

No Irregularities Are Pointed Out In Grand Jury Report

Court Adjourned Monday Before Report Was Completed

Judge Hunt Parker, in his charge to the Martin County grand jury on Monday of this week, offered pointed instructions for investigating guardians' accounts and checking automobile wrecks.

No irregularities were found in guardians' accounts according to the report filed Tuesday by the grand jury.

All bills have been disposed of that came into our hands.

We find that all Justices of Peace have filed their reports, and all fines have been paid to the county, except J. T. Wildman is due the county treasurer \$1.00 and Pleny Peel and H. M. Burras failed to file their report.

We inspected the offices of the county treasurer, register of deeds, sheriff and found all records filed in good order and general conditions very good.

We inspected the county home and found same to be in a very good condition, and inmates well cared for.

We have inspected the court house and find same in good condition.

We inspected all guardian accounts and bonds and found them in regular order except the following which we list and offer the following recommendations: Bonds to be renewed for Mrs. Bennie O. Martin, Ralph O. Purvis, 2 bonds, J. C. Gurkin and B. F. Perry; bond not perfected V. G. Taylor and a new guardian be appointed for Irvin Bennett.

Gold Point Church Holds Bible School

Beginning next Monday morning at nine o'clock, the leaders of the Presbyterian church in Martin County will extend their services to the boys and girls of the Gold Point school and community.

The school will be in session each morning at nine a. m. and continue through 11:30. The school will be divided into classes according to ages and a number of teachers from Bear Grass, Williamston, and Poplar Point will go out each morning to conduct the school.

A varied program of worship, story-telling, dramatics, play, music, bible study, handwork and other activities enjoyed by children will be presented each day.

This is an invitation to all the parents of the Gold Point community to send their children to the school. It is being held for the training of the children and to raise the moral standard of the community and the county.

Memorial Organ Recital Sunday

Ben E. Manning, local young man, assisted by Mrs. J. H. Smith, soprano, and Charles Leonard, violinist, will appear in recital in the local Baptist church Sunday evening at 8 o'clock in memory of Mrs. Lettie Biggs.

The announced program: Nearer My God to Thee, Himmereich; Finale from First Sonata, A. Guilman; The Evening Star from Tannhauser, R. Wagner; Third Choral, C. Franck. Vocal solo, Mrs. J. H. Smith; How Beautiful upon the Mountains, F. Harker. Violin solo, Charles Leonard. The Holy City, Adams and Henley; Meditation from Thais, J. Massenet; Variations De Concert, J. Bonnet.

Jury of Fifteen Members Tries Case in Martin Superior Court

For the first time as far as it is known, fifteen men served on the petit jury in the Martin County Superior Court this week; the three extras functioning unobserved by the court.

Three young men, sworn in for jury service for the first time, were not called upon when the robbery case was called Monday afternoon. They were holding seats adjoining the jury box, however, and all during the trial the three men, two from Robersonville and one from Williamston, listened attentively to

TO GIVE RECITAL



Ben E. Manning, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Manning, will appear in an organ recital in the local Baptist church Sunday evening at eight o'clock.

Local Boy Scouts Will Begin Work to Win Merit Badges

First Aid to Animals and Animal Industry Subjects to Be Taught

Wheeler Martin, chairman of Martin District Boy Scouts, announces the first of a series of merit badge subjects. These instructions, to be in first aid to animals and animal industry subjects, will start at two o'clock p. m., Thursday, June 30th.

Paul Roberson, chairman of advancement for the Martin district will arrange a court of honor session to advance scouts successfully passing these subjects following the training.

Safety First and First Aid Merit badge subjects will be taught in another class following the completion of these two courses, by Patrolman Bill Hunt. Then comes a class for the scouts for the Firemanship merit badge by Assistant Scoutmaster J. B. Hopkins.

These classes have been arranged in keeping with the decision recently made by members of the Martin district for a "Vacation Program" for scouts.

Williamston and Robersonville scouts received advancement at Camp Charles. Six boys are at present at the camp receiving instruction in Scoutcraft.

On Thursday afternoon the June session of the Scouters Meeting was held in the office of the chairman to further promote the "Vacation Program". The scout executive, J. J. Sigwald, was present at this meeting and commented favorably on the fine work of the Martin scouts.

Troop 72 of Robersonville re-registered this week for another year's work and in July Troop 27 of Williamston will renew its charter.

The scout executive, who serves as camp director, advises parents of local scouts to send their boys to Camp Charles for at least a week at the new session which opens next Sunday at four o'clock.

