

## MARRIAGES LAST YEAR IN COUNTY SHOW INCREASE

December Issuance Smaller Than In Any December During Five Years

Issuing 37 licenses last month, 20 to white and 17 to colored couples, the marriage license bureau in this county showed a gain of 7 points during 1936 over business in 1935. J. Sam Getsinger reporting 252 licenses issued in 1935 and 259 during the year just ended. The number of licenses sold in the county last month was below the average for the period in question, the number exceeding only one issuance for the particular period since 1931. During 1936 there were 117 licenses issued to white and 142 to colored couples in this county.

Licenses were issued last month to the following couples:

### White

Harry B. Brown, of Raleigh, and Beatrice Boyd, of Washington, N. C. Daniel Marvin Griffin and Margaret Vida Harris, both of Martin County.

W. H. Harrell and Rebecca Bond, both of Windsor.

Charlie G. Forbes and Harriet Mae Brown, both of this county.

Marvin Coltrain and Carrie Lee Lilley, both of Williamston.

James Mann and Ruth Grimes, both of Robersonville.

James Raymond Gurkin and Mary Louise Manning, both of this county.

Levi Edmondson and Ethel Mae Lilley, both of Martin County.

Wm. Bruce Johnson and Lora Inez Griffin, both of this county.

Julius A. Roberson and Bertha Bland, both of this county.

Howard Vandeford and Gladys Taylor, both of Robersonville.

Joseph Perry, of Jamesville, and Lucy Moore Price, of Henderson.

Wm. R. Cordon, of Fort Monroe, Va., and Sarah Elizabeth Cooper, of this county.

Luther David Peel and Hazel B. Lilley, both of Martin County.

Clarence Grady Godard and Pauline Davis, both of this county.

W. C. Hopkins and Irene Gardner, both of Martin County.

Wm. Hubert Biggs and Louvenia Lilley, both of Martin County.

C. B. Roberson and Vela Hardison, both of Martin County.

James Robert Hipps, of Kannapolis, and Susie E. Jenkins, of Robersonville.

Fred E. Collins and Lois Hiller, both of Washington, N. C.

### Colored

Ernest L. Owens and Clara Roberts, both of Creswell.

Johnnie E. Godard and Naomi Boston, both of Martin County.

E. C. Riddick and Mozella Daniel, both of Martin County.

General Jones and Hattie Cradle, both of Martin County.

Clee Daniel and Mary Dell Woolard, both of this county.

Walter Jones and Agnes Rogers, both of this county.

Alfred White and Clara Outland, both of Windsor.

John Lee Chance, of Pitt County, and Hattie V. Rogers, of Martin County.

Henry Williford and Carrie Whitmore, both of Martin County.

Sim Quimerly and Elizabeth Daniel, both of Jamesville.

Reubin Brown and Mary Roberson, both of this county.

Joe Coppage and Ernestine Andrews, both of Martin County.

Charlie Hinton and Pattie Ruth Spruill, both of Martin County.

Geo. Horton and Addie Vines, both of Palmyra.

Louis Slade and Ruth Carr, both of Martin County.

William E. Fields and Roxanna Bryant, both of Martin County.

Irving Riddick and Lena Roberson, both of Martin County.

## Health Report

### For Last Month

There was a decided increase in the number of communicable cases of disease in this county last month over the record for November, but even then the number of cases was not large, the health report released for December by the county health office shows.

Most of the cases were reported in and around Williamston, the report showing 3 cases of chickenpox, 1 diphtheria case, 1 scarlet fever and 4 whooping cough cases.

More sickness is being reported this month, however, it was learned from the health office this week. Already there have been reported in January 3 cases of chickenpox and 3 whooping cough cases.

## FEW EVICTIONS

Few people have been thrown out of living quarters in this county so far this year, Deputy J. H. Reebuck stating that the first ejectment papers in 1937 were placed in his hands yesterday. Twelve months ago there were a number of ejectment papers being served in the county, and two or three years prior to that time county officers were moving about as many people out of homes and off of property as were moved by regular moving vans.

## NEED IMPROVED SWEET POTATO SEED IN SECTION

Inferior Seed Are Exacting Toll of 25 Cents Bushel From County Farmers

"Huey Long certainly did one good thing before they killed him, and that was to improve, over a period of five years, the sweet potato seed in Louisiana," L. N. Johnson, who is in this section purchasing potatoes for the Corbett Packing Company, said a day or two ago.

