stopped his car in a ditch on the left side of the road, but he was not hurt and the car was not damaged very much.

FORMER CITIZEN OF TOWN DIES IN PENDER COUNTY

W. T. Ward Passes at Home Of Brother; Death Was Unexpected

W. T. Ward, a resident of this town for a number of years, died last Saturday at the home of his brother, A. D. Ward, in Pender County. Apoplexy was given as the cause of his death. Funeral services were held in Rocky Mount Sunday afternoon by Rev. J. M. Kincheloe, pastor of the Baptist church there. Interment was in the Rocky Mount cemetery beside his wife.

Mr. Ward was born in Gates County 74 years ago. About 1890 he located in Williamston, operating a bar, drug store, and later a horse and mule exchange. Soon after the World War he sold his business and property holdings here and moved to Rocky Mount, where he lived most of the time until his death. While he had been in failing health for some time, Mr. Ward was very active, and had visited here only a few weeks ago.

Surviving are one sister, Mrs. S. B. Taylor, of Ocean View, Va.; five brothers, Hallett S. Ward, of Washington; A. E. Ward, of Junaluska; James Ward, of Wallace; Z. L. Ward of Peterstown, W. Va.; A. D. Ward, of Pender; three daughters, Mrs. James R. Davis, of Belhaven; Mrs. George V. Wilson, of New York City; and Mrs. Albert B. Lisle, of Worcester, Mass.; and one step-son, Dr. N. B. Marriner, of Belhaven.

Baseball Directors To Meet Tonight

Directors of the local baseball club and fans are scheduled to meet this evening at 7:30 o'clock in the office of President L. T. Fowden to discuss important business in connection with operating the Martins this coming season. Committee assignments will be made at the meeting, and several other matters will be discussed at that time, it was learned.

Arrangements are going forward for signing players, but no contracts have been officially announced. Manager Walker, now busy with coaching duties at Elon College, is expected to round up his players within the next week or two, however.

Truck Load of Flour Scattered Over Road

A considerable amount of flour was lost last Tuesday evening, when a large truck turned over between Everetts and Robersonville. No one was hurt, and the truck was not damaged very much, reports reaching here stated.

Soil Conservation Program Will Be Outlined To County Farmers At Meeting Tomorrow Afternoon

All Dogs in County Must Be Vaccinated Against Rabies

Arrangements are under way to vaccinate between four and five thousand dogs in this county during the early part of next month, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, who heads the work, said this morning. The campaign is the second planned under a state-wide law to control the spread of rabies. The vaccinations will be handled after the same fashion followed last year, with possibly a few minor changes.

Since the vaccinations were given last June and July, no mad dogs have been reported in this county, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said. Very little trouble was experienced in

handling the huge task last summer, and it is likely the campaign will be carried to completion this year with even greater ease. The sheriff had difficulty in getting sufficient serum to complete the vaccinations in 1935, but orders are already pending for an adequate supply to meet the needs this year.

Dog owners are required to pay 50 cents for the vaccinations, but they are given credit for that amount on county taxes. Last year several hundred dogs were added to the property lists, but a complete financial report on the vaccination activities has not been made available.

Commissioners Favor Present Liquor Set-Up

Wet Counties Will Fight Any Effort To Have Law Changed

Formation of Bloc Favored At Meeting Held in Greenville

Meeting in Greenville last Wednesday, commissioners from a number of the 17 wet counties trained their guns against any change in the present set-up under which legal liquor is handled. While the authorities from these counties are not taking the part of the aggressor in bringing the matter before the lawmakers, it is understood they are preparing a strong front to defend the present system and head off any attempt to switch revenue from the several counties to the state treasury. Should a special session of the General Assembly be called by the governor, and an attempt is made to alter the liquor laws, the 17 counties, or most of them, will form a bloc and be in readiness to oppose a change in the laws.

Details and plans of the organization formed to oppose a change in the laws could not be learned here.

There is a general movement to wipe out the present control system and substitute for it one of a state-wide nature, still leaving the liquor question for the voters of the several counties to decide. The change, proposed by some, would bring the liquor problem under state control and divide the profits among the state, counties and towns where stores are operated.

It is possible that the liquor question would not be brought to the front if a special session of the assembly is called, but it is certain there will be a showdown sooner or later.

Commissioners R. L. Perry and V. G. Taylor attended the meeting from this county.

More Peanut Benefit Checks Arrive Here

Another batch of peanut benefit checks are ready for distribution among Martin County farmers, the office of the county agent starting 326 notices out to the owners direct. So far, 506 checks, amounting to \$37,241.88, have been received for distribution in this county to those farmers participating in the peanut control movement last year.

It is estimated that 90 checks representing an unpaid total of about \$4,970.57, are due farmers in this county. These payments this week had not been approved in Washington, but action is expected shortly.

Farm Bureau Membership Running Into Thousands

On March 9, 1,443 farmers of 17 eastern Carolina counties had officially joined the Farm Bureau Federation; 4,169 others had been enrolled but not reported officially to the headquarters at Greenville, and 17,207 men in 28 counties were listed as possible members.

