

## Short Session Of Superior Court Is Held Here Monday

### Judge Parker Sentences Six Defendants to County Road Camps

Starting an hour late, the June term of Martin County Superior Court soon settled down to work at 11:30 Monday morning, unpacked its baggage, cleared the criminal docket, packed its baggage and quit before late afternoon. The entire civil docket was continued, the court almost setting a new record for brief sessions. For the first time in history of the court, the petit jury completed its work at the direction of the court and left the grand jury wrestling with the accounts of guardians.

Working behind closed doors today, the grand jury was reported to be making a thorough study of all guardians' accounts, but their findings have not yet been revealed. The jurymen were instructed to cite any alleged violations of the laws governing guardianships.

Completing his charge about 11:30 Judge R. Hunt Parker, of Roanoke Rapids, placed the court machinery in action. Four cases, two involving cases of the type which received attention in the jurist's charge, were continued. Joseph Cordon, colored man, charged with running over and killing Delmar James, young colored boy near Dardens last February, had his case continued again. The continuance was granted that civil action now pending against Cordon and his employer might be cleared from the docket. William Penn Smith, charged with hit and run driving, was granted a continuance, reports stating that the victim of Smith's reckless driving, Edison Moore, is unable to attend court. Young Moore, badly hurt when run down by Smith's car near Gardner's Creek on the night of April 10, continues to his bed. The case charging Granderson Mitchell and Henry C. Heath with aiding and abetting the crime, was also continued. A continuance was also ordered in the case charging Earl Taylor, young white boy, with seduction.

The judge waved aside all excuses and promises when he reached the case charging Ben Whitfield and Willis Crandall, young white men, and Columbus and Orlando Perkins, colored lads, with the theft of meat from Mack Little, colored man, near Parmele on April 15. Mention was made of possible probation for the boys, but when no arrangement could be effected whereby the owner could get pay for his stolen meat, Judge Parker passed out sentences of eight months on the roads each for Whitfield and Crandall. Orlando Perkins, barely passed 16 years of age, was sentenced to the roads for four months, and Columbus Perkins, 13 years old, was turned over to the juvenile court. "I believe in the probation system, but it is not right for the defendants to gain their freedom on promises," Judge Parker was quoted as saying. "While the owner of the meat was working and trying to make a living, the defendants were out stealing for money to go to picture shows and buy gasoline," he added just before passing sentence in the case.

Tim Council, charged with highway robbery, was sentenced to the roads for four months. Jake Purvis, Pal Harris and Warren Worsley, partners of Council in the alleged crime, were sentenced to the roads for a period of six months each. The case charging Doss Corey with aiding and abetting in a felony, was not prossecuted.

Lee Menter, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was sentenced to the roads for a period of 12 months. Charged with breaking and entering and larceny, Alexander Teel, 15, and James Hunter, 14, were turned over to the juvenile court. As to William Henry Saunders and Leon Eborn, co-defendants, the case was not prossecuted.

Clarence Lloyd, colored, was given an absolute divorce on the grounds of two years of separation against Cora Lloyd.

Three local young men, "Frog" Coburn, Noah Gurganus and J. C. Nicholson, were almost frightened out of their clothes while hunting frogs near here last Friday night. Revenue officers, searching for hidden liquor, happened upon the boys just as they were getting started in their hunt. The frog was lost in the rush, but the boys are said to have recovered him and offered the catch as proof for their story.

Messrs. D. L. Hayman, Bill Howell, D. V. Clayton and John Henry Edwards were guests of the Washington Lions club last Friday night.

## Judge Parker Comes To Orphans' Defense

### HEARING

The proposed discontinuance of passenger train service on the Tarboro branch of the Atlantic Coast Line will be discussed at a public meeting here Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the town hall, Mayor J. L. Hassell announced. Heads of local civic clubs, town officials and other interested citizens are expected to be present for the meeting. O. H. Page, general superintendent of the Northern Division of the Coast Line, and C. M. Cobb, superintendent of the Norfolk district, will attend the meeting.

## Town of Everetts Considers \$18,000 Water-Sewer Plant

### Authorities Are Planning To Place Program Before Voters

Meeting in Taylor's store last Friday evening, Everetts town officials and other interested citizens advanced preliminary plans for a \$36,000 water and sewer system, unofficial reports stating that considerable interest has already been shown in the proposed project and that every effort will be made to provide the services.