Heavy Rainfall Sends Roanoke Out Of Banks

Heavy rainfall in the Roanoke basin during recent days is sending the river out of its banks at this point, High Spruill, bridge keeper, reported this morning. A second rise at Weldon is expected to delay a fall for several days at this point.

the evidence and strained their heads forward to catch every word of Judge R. Hunt Parker's charge. When the jury of twelve men was directed to repair to the jury room, the three extras filed in with them, their presence receiving no attention from the court or from members of the regular group.

The verdict agreed upon, the fifteen men returned to open court, spectators being startled as the overflow crowd filed from the little room. The verdict was entered in the records and the defendants were booked for service in road camps.

Whitehurst Issues Statement Denying Any Wrongful Acts

Retires from Public Life And Asks Peace and Rest as Citizen

Ousted by a one-man court, and resigning the nomination to succeed himself as sheriff of Pitt County, Sheriff Sam Whitehurst, former Martin County resident and possessor of hundreds of friends in this county, issued the following to the people of Pitt County as he returned to private life a few days ago:

"In fairness to myself and friends I want to make the following statements regarding the consent judgment which has been imposed in the long-drawn-out ouster proceedings to remove me from office as sheriff of Pitt County.

"In the first place, I want everyone to know that I do not admit any wilfully wrong act in either my public or private life. During the years that I have been sheriff, I have steadily fought for high standards of life and efficiency in my duties. Such fault as there may be is the result of a faulty system, and I have at no time, even on the witness stand, attempted to obfuscate any issue. I have at all times said that if there was any actual shortage in my office that I was ready and willing to pay it. I did refuse to assume responsibility for bills of court costs. No fair person with average intelligence would say that this responsibility was mine.

"I agreed to the consent judgment for the simple reason that I could no longer cope with the treasury of Pitt County and because I had spent the last dollar I had to spend without throwing my wife and children into the streets and upon the mercy of the world. It had been made clear to me that the court intended taxing me with the costs of the case. It had also been made clear that the court intended invoking Article Six of the State Constitution to the end that I would be declared disqualified for further office-holding. To have appealed to the Supreme Court would have meant spending the last dollar I had or my wife's life. I had to think of my duties as a husband to a good and loyal wife, and of further duties as a father to a family of five children. The salary of sheriff for eight years to come would not have paid the expense to which I would have been put. I am not a man of large financial means. I never have been.

"I have had no jury trial before my fellow man. I have been reduced to this end by a court of one man. I have been persecuted more than prosecuted. The one and only end ever sought—that of getting me out of office—has been accomplished. It has been accomplished at a cost of thousands of dollars of Pitt County's money. The people of Pitt County will forever judge between me and my accusers. They will forever judge the type of men who produced and the type who gave evidence that I had criminally taken bribes. They will forever judge the motives that caused the petitioners to spend thousands in the claim that they wanted to clean up my office.

"The petitioners will never recover even the tenth part of what they have spent, and it is open knowledge that I stood ready and willing to abide by any fair, impartial audit, and to make restitution if anything was due the county. I have laid no claim to being a perfect man. I have maintained and always shall maintain that I have not knowingly violated any duty or obligation of my office.

"I have made the foregoing statements that my friends might know that I have not lain down on them.

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Employment Office Here Sets A Record For State Last Month

Report Shows There's Very Little Unemployment In This Area

The Williamston unit of the State Employment Service, making 133 job placements during the past month, led the State for the month, in third place in the group of 15 offices of its size. Morganton, Roanoke Rapids and Williamston offices were the front-ranking three in placement work in the group.

Williamston serves the five counties of Martin, Beaufort, Washington, Tyrrell and Hyde. Manager C. W. Bazemore of the local office stated this week that the jobs located and filed by this office with applicants of these counties, included many various occupations, and a good proportion of the placements were in employment of regular or permanent duration.

Over the State as a whole, May was the best month in placement activity since last October, 1937, indicating much employment service activity and also reflecting upon increased employment opportunities, as located by workers in the various offices over the State.

Reports released by the employment service in this district for last week maintain that with the exception of a small group of white-collar workers there is no unemployment problem here. The report continues, "Furthermore, they are finding themselves hard-pressed to supply local employers with all the unskilled labor normally required."

Exposition Closes Tomorrow Evening

The Merchants exposition and indoor circus, recognized as one of the highest types of entertainments planned here in a long number of years, comes to a close tomorrow night in the Planters Warehouse with an elaborate program for colored patrons, the last night event being featured by the presence of Zack Green and his colored orchestra.

