

County Court Has Shortest Session In Several Months

Judge H. O. Peel and Solicitor Johnson Handle Four Cases

Crime activities in this county reached a new low during the past few days, the county recorder's court in one of the shortest sessions held in many months handling only four cases last Monday. The auditorium in the old house of justice was almost vacant except for the litigants and counsel for the defendants. One attorney, arriving a bit late for the session, found the court had folded its tent and vacated the building. There were hardly more than a dozen spectators in the audience at one time, and the court handled the few cases so quietly and so rapidly that some of them hardly realized the court had completed its work when an order for adjournment was issued.

Judge H. O. Peel and Solicitor Elphonsa Johnson were at their posts, but Clerk L. B. Wynne was held at home by illness. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, just out from a recent illness, crept about the courtroom with a several days' old beard. Deputy Clerk Elizabeth Keel handled the minutes.

Bob Canipe pleaded guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving, and Judge Peel fined him \$60 and taxed him with the costs. The court ordered that no driver's license be issued the defendant during the next twelve months.

H. D. Andrews pleaded not guilty in the case charging him with violating the liquor laws. The court found him guilty and continued the case under prayer for judgment two weeks.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, T. Taylor and Patty Taylor were adjudged not guilty by the court.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with larceny and receiving, Harry Wilson was sentenced to the roads for a period of ninety days.

To Examine Pupils In County Schools

Dr. F. E. Wilson and his health department assistants will start a series of examinations of colored children in the county next Monday, the department having recently completed a series of examinations in the white schools.

The examinations will be limited to children in the first, second and sixth grades.

The schedule for holding the examinations follows:

- Dardens, February 20th.
- Jamesville, February 21st, morning.
- Williams-Lower, February 21st, afternoon.
- Woolard, February 24th, morning.
- Bear Grass, February 24th, afternoon.
- Williamston, February 27th, February 28th, March 1st.
- Biggs, March 3rd, morning.
- Smithwick Creek, March 3rd, afternoon.
- Boroughs Sp. Hill, March 6th.
- Piney Woods, March 7th; Keys, March 7th.
- Coreys, March, March 8th.
- Poplar Point, March 9th.
- Hamilton, March 10th.
- Gold Point, March 13th.
- Robersonville, March 14th and 15th, morning.
- Everetts, March 17th.
- Oak City, March 20th and 21st.
- Bowers, March 21st, afternoon.
- Cross Roads, March 22nd.
- White Oak Sp., March 23rd.
- Parmeale, March 27th and March 28th, morning.
- Salsbury, March 29th, morning.
- Whitchard James, March 30th.
- Jones, March 31st.

Cut By Flying Tin In Wind Storm Wednesday

Bill Abbitt, county game warden and operator of the old Mobley mill on the Hamilton road, was painfully but not seriously hurt during the windstorm that struck this section last Wednesday. Ripped from its moorings by the wind, a piece of tin struck Mr. Abbitt in the face and inflicted a wound that required half a dozen stitches to close.

Very little property damage was reported in this section, but the wind rendered a number of people homeless in the western part of the State during the day.

Miss Mamie Clyde Taylor left today for Greensboro where she will visit friends for about two weeks.

Mrs. John Rogerson and daughter, Mary, visited friends in Tarboro yesterday afternoon.

Applicant Must Give His Life History To Get A Seed Loan

With a prepared questionnaire embracing nearly 200 questions, it is difficult to determine whether the governmental lending agencies are more interested in getting a life history of the poor folks or in securing measley farm loans. The applicant for a farm loan varying in size from a few dollars up to possibly \$500 or slightly more is bombarded with four pages of questions, and some of the answers are really unique too.

The government must know how many children the applicant, if married, has, their ages, where they live, what they do and why come. Every old hen on the plantation must be counted and accounted for. And then the applicant must numerate the mules, horses, cows, sheep, hogs and goats. Exact acreages must be listed as to crops and woods along with plows, automobiles and

tractors. After asking all about what is, the questionnaire then asks what is going to be, and so on.

"How many children do you have?" the applicant is asked. "Wait and I'll ask the old 'oman," is one reply, others stopping to use their fingers to make a hurried count themselves. Aged are general run one for every two years, but a record was noted a few days ago when one applicant said he had fourteen children in as many years, and the fifteenth year was not quite spent.