"Louisiana sweet potato growers are averaging 25 cents a bushel more for their offerings than growers are receiving for their in this section," Mr. Johnson explained, pointing out the need for improving the seed here.

Mr. Johnson said that Clemson Agricultural College bought and distributed a carload of the Louisiana seed for South Carolina farmers a year ago. Not a single bushel of the potatoes raised from those seed was placed on the markets. Mr. Johnson explaining that farmers buying from the Louisiana seed car had sold their entire crop to neighboring farmers for seed this coming season.

It is firmly believed growers in this section would find it profitable to purchase cooperatively a shipment of the seed potatoes from Louisiana or from some other section where the seed have been improved.

A meeting of Martin County sweet potato growers is being considered for a discussion of the possibility of making such a purchase, but no date has been mentioned as yet for the meeting.

## \$15,000 Allocation For Roanoke River

An appropriation of \$15,000 has been recommended by Army engineers to Congress for the maintenance of Roanoke River during the current year, the total appropriations asked for the maintenance of all rivers and harbors in the state amounting to more than \$1,000,000.

The appropriation asked for the Roanoke will hardly more than keep fallen trees out of the stream. The item will not meet the expense of any dredging that may be needed in the channel at the mouth of the river.

Most of the appropriations are asked for the maintenance of projects at or near Wilmington.

## Special Jury Drawn For Case In County Court

A special jury of six men was drawn Wednesday afternoon to hear the case charging LeRoy Roberson, Major Lloyd, Jim Coffield, Vance Andrews, and Louis Slade with assault and larceny. Messrs. D. N. Hix and Joseph P. Pender, of Williamston; N. R. Peel and William Hugh Daniel, of Griffiths; Mack L. James, of Cross Roads; and Jack T. Taylor, of Robersonville, were drawn to serve as jurors when the case is called next Monday morning in Judge H. O. Peel's court.

The defendants are alleged to have assaulted and robbed a woman near Robersonville during the Christmas holidays.

## Small Child Passes In Cross Roads Thursday

Selma Taylor, five years old, died at the home of her mother in Cross Roads Township, yesterday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock from membranous croup. The child, daughter of Mrs. Maniza Taylor and the late Sam Taylor, had been ill only a few days.

Funeral services were conducted this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Johnson Cemetery, near Gold Point in Robersonville Township, by Rev. James M. Perry.

## 23 CASES CALLED IN RECORDER'S COURT MONDAY

First Session of New Year And First Time Court Held on Monday

Calling an accumulated docket carrying 23 cases, Judge H. O. Peel, Solicitor W. H. Coburn, and Clerk L. B. Wynne had a busy time handling the first session of the county recorder's court in the new year last Monday. The tribunal was in session a greater part of the day, the forfeiture of bonds featuring the outcome of the proceedings during the day.

The cases charging Berry Thompson and Guy Rollins with reckless driving were not pressed.

Biscoe Wynne, charged with violating the liquor laws, was sentenced to the roads for six months.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Herbert and Clinton Reaves were each fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Baker Council was found not guilty in the case charging him with violating the liquor laws.

A three-month road sentence was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging Edward G. Harrell with an assault.

John Briley was found not guilty of violating the liquor laws.

Thomas Burns, charged with shooting LeRoy Roberson in the arm, failed to appear for trial and forfeited his bond.

A motion was made for a jury trial, and the case charging LeRoy Roberson, Major Lloyd, Jim Coffield, Vance Andrews, and Louis Slade with larceny and assault was continued.

The case charging Buck Bonner and Dennis Evans with an affray was not pressed.

A three-month road sentence was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging Charles Henry Young with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging Floyd Williams with an assault with a deadly weapon.

The \$100 bond was forfeited in the case charging Mrs. Lockie Williams with drunken automobile driving.

Charged with being drunk, Will Sawyer was found not guilty.

Charged with abandonment and non-support, William Gray, colored, was directed to pay \$2 a week for support of prosecuting witness's child.

Prayer for judgment was continued in the case charging W. E. Brewer with drunken driving.

Darwood Sadler, charged with speeding, failed to answer when called to trial.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of cost in the case charging J. Elton Andrews with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes.

Grover Phillips was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his license revoked for one year in the case charging him with drunken driving.

