

Recorder's Court In An All-Day Session Trying Big Docket

Judge H. O. Peel Handles Seventeen Cases Monday

Following a big round-up over the week-end by county and local officers, Judge H. O. Peel and Solicitor W. H. Coburn settled down to a big day's work in the Martin County Recorder's Court on Monday. Large crowds were present from nearly every section of the county to hear the proceedings in the seventeen cases.

Most of the morning was spent trying the case charging George Barnes with practicing medicine without a license. Judge Peel overruled motions to non-suit the case, and found the 75-year-old defendant guilty. Barnes was fined \$100 and taxed with the cost. Notice of appeal to the higher court was given.

Jasper Williams, charged with an assault, was adjudged not guilty.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with non-support, David Freeman was sentenced to the roads for five months.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging Bill Hines with careless and reckless driving.

The case charging Joe Bonds with an assault was remanded to the justice of the peace court where it originated.

A continuance until the first Monday in December was granted in the case charging James Walston with non-support.

The case charging Marshall Burns with bastardy was continued until the first Monday in December.

The case charging Julia Peel and Alexander James with assignment and prostitution was settled when the two defendants appeared in the marriage license bureau, procured license and married. They denied the charge brought against them.

A motion for non-suit was granted in the case charging LeRoy Mizelle with larceny and receiving.

Earl Williams, charged with violating the liquor laws, was fined \$25 and sentenced to the roads for six months, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of the cost in the case charging John Robert Bland with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Grover James was fined \$25, taxed with the cost and placed under a six months suspended sentence.

Roland Stevenson was fined \$10 and taxed with the cost in the case charging him with an assault.

Simon Jenkins was fined \$25 and sentenced to the roads for six months for alleged violation of the liquor laws. Sentence is to begin at the direction of the court, and the defendant was given two weeks to pay the fine and costs.

The case charging Gather Lock with larceny and receiving was continued two weeks.

Selector Andrews was sentenced to the roads for 30 days in the case charging him with larceny and receiving.

Charged with larceny and receiving, Jesse James Walston was sentenced to the roads for three months.

Malaria Claiming Number of Victims

Reports gathered from various sources indicate that malaria attacks are numerous in the county at this time. While all are victims of malaria to some extent, quite a few have been very ill with the disease some spending several weeks in bed.

The presence of malaria on a fairly large scale is attracting attention of health authorities, the State board of health just recently issuing the ultimatum that malaria must go.

Aside from malaria, health conditions in the county last month were considered not very favorable. There was one case of typhoid fever and eleven cases of diphtheria reported to the county health office. A colored person fell victim of typhoid fever in Hamilton Township, and most of the diphtheria victims were among the colored population in various parts of the county. There were two cases of scarlet fever among the white population.

For the first time in several months there were no whooping cough cases reported in the county, but there are still to be seen a few of the yellow signs adorning doors here and there in a few communities.

N. R. Manning attended the fair in Raleigh this week.

First District Democrats Will Meet On Tuesday, October 25

With no heated contest to spur them on, Democrats in this immediate section of the State are holding meetings as a matter of form and tooting their own horns. Battles are well underway in the disputed territory to the west, and as November 8 nears, the Democrats in the Piedmont have not yet got their ranks in order.

First District Democrats are reporting a smooth-running machine, and more oil will be applied when the loyal party leaders of the area hold a conference in the courthouse at 10:30 o'clock on the morning of October 25. Announcing the meeting Congressman Lindsay Warren stated, "It has been called by R. Gregg Cherry, democratic state chairman, and Mr. Murphy, vice chairman and D. L. Ward, secretary. Representatives

Delinquent Tax List Shows Slight Increase

GYMNASIUMS

After collecting dust in WPA offices somewhere in this State for months, a proposal to construct two gymnasiums in this county—one at Oak City and one at Jamesville—has been sent to Washington with the approval of the State office in Raleigh, it was learned here this week. "Approval in Washington is expected soon," WPA officials here state.

The county has appropriated \$3,000 for the buildings. Citizens of the two communities will furnish much of the timber and the WPA will furnish other materials and labor.

W. Alexander White Dies Near Hamilton Early This Morning

Funeral For Well-Known Farmer Tomorrow Afternoon

W. Alexander White, well-known county citizen, died at his home in Hamilton Township at one o'clock this morning following a long period of declining health. Nearly three years ago he suffered an attack of angina, but regained his health sufficiently to be up and attend to minor duties until about six weeks ago when he suffered a stroke of paralysis. Since that time he was confined to his bed and his condition was considered critical.