"Single?" was another question asked. "Yes," was the reply. "Who helps you farm?" and the answer to that question was "The two boys." The one handling the application just rubbed out "Miss" and wrote "Mrs." to clear matters up.

"And so it goes," a representative said, adding that the seed and feed loan office was certain to do a record business in the county this year.

Observe Anniversary Of P. T. A. Association

UNUSUAL

"There are 57 members in the Robersonville senior class and only two of the boys smoke," Principal L. W. Anderson writes in a current weekly review of the school activities there. It is an unusual case, all right, and it is understood from the principal's review of the school activities that none of the girls smoke. The general average for most schools is about two non-smokers in a group that size.

Open Night School For Adults Here Early Next Week

County Is One of Few in State Where Schools Are Not Held

Arrangements were announced virtually complete today for opening a night school here the early part of next week for white adults in the county. Operated in connection with the Works Progress Administration educational program, instruction will be offered free to any white adult in the county. Taylor Malone, recently graduated by Wake Forest College, will have charge of the school, it was announced.

Classes will be offered in literacy, including reading, writing, arithmetic, English and spelling, grades one through seven, and in high school subjects if desired. Other classes in leisure time and vocational activities, parent education and public affairs will be offered. Anyone who is interested in attending night school may communicate with Mr. Malone at the Agricultural Building or Superintendent of Schools James C. Manning.

Martin County had, according to the 1930 census 787 white persons who could not read and write and 2,073 Negroes, making 17.1 per cent of the entire population. The average in the United States is 4.3 per cent, and 10 per cent in the State of North Carolina. The state ranks forty-fourth in the total number of illiterates with only New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Alabama reporting a greater number. It is feared that unless North Carolina puts forth a great effort it will sink even further in the scale in 1940 as the states now below us are making a determined fight to reduce illiteracy.

The North Carolina Negro Advisory Council of the State Department of Public Instruction and the Works Progress Administration are cooperating in a Negro Literacy drive from now until March 12 to reduce the percentage of Negro illiteracy. Public school teachers are teaching the patrons of their schools and it is hoped that 100,000 of the 139,105 illiterate Negroes in North Carolina may be reached. Broadcasts in connection with this program may be heard over station WTAR, Norfolk, Sunday, February 19 at 3 o'clock and over station WEED, Rocky Mount Monday, February 20, at 3 o'clock.

Any adult who is interested in the WPA education program is invited to attend classes and every effort will be made to arrange his studies to meet his needs.

School Attendance Lowered By Illness

Nearly 100 Pupils Absent From Local School Yesterday

Absences, climbing as high as 20 per cent in some cases, have been reported in the schools of the county this week as a result of a mild epidemic of influenza that has swept this section during the past few weeks.

Striking mostly adults and youths of high school age, the influenza epidemic is causing no serious reaction and school officials do not think it necessary to suspend classes. If the attendance figures continue to decrease, it is possible that a brief holiday will be ordered. It was learned from the office of the county board of education here today.

Commenting on the situation in the local schools yesterday, Principal D. N. Hix said:

"Absences in the local schools reached the highest mark of the school year when ninety-five students failed to report for classes today. Colds and influenza are widespread, particularly among the high school students, twenty of whom were reported missing. Eighty-seven per cent of the membership attended today as compared to the usual average of ninety-four."

"Buses continue to maintain service and schedules in spite of the rainy weather, only occasional delays being experienced."

Only two teachers are held at home by illness, and one of them, Miss Estelle Crawford is expected to return Monday.

Religious Leader To Work In Local Parish One Week

Miss Catherine Sherman Will Aid In School Reorganization

Miss Catherine Sherman, director of religious education for the East Carolina Diocese, will center her activities in the local parish during the coming week and assist in the reorganization of the church school, work with the members of the Woman's Auxiliary in any way they desire, and confer with others wishing to discuss general religious questions, Rev. John Hardy, rector of the Church of the Advent, announced today. Miss Sherman is expected to arrive here tomorrow to begin the special work at this point.