The display of merchants' booths is the most elaborate ever seen here, and the entertainment program, featuring the Flying Howards, Lippincott, the LaRue Brothers and the Cresce troupe, has measured and passed the expectations of everyone. The Cresce group has offered one of the best acts ever seen here, numbers of people returning for the performance as many as three times.

The management has offered everything as promised, and as far as the general program is concerned, the exposition has been "a marked success."

Adverse weather conditions have affected the attendance, but it is thought that with a liberal patronage tonight and tomorrow, the event will show a small profit for its sponsors, the Williamston Lions club.

TOBACCO CURING

Tobacco curing, getting underway in this section last week, is now fairly general, many farmers harvesting their first "pullings" well in advance of a normal season in an effort to save the leaves that have been damaged by excessive rains.

Railroad Officials Push Proposal To Discontinue Two Passenger Trains on Plymouth Branch Line

Report Blue Mold in Tobacco Fields in County This Week

Unofficial reports received here this week maintain the damage done to tobacco crops has been aggravated by the presence of blue mold in fields of Robersonville Township.

Reports could not be verified here today, but a number of people stated they saw where some disease had attacked sizeable stalks of tobacco and parched the leaves to a crisp. "Flopped" tobacco has been reported by a large number of farmers in this county during the past few days, but the reports coming out of Robersonville this week were the first to maintain that the crop had been attacked by blue mold.

Mrs. Monford Fagan Dies At Her Home In County Early Today

Funeral Services to Be Conducted at 4 o'clock Sunday Afternoon

Mrs. Monford Fagan, highly respected county citizen, died at her home near Dardens this morning at four o'clock following a long period of declining health. She had suffered with heart trouble for some time but her condition was considered as well as usual until a few days ago when plebitis developed and caused death.

The daughter of the late J. C. and Susan Clemmons Smith, Mrs. Fagan was born in this county about 72 years ago, living in the Dardens section all her life. She was before her marriage in early womanhood to Mr. Fagan, Miss Inez Smith. A gentle and understanding character marked her life. She was a devoted follower of that faith, one who never tired in the service of the church. Her Christian-like character offered a worthy example in righteous living for others.

Besides her husband she leaves the following sons and daughters, Mr. J. B. Fagan, of Hamlet; Mrs. Mattie Martin, of Jacksonville, Fla.; Mr. Harry Fagan, of Fort Myers; Mr. Bruce Fagan, of Columbia, S. C.; Mrs. W. Elbert Gardner, of Suffolk; Messrs. Julian and Dan Fagan, both of Dardens, and Mrs. Mary Coley, of Washington, D. C. She is also survived by one sister, Mrs. Minnie Smith of Plymouth, two brothers, Messrs. Joe Smith, of Norfolk and Jacob Smith, of Dardens, and one half-brother, Professor LeRoy Smith of the University of North Carolina faculty, Chapel Hill.

Funeral services will be conducted from the late home Sunday afternoon at four o'clock by Rev. Clarence Bowen, Free Will Baptist minister. Interment will follow at Dardens.

Mrs. Roberson Dies Near Robersonville

Mrs. Biggs Roberson, native of Bear Grass and a highly respected county citizen, died at her home near Robersonville last Monday following a long period of declining health.

Miss Willie Rawls before her marriage, she was the daughter of the late Urar and Mary Peele Rawls. She was born near Bear Grass 67 years ago, and lived there all her life until last year she moved with her sons to Robersonville Township to make her home. Mr. Roberson died just a few years ago.

Mrs. Roberson was held in high esteem by all who knew her, and she had many friends in her old home community. She never joined any church, but her religious beliefs were with the Primitive Baptist church which she attended regularly for many years.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister, and interment was in the family plot in the Biggs cemetery, near here.

the transplanting season. The reported presence of the disease has not been called to the attention of the county farm agent's office by the growers, it was learned.

Reports from the western part of the State maintain that blue mold has attacked plants in the fields there, but the extent of the resulting damage could not be definitely determined. As a result of excessive rains, curtailed tobacco production has been forecasted throughout the State, some estimates maintaining that the loss will run as much as 200 pounds to the acre, on an average, with the damage running far in excess of that figure on light, sandy lands.

HEARING

A public hearing on the application of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad company to discontinue Trains Nos. 36 and 37, operating between Plymouth and Tarboro, will be held in the office of the Utilities Commissioner in Raleigh on Wednesday, July 6, at 2:30 o'clock.

Delegations from nearly every town along the route served by the trains are expected to attend the hearing. Mayor Hassell stated that several local people were planning to be present.