Virtually assured of a 45 per cent grant by the Public Works Administration, the town authorities will carry the proposal to the people at a special election to be held within the next several weeks. As far as it could be learned today no election has been ordered, but it is understood that arrangements for placing the matter of a bond issue before the people are being made.

The town proposes to install a complete water works and sewer plant system and make available fire protection. It has been estimated that with the creation of a small volunteer fire department, insurance rates can be reduced approximately 40 per cent, that with this saving and with the revenue from the system no appreciable increase in the tax rate will be made necessary.

Based on preliminary surveys, the proposed program will cost approximately \$16,000, the town depending on a PWA grant to take care of 45 per cent of the cost, leaving the remainder to be raised by a special bond issue. The town with a population of around 300 people is said to have no bonded debt, and it is believed that the bond issue could be easily handled.

Reports maintain that the citizens there are greatly interested in the proposed program, and that they are expecting some definite action within the near future.

## Hamilton Masons Plan Celebration

Thursday, June 23, will be a gala occasion for the Concho Lodge No. 399 A. F. & A. M. of Hamilton, as they are planning the biggest and best meeting in the history of the lodge.

All lodges in the first district have accepted an invitation to join in the annual meeting and a large delegation is expected. Among the distinguished guests will be the district deputy grand master, the grand master of North Carolina, the grand secretary and the past grand master of North Carolina.

The Concho lodge is holding the meeting at the Hamilton School auditorium and every officer is urged to be present at the business meeting to be held at four o'clock. At six p. m. a big barbecue supper will be served with all the necessary trimmings in Masonic style, and at eight p. m. the grand master, and the grand secretary of this state, will address the lodge.

Much interest has been shown in the renewed efforts in Masonry of Concho lodge and all members are urged to attend the meeting this week.

## Revival Will Continue Through Wednesday

The revival services at Swainsland Chapel will continue through Wednesday night, June 22, with Rev. H. E. Harden in charge. Nineteen persons have already joined the church since the meetings began a few days ago, it was reported today.

## Killings on Highway Offer Big Problem In Law Enforcement

### Judge Parker Points Out Duties to Grand Jury Monday

Pointing out that many guardians have been no more than common ordinary thieves, Judge R. Hunt Parker, presiding over the one-week term of Martin County Superior court, yesterday charged the members of the grand jury with the task of thoroughly investigating the accounts of guardians as they would want for their own children. "Mention by name any guardian who has failed in his trust that he may be compelled to obey the law," Judge Parker charged the jury, frankly intimating that any violations would be prosecuted and the defendants jailed, if necessary.

Opening his charge at 10:45, the jurist delivered a pointed charge to the jury, reviewing first the duties of the body. His instructions were to the point, and the jurymen were warned that they were not to pass upon the guilt or innocence of a defendant, that they were to return a true bill when 12 or more of the group found probable cause of guilt. "Ignore trivial matters," the jurist declaring he had little patience with those who brought their fellowmen into court out of malice or ill feeling.

"Law enforcement depends upon the honesty and fearlessness of a grand jury to present indictments," Judge Parker continued, "and none is too wealthy or too influential to escape just action by the courts, and none is too humble or too poor whether he be black or white not to merit protection at your hands."

In their investigation of guardians' accounts, the jurymen were instructed to center their attention on three things, proper bonds, annual reports and manner and nature of investments. They were instructed to see that every guardian furnished a proper bond with a value double that of the personal property entrusted into his hands and that the bond is renewed every three years. "If a guardian or sureties become insolvent or if one of them moves out of the State, mention the name of that guardian that he may be compelled to obey the law," the jurist charged the jury.

"Each guardian," the jurist continued, "is charged with the duty of filing annually a report of receipts and disbursements. If a guardian fails to file a report, then cite him to the court, have him arrested and jailed." The duty of the clerk of court to audit the annual reports and accounts was cited by Judge Parker.

Explaining the manner and nature of investments prescribed by law, the jurist stated that only three types of investments are allowed by law. "The guardian may lend money on a deed of trust, making sure that it is a first deed of trust, and that the amount of the loan is not more than half the valuation placed on the property for general taxation," he added.