In connection with her visit, Rev. Mr. Hardy had the following to say: "Although Miss Sherman has been in the diocese only a few months she has come up to and surpassed all expectations of the people. She is firmly grounded in her work, having come to us from one of the larger northern parishes where she was director of religious education. Born in China, the daughter of the Rev. Arthur Sherman, now of the Forward Movement commission, and sister of Miss Pattie Sherman, of St. Hilda's School, Wuchang, China, Miss Sherman has a fitting background for one in her field.

Since she has been in the diocese, Miss Sherman has worked with the church schools of Christ church, New Bern; St. Peter's, Washington, St. David's, Creswell, and St. Andrew's, Columbia. She has conducted an institute at St. James, Wilmington. While here she hopes to spend one day conferring with the parishioners of Grace church, Plymouth, and St. Luke's, Roper.

On Sunday night, Miss Sherman will address the congregation at the church. It is hoped that both parishioners and friends in the other churches of the town will avail themselves of this opportunity to hear Miss Sherman.

Monday afternoon at four o'clock Miss Sherman will meet with the Woman's Auxiliary in their regular session, with Miss Marina Whitley, and will address them. All ladies of the parish are urged to attend. Miss Sherman will stay at the rectory while in Williamston, and will make it her headquarters, although she will visit in the homes of the parishioners.

Teacher Resigns In Jamesville School

J. C. Eubanks, teacher of vocation agriculture in the Jamesville school, has resigned to accept a position with the Farm Security Administration, the resignation to become effective March 1.

Meeting here yesterday afternoon representatives of the school and director of vocational work in the state appointed Mr. Pruden to succeed Professor Eubanks.

Recently graduated by State College, Professor Pruden is now doing practice teaching in Northampton County. He will return to State College for two weeks for advanced instruction and report for work in Jamesville about the middle of next month.

Price Adjustment Payments For Cotton Are Announced

was paid to Martin County farmers in cotton price adjustment payments which were based on 60 per cent of allotments and at the rate of two cents a pound. The schedule announced tentatively this week does not specify how the price adjustment payments are to be determined this year on the 1938 plantings. It is possible that the payments will be advanced at the rate of 1.6 cents a pound on a farmer's entire allotment, or they may be based on the amount of cotton actually produced or as they were last year—60 per cent of the base allotment. If the payments are based on actual production, Martin County farmers will not receive a great deal of money, for they did not produce hardly half a crop.

Last year, approximately \$40,000

A schedule for price adjustment payments on cotton, corn and two or three other crops has been tentatively advanced by federal agricultural officials, according to unofficial reports received here this week. The schedule calls for a payment of 1.6 cents a pound on cotton and about 6 cents a bushel on corn. Other crops included in the schedule are wheat and rice, the authorities pointing out that tobacco prices were above the 75 per cent of parity figure and that no price adjustment payment would be made on that crop.

These payments are not to be confused with those paid under the soil conservation program.

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Bill, Introduced In House, Now Before Finance Committee

Assembly Goes Liberal and Gives Teachers Extra Dollar Monthly

Led by Representative Grady Withrow, of Rutherford County, the drys dropped a bombshell in the State House of Representatives this week when they called for a state-wide referendum on the liquor question. Immediately placed in the hands of the House Finance Committee, the bill calls for a vote by the people on May 5 on the question of banning all sales of beer, wine and liquors in the State. Rumors have it that the proposal will get an unfavorable report by the committee which has been reporting unfavorably all bills proposing to dry up wet counties.

Withrow claimed that he had a petition of 3,000 signatures opposing the sale of liquors.

A proposal to increase the State tax on liquor from seven to ten per cent on gross sales has been defeated, and just now the lawmakers are pondering the Umstead-Council-Thomas-Spruill bill to authorize the State ABC board to set up warehouses and handle mail-order shipments to liquor into the 73 dry counties.

The ABC board would set up a state-wide enforcement unit to war on bootleggers, devoting from five to ten per cent of its gross receipts to enforcement, and Senator Umstead, of Orange, said the bill was in reality a control measure as well as a way to perhaps get \$4,000,000 a year in revenue.

The mail-order bill already has run into announced opposition from Senators Gardner, of Cleveland, Prince, of Henderson, and Watkins, of Granville, and Representative Mull, of Cleveland.