The son of the late Calvin and Mary Latham White, he was born in Bear Grass Township about 65 years ago. About 40 years ago he located in Hamilton Township where he succeeded as a farmer. He was married to Mrs. Nephie Roebuck House who survives with four children, Miss Selma White, Alton and Norman White, of Hamilton, and Cecil White of Greensboro. He also leaves two brothers, Messrs. J. E. White, of Poplar Point, and Albert White, of Williamston, and three sisters, Mrs. L. A. Taylor, of Washington; Mrs. Joe Powell, of Robersonville, and Mrs. Lena Comer, of Florida.

Mr. White joined the Primitive Baptist church at Spring Green several years ago and was well known in his county, possessing a large circle of friends. He was recognized as an able farmer and a substantial citizen of the county.

Funeral services will be conducted from the late home tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock by Elders B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers. Interment will follow near the home.

Peanut Digging Well Advanced in County

Peanut digging in the county was reported three-fourths completed in the county today, farmers claiming that the production will not exceed from 50 to 60 percent of a normal yield. A few farmers point out, however, that they will have average yields with quality equally as good as it was last year.

While the production will fall far below normal in this county and possibly in most of this section, reports indicate that the national yield will be considerably in excess of the 1937 production.

of various women's organizations and Young Democrats will be present as will all democratic officials in the state administration from the first district.

Mr. Warren expressed the hope that there would be a large attendance from each county in the district as the first district has always held the largest meeting in the state. The meeting will be followed by a barbecue or luncheon given by the Democratic Executive Committee of Martin County headed by Elbert Peel, county chairman.

The conference in 1936 was held in Ahoskie and was rated as the best meeting in the state that year. An invitation is extended to all Democratic candidates in the first district, county organizations and party workers. Plans will be made for bringing out a large vote in the November election.

About \$14,000 Out Of \$193,869.00 Levy Now Uncollected

Total of 674 Out of Nearly 8,000 Accounts Remain On Tax Books

A review of Martin County's delinquent tax list for the year 1937 shows that collections have been unusually successful and far better than the most optimistic expected. The delinquent list, appearing today for the first time, carried 674 accounts and an unpaid balance of \$13,848.69. A year ago there were 655 delinquent accounts and an unpaid balance of \$12,978.70.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, the collector, was a bit disheartened during the latter part of August and most of September, but when the final call was issued, the property owners came to life and worked the sheriff's office force night and day paying the 1937 tax accounts. Today, the collector apparently has a new lease on life, and believes that conditions are not so bad after all. To support that belief, the collector has with in the past two weeks collected more than \$30,000 on the 1938 tax accounts.

A glance back at the collection records shows that conditions surrounding the tax office are far better than they were for the year, 1935, when there were 733 delinquent accounts and nearly \$15,000 unpaid.

Eight of the ten townships reported no material change in the amounts uncollected for 1937 as compared with the previous year. Jamesville about held its own. Williams showed a slight increase, but Griffins reduced its amount by more than 35 per cent and cut its number of unpaid accounts fifty per cent. Bear Grass shows a small reduction, while Williamston has a slight increase in accounts and amounts. Robersonville, while reducing its accounts, shows an increase of nearly \$200 in its unpaid amount. Poplar Point has almost twice as many delinquent accounts, but the total, 7, is quite small. The unpaid amount there, while small, is several times greater than it was last year. The number of delinquent accounts in Hamilton jumped from 44 last year to 57 this year, and the unpaid taxes are \$1,848.09 compared with \$493.88 unpaid a year ago. No material change is noted in

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Registration Books To Open In Martin County

Books for the registration of voters will open in the twelve Martin County precincts tomorrow, remaining open for three successive Saturdays. The fourth Saturday will be challenge day.

Very little interest is being shown by Martin County electors, and a comparatively small vote is predicted in all twelve of the Martin precincts when the general election is held on November 8.

There are no local contests, but the contest for U. S. Senate and the proposed amendments to the State constitution may attract a fair-sized number to the polls in this county.

O. S. Anderson, local registrar, will have the books open each day in one of the tobacco warehouses and on Saturdays at the agricultural building.