The guardian, Judge Parker explained, may invest money in State and Federal Government bonds, but he emphasized that it was unlawful

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## Few Local People Offer Aid To Suffering Chinese

Very few local people have volunteered aid to suffering humanity in China in response to a nationwide call for a few dollars to carry on relief work in one of the worst stricken areas in the world. Neighboring towns and others throughout the United States are participating in the humane work, but less than five dollars have been raised in Williamston to date.

While we are disturbed over less than seven inches of rain here, hundreds of thousands of helpless human beings have been swept to their deaths in China floods. Hundreds of thousands have felt victim to weapons of war, disease and famine. All this is going on while our people raise nearly a million dollars to see two men fight in New York.

It isn't too late to contribute a dollar or two or even a few pennies to this appealing cause. This paper will gladly acknowledge any contributions and forward them to Theodore Roosevelt, chairman of the National Council for Civilian Relief in China.

## Continued Rains Exacting Greater Damage to Tobacco

### Rainfall Nearing All-Time Record for June in This Section

Nearing an all-time record for the month of June, continued rains are said to have exacted an increased loss in tobacco production in this section, reports placing the damage in excess of 55 per cent, as a whole. While some communities have had heavier rains than others, the damage is general, farmers cultivating sandy land explaining that their tobacco crops have been virtually ruined. Poundages will hardly exceed half of normal production in some communities, farmers declare. Those growers cultivating heavy type soils reported fair crops up until the week-end, but they are greatly disturbed as the rains continue to fall and heavy clouds hover in the skies.

Two and a quarter inches of rain was reported at the Williamston weather station over the week-end, bringing the total for this month up to 6.24 inches. This compares with 1.62 inches for all of last June, but is slightly under the 7.46 inches of rainfall reported in June, 1936. Late yesterday afternoon, cloudbursts were reported in sections of the county, older residents in Griffins Township stating that a record fall covered that community. The cloud apparently divided, one wing traveling southwest and the other west of Williamston. Poplar Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest districts reported heavy rains.

Late reports from the State indicate that the damage, for a long time centered in this area, is fast becoming general. Dean L. O. Schaub, of the State College Extension Service, saying yesterday:

"I'm very much disturbed about the weather situation," he said. "The continued downpours are damaging both the quality and quantity of flue-cured tobacco throughout the State."

He declined to estimate the extent of damage. Tobacco, the State's primary cash crop, brought farmers \$150,000,000 last year.

A survey by telephone of growers indicated damaged crops from Shelby, in Cleveland County, to the coast, said E. Y. Floyd, State AAA officer. He added that rains had washed tens of thousands of dollars worth of fertilizer from the fields.

"Tobacco just can't stand wet feet for a long time," Dean Schaub commented. "The unusually wet weather has done a world of damage. Reports from county farm agents and growers indicate almost every section of the State has been hit."

Another pessimistic outlook came from Dr. Luther Shaw, State College plant pathologist, who reported the first epidemic of blue mold, ever found in tobacco fields of the State. A scourge of plant beds and prevalent this season, blue mold never before has been reported on growing plants in the field, but Dr. Shaw said it has attacked fields in old belt and burley belt counties, particularly around Greensboro and Winston-Salem.

He attributed the outbreak to cool moist weather and said warmer drier weather might check it. He expressed little hope that spraying would control mold that has already appeared.

Dr. Shaw and Dr. R. F. Poole, plant pathology professors at State College, will leave today to tour the areas of greatest infestation and study crop conditions.

Floyd said tobacco in lighter soils had suffered worst. He suggested that as soon as the rain ceases, farmers should throw ridges against the stalks that have not been topped.

"In this way," he added, "they may be able to save many plants that would otherwise be lost."

## Raid Filling Station Near Here On Saturday

Raiding the Dempsey filling station at the end of the Roanoke River fill, near here in Bertie County, last Saturday night, Bertie officers and members of the State Highway Patrol confiscated about fifteen pints of liquor and formally charged the operator with transporting and possession. W. J. Sawyer, Bertie Morgan, Mary Willoughby and May Radcliff, charged with aiding and abetting were given a preliminary hearing along with Dempsey and their cases were set for trial July 5 in the Bertie County General court.

Dempsey was placed under bond in the sum of \$500 and the other defendants were released under bond in the sum of \$250 each.