The case charging Gus Coffield with reckless and careless driving was continued under prayer for judgment until February 1.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Mary Bennett was found not guilty.

An unusual case, and the first one of its kind to reach the courts of this county was the one charging Francis Carson, young white boy, with failing to yield the right of way to a vehicle sounding a siren. He was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost. Carson was traveling toward Parmele when Patrolman Hunt sounded his motorcycle siren and started to pass him. Carson is said to have turned out to pass a car about the same time, sending the patrolman off the road and into a pine thicket. The officer rode the bucking machine and miraculously escaped injury.

## Mrs. Bennie Griffin Dies at Gold Point

Mrs. Annie B. Griffin, widow of Bennie Griffin, died at the home of her nephew, J. A. Powell, near Gold Point, last Tuesday night at 11 o'clock. She had been in declining health for about a year and heart trouble was given as the immediate cause of her death. She was 64 years old and had lived in the Gold Point section all her life. She was Miss Annie Powell before marriage.

Two step-sons, J. S. Griffin, of Roanoke Rapids, and Will Griffin, of Tarboro, survive.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Elder B. S. Cowin. Interment was in the New Cemetery, Robersonville.

## BAD ROADS

Frequent rains have greatly interrupted traffic in the rural sections of the county in the past few days, reports stating that some of the main routes in several sections are almost impassable at the present time. School buses have been running late, and traffic in general is considerably handicapped.

The cost of new license plates is also believed to have caused a decrease in traffic, both in the rural sections and on the main highways.

## Pittsburgh Minister To Preach Twice at Church Here Sunday

Rev. Jas. M. Perry Resigns Pastorate Local Church; Continues Ministry

Rev. Charles S. VanWinkle, Pittsburgh minister, will occupy the pulpit in the Christian church here next Sunday morning and evening, it was announced today. The visiting minister comes here subject to call by the local church to fill the position made vacant by the recent resignation of Rev. James M. Perry. The public is cordially invited to hear Mr. VanWinkle at either or both the services, and the members are urged to be present. The visiting minister is expected to arrive here tomorrow.

Rev. Mr. Perry, pastor of the local church for the past five years or more, resigned his duties with the local church that he might devote more time to his churches at Robersonville, Jamesville, and Oak City. Mr. Perry made many friends both in and out of the church here, and it is with regret that the people of the community learn of his resignation. He will continue in close touch here, however, as his work will be confined to churches in this county.

## Poultry Dealer's Truck Is Wrecked

O. G. Loftin, Portsmouth chicken and egg dealer, was scratched about the face and bruised on his right leg when his light Ford truck turned over with him near Corey's Cross Roads on the Washington Road yesterday afternoon. Property damage, including the breaking of about 3,000 eggs, was considerable.

A. B. Ore, colored man, was driving a mule toward Washington and the animal became frightened and wheeled into the side of the truck that Loftin had driven to the side of the road. The machine skidded and turned over on the highway, the eggs painting a sizeable square of the highway yellow. The mule, unhitched in the accident, ran for home, more than a mile away. Ore and his brother, riding in the cart, escaped unhurt, and the mule, while slightly cut, was believed not badly injured.

Five crates of chickens were on the truck, and most of those released in the collision were recovered.

## Warns Against Hunting During High Waters

Now that high water is flooding the Roanoke swamps, County Game Warden Abbott is warning hunters of the law prohibiting hunting there during freshets.

The law provides a fine of \$50 in those cases where game is taken, either by gun or dog in the low-lands during periods of high water, when game has no means of escape.

## Regular Services at Piney Grove Sunday Morning

Rev. W. B. Harrington will conduct the regular 11 o'clock service Sunday morning in the Piney Grove Baptist church, the pastor extending a cordial welcome to all to attend.

## Belk-Tyler To Open New Store Here Next Friday

Arrangements are going forward rapidly for the opening of Belk-Tyler's new store in the Apartment building here next Friday morning. New fixtures of modern design are being placed in the large store at the present time, Manager C. A. Plyler stating that one of the largest stocks in this section will be arranged and ready for the big opening one week from today. The store will be one of the most modern in this section, Manager Plyler added.

Complete details for the opening will be announced shortly.

## WOMAN FATALLY HURT, STRUCK BY SOLICITOR'S CAR

Funeral for Mrs. Claudia Manning at Fairview Saturday, 2 P. M.