Speaker From State Extension Division To Address Meeting

Probable Rate of Benefit To Be Paid for Soil Conservation

The Federal government's soil conservation program will be explained in detail at a mass meeting of farmers to be held in the courthouse here tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, County Agent T. B. Brandon announced this morning. Voluntary control plans for the 1936 tobacco acreage and production will hardly be considered, as the program was abandoned yesterday.

There is nothing compulsory at all about either the soil conservation program or the tobacco control plans, it was explained. The meeting will deal with the plans formulated by the government to aid agriculture, and will leave the fate of the farmers to their own voluntary action. A special representative of the North Carolina extension division will explain the programs, and the meeting affords splendid opportunity for all farmers to get acquainted with the plans designed to aid agriculture.

Returning late Tuesday from Raleigh, Messrs. T. B. Slade and Tom Brandon unhesitatingly stated that the individual farmer will no doubt find participation in the soil conservation program very profitable. It was their belief that every farmer, regardless of the action of others, would do well to participate in the soil conservation program.

While the rate of benefits has not been officially announced, it is generally understood that farmers participating in the program will receive not less than 5 cents a pound on tobacco, 5 or 6 cents a pound on cotton and about 1-1-4 or 1-1-2 cents a pound on peanuts taken out of production. For instance, a farmer who has nine acres of tobacco as his base will probably curtail his production one-third. If his base poundage is 900 pounds to the acre, then he will receive \$45 an acre, or \$135 for the three acres taken out of tobacco production. To qualify for the payment, the farmer must plant at least 20 per cent, or 1.8 acres of the three taken out of production to soil-conserving or soil-building crops.

The main feature of the program is that the farmer will get that amount, whether tobacco sells for 5 cents or 10 cents a pound.

Now, as for market prices next fall, the control feature enters into the picture in a large way. An 80 per cent control, be it voluntary or compulsory, is expected to hold up prices. If the control feature is adopted, there certainly is need for such a step, regardless of what Henry Ford and some other great industrialists say, then there is some real hope for the tobacco farmer. And in addition to that, the farmers will qualify for the payments under the soil conservation plan. Aside from the cash income feature, the farmers will be building up their land, a much needed project on a large number of farms in this county at the present time.

Several Cases Tried By Mayor This Week

Several criminal cases were disposed of in Mayor J. L. Hassell's court here this week, the business before the trial justice being of little consequence.

William Brown, colored, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days on a trespass charge. Brown, 17 years old, was seen on the premises of Mrs. Myrtle Harris on Houghton Street, and a ham was missed from the pantry. Proof that Brown stole the ham could not be established, however.

James S. Barnes and Phillip Barnes, both colored, were before the court on disorderly charges. James was released upon payment of the cost, and the other one was fined \$2.50 and taxed with the cost.

Robert Edmondson and Henry Thomas, young white boys, pleaded guilty of stealing two hams and a shoulder from Farmer William Whit ley, near here, and the case was sent to the county court. Unable to raise bond in the sum of \$50 the two boys went to jail.

POULTRY CAR

The third and last poultry shipment of the season will be made cooperatively by farmers in this county next week. While no record shipment is expected, County Agent Brandon believes the farmers will load one car.

Prices for the most part are equally as high as they were two or three weeks ago, despite a weakening market.

The car will make its first stop in Jamesville next Wednesday, and will be in Williamston Thursday, April 2; Robersonville April 3, and Oak City on April 4th.

Roanoke Receding After Reaching 14 Feet Mark Here

Not Expected To Be Back Within Banks Before Next Week

Reaching a crest of 14 feet here Wednesday, the Roanoke River started falling late that afternoon at this point, but the stream is receding very slowly, according to Hugh Spruill, keeper of the weather station. During the first eighteen hours after the crest was reached the river fell only 3 inches. Mr. Spruill believes that it will be the middle or latter part of next week before the stream returns to within its banks. Up until this morning, the water had fallen about 12 inches.

As far as it could be learned today, there are no prospects for another freshet to follow immediately this, the fourth one so far this year.

The river fell short by almost a foot the high point reached during the freshet of a few weeks back. No great property loss has resulted in this territory, but lumbering activities and mills have been forced to close down much of the time this year.

Peanut Picking About Over For Last Season

Experiencing an interruption caused by snow and rain during January, February and a part of March, farmers in this county a few days ago finally finished picking their peanuts. The late pickings established records never before equalled in this section.

Those peanuts placed in large stacks are said to have weathered the severe winter unusually well, but those in small stacks were damaged considerably, reports state.

Lose Interest in Raiding Stills After Seeing Bear

Raiding a liquor manufacturing plant along the border of Jamesville and Griffins Township Wednesday, Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel saw an unusually large bear, the animal going one way and Joe and Roy going the other. They got the still, a small steam outfit, and two barrels of beers, but that was before they saw the bear.

The plant was cold and no arrests were made.