## Martin Farmers Likely To Get Tobacco Marketing Allotments About Middle Month of August

### Merchants' Displays Feature At Lions' Indoor Circus Here

Cooperating with the Lions club in its efforts to raise funds for blind prevention work in Martin County, Williamston merchants have done an excellent job in preparing pleasing displays at the exposition and indoor circus now underway in the Planters warehouse here. No greater or more attractive displays have been prepared before at any one time in Williamston, and it is really worth a visit to the event to review the exhibits. The opening last night was interrupted by rain, but large crowds are expected to patronize the charitable event before the week is spent. A unique program crowded with entertainment has been carefully planned by the management, and a large number of free prizes are given away each night.

A description of the numerous booths is impossible here, but the following merchants and business firms cordially invite you to attend the event and review their displays:

Harrison Brothers and Company, VanDyke Furniture Company, Guaranty Bank and Trust Company, Branch Banking and Trust Company, Margolis Brothers, B. S. Courtney, Williamston Motor Company, Western Auto Associate Store, Peele's, Jewelers, Belk-Tyler's, Lindsley Ice Company, Sinclair Refining Company, Williamston Hardware Company, Economy Auto Supply, The American Legion Post is World War veterans are invited to also cooperating with a booth, and make their headquarters there while attending the exposition. Williamston's Tobacco Board of Trade points out a unique record for the market, and advances its goal for 1938.

All in all, the exposition is offering more for the least of any event sponsored here in many years.

## Funeral Services for Mrs. Zack Cowin Are Held This Afternoon

### Other Members of Family Escape Unhurt as Bolt Strikes House

Mrs. Thelma Grimes Cowin, well known and greatly beloved young woman of Bear Grass, was instantly killed by lightning at her home here yesterday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock. Before other members of the family who were standing nearby could reach her, she had dropped to the floor dead.

Going from the family garden where she and others of her kin had gathered vegetables for the following day, Mrs. Cowin and other members of the family went into the house as a dark cloud gathered overhead. She with Mrs. Clayton Cowin went to the back porch for a drink of water soon thereafter, and it is believed she had her hand on the pump when the lightning bolt struck a pecan tree a few feet away and jumped to the tin roof of the porch directly over the pump. The lightning apparently was attracted by the iron pump and as an arc was formed the bolt claimed the young woman's life. Death was instantaneous, but the body was not burned or scarred.

Attracted by the flash and the screams of Mrs. Clayton Cowin who stood nearby, other members of the family rushed from the living room to the porch. Efforts to revive her proved of no avail.

Mrs. Clayton Cowin and other members of the family are said to have suffered no shock whatever. No damage was done to the home, and only a small scar was left on the pecan tree where the bolt first struck.

Mrs. Cowin, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Grimes, was born and reared in Robersonville Township 28 years ago next month. She lived there until her marriage to Mr. Zack Cowin two years ago last December. Since that time she made her home with her parents-in-law, Elder and Mrs. B. S. Cowin, prominent county church family, in Bear Grass.

Greatly beloved by all who knew her, Mrs. Cowin was an industrious young woman and a thoughtful wife, her friendliness and understanding gaining for her a place in the hearts of all.

No children survive the union. Besides her husband she leaves four sisters, Mrs. Carrie Dell Purvis and Miss Louise Grimes, of Robersonville; Mrs. John Cherry, of Everetts and Mrs. Lee Carson, of Paeletus, and seven brothers, Messrs. Thomas Grimes, of Raleigh; Mark Grimes, of Washington City; S. L. Simon and Leonard Grimes, of Rocky Mount; Rufus Grimes, of Cary, and Elder William E. Grimes, of Spring Green, this county.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at the home at three o'clock. Interment will follow in the Cowin plot, near Bear Grass.

## State Allotment Expected Within Next Three Weeks

### Reports State That Growers Will Be Served from Same Spoon

Unofficial reports coming out of Washington yesterday indicate that Martin County farmers will receive their tobacco marketing allotments about the middle of August or possibly two weeks before the markets open in this belt. It is also reported that the department in Washington City is working night and day setting up marketing allotments for the several states, that the poundage figures will likely be announced the early part of July.

No definite trend as to what to expect is available, but if the poundage quotas are advanced along the same line that the acreage allotments were determined, then North Carolina will possibly get around 375,000,000 pounds as its share.