Mrs. Claudia Haridson Manning died in a Tarboro hospital this morning at 12:30 o'clock from injuries received when struck by an automobile driven by Solicitor Daniel Gilliam at Holly Springs church, near here, on the Jamesville road last Tuesday afternoon about 5 o'clock. She suffered a crushed leg, broken hip, and internal injuries. The accident was the first fatal one reported in the county this year, reliable reports indicating that it was unavoidable.

Mrs. Manning, wife of John E. Manning, was crossing the highway when she saw the car coming from toward Jamesville. She is said to have started to turn back, apparently changed her mind and continued on her way into the path of the car, which was traveling, witnesses say, between 40 and 45 miles an hour. She had just visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hardison and was returning to her home next to the Holly Springs church when the accident took place.

The front part of Gilliam's car was slightly damaged, but it was not thrown out of running order. He picked the victim up and rushed her to a doctor's office here, and a short while later removed her to a hospital in Tarboro. Every attention possible was given her, it was learned.

The solicitor, prosecuting the Washington County Superior Court docket earlier that day, was returning to his home in Tarboro, the accident forcing him to bed at his home, reports stating that he was taking the tragedy unusually hard.

Mrs. Manning was the daughter of the late Joe and Mary Beasley Hardison. She was born in Williams Township 52 years ago and had lived in that section all her life. She married John E. Manning 27 years ago and he with four children, Mrs. Elvah Pate, Mrs. Carrie Louise Cherry, Earl C. and Wendell Manning, the youngest 8 years old, survives. One brother, Leander Hardison, of Williamston, survives.

She was a faithful member of the Fairview Church since her early childhood, and had many friends in her community.

Funeral services will be conducted Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. D. W. Arnold in the Fairview Church. Interment will follow in the old family cemetery, a short distance from the church in Williams Township.

## Congress Getting Down To Business

The 75th Congress, convening last Tuesday noon, soon perfected its working organization and settled down to business. Hundreds of bills were introduced the first day, including more than 1,400 for pensions. A review of the House proceedings in Tuesday's Congressional Record is almost enough to make one believe the national congress had taken over the task of assigning old-age pensions. The electoral vote was counted and the President notified of his re-election, all of which was just mere formality.

Much attention was given the neutrality bill, the motive behind the altered act being to prohibit shipments of war materials to Spain. In addition to that sufficient bills were introduced during the first two days to keep the Congress busy for days.

The high spot in the Wednesday session was President's Roosevelt's message to Congress.

## Money Being Raised In Behalf Convicted Killer

Money is being raised in sections of the county to support a plea for the commutation of Alvin Watson's death sentence, it was learned here today. Petitions are also reported in circulation in behalf of the youth convicted to die in the gas chamber on March 5 by the Martin County Superior Court here last month for the murder of Thomas Holliday, young Robersonville man, on the morning of November 22. No definite plan to push the plea or any details surrounding the circulation of the petition in Watson's behalf have been announced by H. D. Hardison, attorney appointed by the court to defend the Georgia youth.

## Election Law Reforms Proposed in Assembly

### ROANOKE RISING

Fed by rains in the Roanoke basin during the past or three weeks, the Roanoke River went out of its banks here this week, reports from the weather stations indicating the stream will reach a crest about next Monday. The river is expected to rise three feet over its banks before it starts falling.

Reports from Weidon today stated the river was falling rapidly there after reaching a crest of about 41 feet.

Logging operations in the Roanoke swamps have already been stopped, but river traffic continues.

## DR. J. S. RHODES IS NEW MEMBER HEALTH BOARD

No Action Taken for All-Time Health Service In This County

The reorganization of the Martin County Board of Health was perfected at a meeting held this week, the board appointing Dr. James S. Rhodes, of Williamston, a member to fill the position made vacant by the death of Dr. James E. Smithwick. Dr. V. A. Ward, of Robersonville, and Dr. W. C. Mercer, of Williamston, were reappointed, the law automatically placing J. E. Pope, chairman of the Martin County Board of Commissioners, J. L. Hassell, mayor of Williamston, and J. C. Manning, superintendent of county schools, on the board again.

On three members of the board were present for the meeting held Wednesday, and business was limited to perfecting a reorganization of the group.

A special meeting will be held in the courthouse next Monday morning at 10 o'clock, when a county health officer will be named.