Mr. C. O. Moore Is Quite Ill At His Home

C. O. Moore, prominent local merchant, continues quite ill at his home here, but reports from his bedside at noon today stated that he was resting better and that possibly his condition was slightly improved.

Addition To School Building Approved By Education Board

Transportation Problem Is Before the Board in Two-Day Meet

Finding nearly 700 children crowded into eleven rooms, the Martin County Board of Education in a two-day meeting here this week approved a three-room addition to the Williamston colored school. The addition, estimated to cost \$2,500, will be built largely by Professor Frizelle Walker and his class of twenty-four vocational pupils, it was learned.

Crowded conditions in the school have been experienced for some time, but no action to remedy the situation was taken until after high school pupils in the lower part of the county were brought here in the county's second consolidation movement for colored high schools.

A transportation problem in the upper part of the county was before the board during much of the two-day meeting, the authorities finally refusing to take action in the matter. The problem is dumped back into the lap of the State school Commission as another hot potato. "After reviewing the situation, we decided it advisable not to recommend the free transportation of pupils living along the Martin-Halifax border to the school at Oak City, and the problem is left with the State commission to solve," a member of the education board explained.

Official comment on the details surrounding the transportation problem were withheld by the board members, but it was learned from other sources that Hobgood citizens, anxious in adding another teacher and building up their own school, had made a drive for additional pupils, that the hunting ground was in Martin County in the Oak City school district. At the present time, approximately 23 Martin County children are crossing the border into Halifax and attending school at Hobgood, but they are furnishing their own transportation, or rather the State is not "footing" the bill. Representatives were before the board this week urging that the change be approved and that free transportation be furnished. There is some doubt if the State commission would accept the transportation cost there even upon recommendation of the county board.

Unofficial reports coming from the "Sudeten" territory also maintain that a drive has been made to get pupils, now served by Oak City busses, to attend the Halifax County school.

It is said that two cars are hauling most of the 23 pupils, that the others are walking to Hobgood. The board, once assured of its legal authority, granted a permit to Robersonville to build a community house on property just across the street from the grammar school there. Details for the construction of a community house there have not been completed, but interested citizens are considering the construction of a \$10,000 building there, it is understood.

Quietness Marks the County Liquor Front

Following extensive raiding activities in the county during the past two months, apparent quietness reigns on the Martin County illicit liquor front these days. Special Enforcement Officer Joe H. Roebuck of the Alcoholic Beverages Control Board, stating today that only two illegal manufacturing plants had been wrecked in the county since last month.

While the manufacturing business is rated at a virtual standstill, there is some evidence of continued activities in the retail end. Several alleged violators of the liquor laws were in the county courts recently. The officers say that the manufacturing business is on a standstill as a result of intensive raids recently and not because the operators anticipated trouble under the wage-and-hour bill.

This week, the officers wrecked a plant in Griffins Township. The plant with a 30-gallon copper kettle apparently had not been operated in several weeks. The other plant was wrecked in Poplar Point Township.

Miss Hatie Thrower Continues Very Ill

Miss Hatie Thrower, one of Williamston's oldest citizens, continues seriously ill at her home on Watts Street.

Corporations Report \$100,000 Decrease In Property Values For Current Year In Martin County

Tobacco Sales Continue To Hold Up On Local Market

While hundreds of Martin County farmers have already finished the marketing of their tobacco crops, sales on the Williamston market continue unusually large, the operators explaining that new customers are coming in from other counties to carry on the activities. Tobacco was here yesterday and today from more than a dozen counties, some coming from as far away as Pamlico County. Sales today will continue well into the afternoon, and a near block is expected here next Monday. Prices continue to hold firm, but there is very little of the superior type being offered and no 70- and 70-cent sales have been seen during the past few days. The price trend for the medium and poorer

Arthur L. Jeffries Loses Life In Road Wreck Last Night

State Highway Employee Found Dead Near Hamilton

His neck and right leg broken, Arthur Leslie Jeffries, 22-year-old employee of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, was found dead on the highway two miles north of Hamilton late last night, the victim of an automobile accident. Jeffries, stationed in Williamston temporarily, was found by a group of young men who were returning to their homes in Hamilton between 11 and 12 o'clock.