When it comes to dishing out the allotments to the individual growers, it is understood that the quotas will be determined by a set formula which means, literally speaking, that the growers will all be served out of the same spoon. There are definite factors that will be considered, of course, and these factors will be based on activities carried on by the individual farmers. It is possible the poundage quotas will be based on 1935 figures with variations allowed for crop failures resulting from various causes such as hail, drought or rain. Poundages for 1936 and 1937 will also be considered. Other factors will center around the available equipment a farmer has on his farm, the number of tobacco acres per barn and so on. Then the number of families and number of persons in those families will enter as possible facts in the determining of the poundage.

The information, while considered reliable, is not official, but one thing is certain this year and that is there will be no abnormally high quotas on the one hand and unusually low poundage allotments on the other hand. If one farmer finds his quota too small, it is likely that others will find theirs too small.

Plans are being made to have the various community committees gather additional information for the state office, and it is likely that the marketing allotments will be determined there. It was reported some time ago that marketing quotas would be set up by newly-elected community and county committees, but later reports indicate that either the old or the newly-elected committees will handle the task, that the state office will likely determine the allowances. Machinery will be set up for the handling of complaints and the correction of any errors, reports stating that it is believed the proposed system for handling the quotas will meet with general satisfaction, and work to a greater advantage for all growers.

Excessive poundages can be marketed if surplus cards are available. However, no price has been set for surplus cards. The farmer with excessive poundage will have several alternatives. He can possibly buy surplus cards or he may hold his inferior grades off the market. The non-cooperator will be required to pay the tax of 50 per cent of the sale price or three cents a pound, whichever one is greater, unless he can buy surplus poundage on the card of another.

Martin farmers, uneasy about their crops and expecting a curtailed production this year, are advised that the 1938 plantings will not be considered in determining poundage allotments, that the unfavorable factors will be considered, if necessary, in determining future allotments.

## Two Arrested Sunday For Alleged Thefts

Walter Freeman, colored, was arrested Sunday for the alleged theft of peanuts from a transfer truck here Sunday. When arrested Freeman was shelling the goobers alleged to have been stolen. Bill Latham, also colored, was arrested for the alleged theft of a pair of second-hand shoes from the Willard Shoe Shop.

### SUMMER TIME

Today, June 21, marks the beginning of another summer, but, according to the keeper of the thermometers summer has been present for the past several days. Had it not been for the clouds coming between the earth and sun almost continuously during recent weeks, summer weather would probably been in greater evidence. Today is also one of the shortest in the year.

## Deliver Pensions To Widows Of Veterans

Pension checks amounting to \$800 are being distributed to widows of late Confederate veterans in this county by Clerk of Court L. Bruce Wynne. Only three of the ten checks are for Class A widows who receive \$150 twice each year, the Class B widows receiving only \$50 each every June and December.

Checks in the Class A group have been delivered to Mrs. Virginia Perry, Mrs. Allie Riddick and Mrs. Mary Thompson. In the Class B group checks have been or are being delivered to the following: Mrs. Winnie Benjamin, Mrs. Katherine Dixon, Mrs. Martha Gurganus, Mrs. Lucy A. Mizelle, Mrs. Martha J. Peel, Mrs. Mary G. Perry and Mrs. Martha E. Philpott.

The pension list has not carried the name of a veteran of the War Between the States from this county in some time, the last having died more than a year ago. One or two widows have died since last December, but the total amount of the pensions for them remains about on an average as additional ones have been added from time to time. The number is dwindling, however, reports stating that there are few or none now eligible to participate in the pension fund established by the State for widows of Confederate veterans.

## Revival Begins at Everetts Christian Church Monday

The revival meeting began at the Everetts Christian Church Monday evening at eight o'clock. Rev. J. M. Perry, of Robersonville, is conducting the series of meeting every evening through next Sunday and into next week. Large attendance is expected as delegations from nearby communities have been invited. Inspirational sermons, great singing and special music will be the major attractions. The public is cordially invited.

## Kiwanis-Lions To Play If It Doesn't Rain

The Kiwanis-Lions benefit baseball game, scheduled several times during recent weeks, will be played tomorrow, Bill Spivey, captain of the Kiwanians, entering the proviso, "If it doesn't rain." Proceeds of the game will go to the local public library.