No definite action has been taken to get an all-time health officer and trained nurse for the county since the legislature prohibited the set-up in the 1935 session. However, Representative H. G. Horton stated he was leaving for Raleigh this week that he would introduce a bill immediately to have the law repealed as it affects Martin County. As soon as the law is repealed, it is believed action will be taken to establish the much-needed service in this county.

The proposed service was approved by the Martin County commissioners about two years ago, but the law, unintentionally passed to include this county, stopped the program before it was established.

## Mrs. Emma Bunting Dies Near Jamesville Monday

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Emma Bunting at the home near Jamesville last Tuesday afternoon by Daniel Hardison. Burial was in the family cemetery, near Robersonville.

Mrs. Bunting was the wife of Gary Bunting, and he, with four little children, survives. The oldest of the children is about 10 years old, and the youngest around 4 years of age.

In ill health for some time, Mrs. Bunting and the family had experienced many hardships, authentic reports stating that the children are in dire need of attention.

## Few Civil Suits Are Being Filed In Superior Court

Only one civil suit has been filed in the superior court of this county so far this year, Clerk of Court L. Bruce Wynne said this morning. Ordinarily, several actions are placed on the civil calendar before this time in a new year.

The suit filed a day or two ago is of little importance, the clerk pointing out that it involved a sum of only \$200.

## Many Farmers Having Tobacco Seed Cleaned

Farmers in large numbers are having their tobacco seed cleaned in the office of the county agent here at the present time. The cleaning operations are well advanced compared with those a year ago, reports indicating that Martin farmers are planning to prepare more and larger plant beds and earlier ones than they did a year ago.

## Absentee Voting and Markers Prohibited Under Terms of Bill

Hoey Outlines Objectives In Inaugural Address To Legislature Thursday

The 1937 North Carolina General Assembly, holding its opening session last Tuesday at noon, turned its attention immediately to the election laws. Representatives Lumpkin, of Franklin, and Spruill, of Bertie, two McDonald supporters, introducing a bill to abolish the use of absentee ballots in primaries and elections, the proposed laws would prohibit markers and assistants for voters at the polls and also prohibit the entrance of all persons except when they are to actually cast their votes. A bill was also introduced to do away with the lethal gas chamber and again use the electric chair. Most of the opening day was given over to the organization of the house and senate and getting ready for the inaugurations on Thursday.

Crowds thronged the capital yesterday, when Clyde R. Hoey took over the reins of the state government for the next four years. In his address he called on the legislature for 16 specific aids to the economic and social structure of the state, but he did not say anything about road refunds, as claimants had hoped he would do in his speech.

The new governor advocated in his inaugural address:

1. Free public school textbooks.
2. Repeal of the sales tax on "necessities."
3. Reorganization of the State Highway Commission for greater attention to the needs of local roads.
4. Cheaper automobile license tags.
5. Discontinuance of diversion of highway funds to other state purposes.
6. Cooperation with the other South Atlantic States in the passage of agricultural control legislation.
7. Coordination of the work of the central state educational administration.
8. Restoration of teacher salaries.
9. Increased vocational training.
10. Adoption of "reasonable" regulation of working conditions.
11. A careful study of the liquor commission report, with no legislative abrogation of prohibition until "another opportunity is given for a full and fair expression of public opinion at the ballot box."
12. A life-time program of increased facilities at state charitable institutions.
13. Additional legislation, amplifying old age and unemployment compensation regulations adopted at the December special session, to embrace the entire Federal Social Security program.
14. A national exposition, along the lines of the Texas Centennial, to advertise North Carolina to the nation.
15. A balanced budget.
16. Reapportionment of legislative representation.

## Change Recorder's Court To Mondays

A law unto itself, the Martin County Recorder's Court held its first Monday session this week, brushing aside the formality of asking the county commissioners, creators of the tribunal, to change the day for holding its sessions from Tuesday. Since it was established in July, 1919, the court has held its sessions on Tuesday, but for the convenience of county attorneys who will be occupied with duties in the legislature during the next several months and probably longer, the sessions were ordered held on Monday.

## Claims for Gas Refunds Must Be In by January 15

Claims by peanut picker operators for tax refunds paid on gasoline used in the machine engines must be filed before Friday of next week, Mr. G. H. Harrison, of the Harrison Oil Company, said today. He pointed out that all peanut picker operators are entitled to the gasoline tax refund, but called attention to the fact that the claims must be filed on or before January 15, Friday of next week.