Completing his work for the day, Jeffries left here early last evening and went to Robersonville, later going to Oak City. He left the latter town about 11 o'clock and was within two miles of Hamilton when the car ran off the right side of the road. Apparently driving at a rapid speed, Jeffries lost control of the car, Coroner S. R. Biggs, Patrolman Rothrock and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, investigating the death, stating that the machine traveled down the road for quite a distance and then turned to the left and swerved back, turning over several times in the middle of the road. The man was thrown from the car and death was instantaneous. He was the fourth victim of a highway accident in the county so far this year.

The son of the late A. L. Jeffries and Mrs. Louvenia Nowell Jeffries, he was born in Coffield, Hertford County. During the past several years he was employed by the highway commission in the construction department. He made his headquarters in Tarboro, where a brother, B. A. Jeffries, survives.

The body was removed to Tarboro early this morning, and services will be conducted Sunday afternoon. Interment will follow at Fremont.

"Blackout" Proves Disappointing Here

All cocked and primed for an exciting time, local people were a bit disappointed when no army air bombers came in sight or hearing distance last evening as a part of the extensive army maneuvers underway in eastern Carolina this week. Weather conditions altered the flying plans, and the attacking planes instead of taking off at Langley Field were ordered to Fort Bragg early where the operating base was set up for the evening program. Planes were ordered from the field there at 6:40 with instructions to pierce the defense boundaries and return. As a result few towns in this section saw the death-dealing machines.

Williamston store and home owners cooperated splendidly in putting the town in darkness, but the motorists made it possible for one to read a newspaper on the main street without much interruption.

Unable to determine the routes the planes would take, army officials asked for "blackouts" all over eastern Carolina at 7 o'clock. All was in darkness until almost eight. Quite a large number of planes passed over this section during the week, most of them going just south of here over Griffins Township.

Decrease Slightly Upsets Balance Of County Tax Books

Other Properties in This County Show Slight Increase

The approximately \$395,000 gain reported in real estate values in this county for 1938 over the 1937 listings was considerably reduced this week when the belated returns from the corporations were certified to county authorities. More than \$100,000 in property values was lopped from the valuation, meaning a loss in actual taxes of approximately \$1,500.

A decrease of more than \$100,000 was reported by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, the 1938 valuation standing at \$1,871,532 as compared with \$1,975,631 for 1937. The trackage, 52.71 miles owned by the company in this county, remains the same creating some doubt as to ownership of additional tracks laid around the pulp mill in the lower part of the county. A valuation of \$35,506.20 is placed on each mile of track. After the reduction in valuation, it is still an established fact that the Coast Line continues the "big" property owner and taxpayer in the county.

While showing a slight increase in its total valuation, the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company squeezed in a reduction in its per-mile listings. For taxation, it lists its lines at \$40.95 per mile this year as compared with \$41.15 a year ago. The Carolina corporation values total \$45,745 this year as compared with \$44,691 in 1937.

Instructed by state commissions and agencies to have the tax books ready for the collector weeks ago, county tax authorities worked with the belief that corporation listings would not show any material change. The values were figured on the 1937 basis, the tax rate was fixed at \$1.41 per \$100 assessed valuation, and at this late date, the state agencies certify the corporation listings with a \$100,000 reduction to upset, probably only to a small extent, the tax balance in this county.

The gain of \$394,767 reported when all real estate and personal property in the county had been listed with the ten township list-takers is now reduced to approximately \$291,568.

Corporation listings in this county for 1937 and 1938 are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Corporation Name, 1937 Value, 1938 Value, Change. Includes A. C. L., Western Union, Car. Tel. Co., Express Co., East. Tel. Co., Branch Bank, Guaranty Bank, Bank R'ville.

Total \$2,064,420 1937 and \$1,961,221 1938. The combined listings of all properties in the county for 1938 total approximately \$12,196,275 as compared with \$11,929,236 last year.

Geneva Lewis Dies From Rifle Wounds

Geneva Lewis, colored, was shot by her husband at their home near Spring Green Church Sunday night, October 2. She was rushed to a Rocky Mount hospital where she died the following Wednesday night.

The Lewis home, married only a few days before, is said to have told relatives and friends that the shooting was accidental, that she was playing with her husband while he held a small rifle.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, after investigating the shooting, declared it accidental and considered no inquiry was necessary.

The shot victim was a native of Edgecombe and had lived in this county a short time only.

The office was told that the woman's husband started out to kill a chicken, that she started to embrace him and the rifle fired, the bullet entering her chest.

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