Colored Man Loses Life at Jamesville In Roanoke River

Body of Johnny Miller, 28, Has Not Yet Been Recovered

Johnny Miller, 28-year-old colored man, was drowned in the Roanoke River at Jamesville yesterday, unofficial reports maintaining that there was no foul play but that no plausible reason could be advanced for the action that resulted in the man's death.

Unable to swim, Miller was said to have gone to a wharf just off Jamesville's business section where a group of boys were in swimming. "I believe I'll jump in," Miller told them. The group, knowing the man could not swim, warned him the water was over his head and advised him not to jump in. Miller, his actions suggesting suicide, ignored the warning and jumped into the treacherous stream, reports stating that he was not seen after he made the fatal plunge. A number of people started dragging the stream for the body, but late reports reaching here stated that it had not been recovered.

The group of swimmers were reasonably certain that Miller did not strike a submerged log when he jumped from the wharf with his clothes on, and they can't understand why he never appeared on the surface of the water.

Reliable reports state that the man was not drunk, that as far as could be learned, he had not taken a drink of intoxicating liquors that day, making his action more mysterious.

Miller came to this county from Princess Anne County, Va., about a year ago. Since that time he has worked with Jerry Johnson and son Godard, in the logwoods, but had been unemployed recently.

Begin Construction Warehouse Addition

Construction work was started this week on an addition to the Farmers Warehouse here, the builders stating the house will be made ready in ample time for the opening some time during the latter part of August. No contract was let for the construction of the addition, the owners directing the work themselves.

Trains Operated At \$20,000 Loss In 1937 On Line to Plymouth

Local People Take No Action For or Against Curtailment

Traveling by automobile, Messrs. O. H. Page, general superintendent of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and C. M. Cobb, superintendent of the Norfolk division, met in the mayor's office here yesterday afternoon with a number of merchants and other business men to discuss the proposed discontinuance of passenger train service on the Tarboro branch of the Atlantic Coast Line.

Appealing for permission to remove the trains, Mr. Page reviewed the railroad situation nationally, pointing out that more than one-third of the railroads operating in the southeastern section of the United States were doing so under receiverships. He asked the business men to hear the evidence and be

governed by it. With this evidence he showed that the Atlantic Coast Line lost, over a period of three years, \$9,669,000. This period covered the years of 1935, 1936 and 1937, and Mr. Page pointed out that the loss would be even greater this year unless their expenses were reduced.

After reviewing the condition of the Coast Line from a state and national standpoint, Mr. Page confined the rest of his remarks to the branch line running from Tarboro to Plymouth. He showed that the total operating expenses of the passenger trains running from Plymouth to Tarboro amounted to \$29,156 for the year 1937. The total revenue from the passenger trains for mail and passengers, for the same period only amounted to \$9,635.00. Mr. Page further pointed out that after the other expenses were added to the operating costs of the two trains, the total cost would approximate \$35,000. In other figures, Mr. Page said, the cost of operating trains No. 36 and No. 37 would average \$1.17 per mile and the revenue over a period of a year would amount to only 25 cents per mile, a resulting loss of 92 cents a mile.

When questioned relative to the revenue received by the Coast Line for hauling express, Mr. Page could not give any definite figures, stating that he did not have access to the records of the American Express Company, but that he was certainly sure the revenue received by the railroad from this source would not be as much as that paid by the railroad in taxes to the county.

Mr. Page asked that the body of men go on record favoring the discontinuance of the two trains but no action was taken, the citizens stating that they desired to study the situation further before asking Stanley Winborne to authorize the withdrawal of the trains. When asked whether the withdrawal of the trains would affect the property tax valuation of the Coast Line in this County, Mr. Page said it would not.

The railroad has been notified that its mail contract for the Tarboro-Plymouth line will be cancelled in the near future, but no plans for handling the mails have been announced.

Lions Name Officers For The New Year

Meeting in regular session last evening, the Williamston Lions club elected officers for the coming year and completed plans for a White Cane Drive here tomorrow.

Judge Herbert O. Peel is the new president, succeeding Banker D. V. Clayton who is completing a successful year as head of the local organization. Other officers are: J. H. Edwards, first vice president; K. P. Lindsley, second vice president; K. D. Worrell, third vice president; D. V. Clayton, Fred Taylor and Irving Margolis, directors; E. Ross Fronberger, secretary-treasurer; Bill Howell, assistant secretary-treasurer; Dewey Hayman, Lion Tamer, and Eugene Rice, tail twister.

The White Cane Drive, planned to raise funds to promote blind prevention work, is to be carried on throughout the country. Canvassers will be on the streets here, and the public is urged to aid the movement by buying one of the white canes, the price ranging from five cents to five dollars.