Wednesday at a finance committee meeting Mull voted with Representatives and Senators from the 27 wet counties in rejecting a budget commission recommendation that taxes on whiskey be increased. He predated his vote on opposition to basing the fiscal policy of the state on receipts from liquor and made it clear he expected support from wet counties in his opposition to the mail-order bill.

The finance committee has adopted a policy, apparently, of killing bills which would prohibit sale of beer, wine or intoxicants of any kind in whole counties. Such proposals were dealt with favorably by

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Install 17 Western Union Clocks Here

Seventeen Western Union clocks are being installed in local business houses and in at least two public buildings this week.

A close check shows all the clocks are operating in perfect harmony, but they are out of tune when matched with the old clock on the town hall, the time piece that guides the goings and comings for many hundreds.

The discrepancies between the readings of the two types of clocks have already been called to the attention of the town fathers, and action to harmonize the time pieces is eagerly awaited. Incidentally the modern clocks are rented at \$1.50 per month.

George S. Moore Dies At His Home Here on Thursday

Funeral Services Are Being Conducted At 3:30 Today

George S. Moore, highly respected citizen, died at his home on Rhodes Street here yesterday afternoon at 4:40 o'clock following a stroke of paralysis suffered the evening before. Mr. Moore suffered a first stroke of paralysis about a year ago, and while he never fully regained his health he was able to be up and supervise his farming activities until a few hours before his death. Feeling better than usual, Mr. Moore attended to business activities up town on Wednesday before he was taken ill that night.

Eating a hearty meal, Mr. Moore then turned to his daily practice of reading the family Bible for quite a while and retired about nine o'clock suffering the stroke a few minutes later.

The son of the late William C. Moore, a native of Pitt County, and Mary Jane Harris Moore, a native of this county, he was born in Washington county 66 years ago. After spending his early life there, he moved to Williamston and married 43 years ago, Miss Frances Melissa Warren who survives with four sons, Samuel, Charlie, Jasper and David Moore, and one daughter, Mrs. Ora Rebecca Speller, all of this county. He was the last member of his immediate family.

Mr. Moore was connected with the local postoffice in the rural free delivery service for eleven years but retired to engage in farming a number of years ago. Mr. Moore was a member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Cedar Grove, and his life was marked for its christian-like character. He walked humbly in the sight of his Maker, was a peaceful neighbor, a good citizen, a faithful husband and an understanding father. He was a good man, and held the respect of everyone in all walks of life. He was not pretentious, and he valued an obligation as a trust and cherished the friendship of all.

Funeral services are being conducted from the home this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. James H. Smith, pastor of the local Baptist church. Interment will follow in the family plot at the home.

Kidnapping Charge Proved Unfounded

A charge of kidnaping brought against Elizabeth Williams and Robert Williams by Maggie Miller here last Monday night was proved unfounded when the case was called in the Washington County Recorder's court this week.

Going to the local police headquarters last Monday night, the Miller negress alleged that the Williams woman had kidnaped her two-year-old son. She was directed to procure a warrant, and Williams couple were arrested the following morning at three o'clock in Griffiths Township here by Officers Roebuck and Gurganus. They were placed in the county jail along with the "kidnaped" child, and returned to Plymouth later that morning.

Williams, charged in the warrant with aiding and abetting kidnaping was apparently dismissed in the court, and the Williams woman was found not guilty. The defense offered evidence showing that the Miller woman had given the child away. Elizabeth Williams quoted the mother of the child as saying, "My husband stays drunk all the time, and I can't support my three children, and I want you to take the boy." Apparently the mother changed her mind or was made to change her mind, and she appealed to the law for the return of the tot.

In a letter scheduled to appear in the series next week, Governor Johnston touches on three subjects, the election of a president, the weather and farming. He tells of what are believed record low temperatures and points out variations in weather conditions.

Will Locate District Blind Headquarters Here

Miss Dorothea B. Tucker, district supervisor for the State Blind Commission, will locate her office here next week and handle her duties from this point. She succeeds Bill Smithson, who resigned some time ago. During the past several months Miss Tucker has maintained district headquarters in Elizabeth City.

She will make her home with Mrs. Joseph A. Eason in the Tar Heel apartments.

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Seek State-Wide Vote On Whiskey Question

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Former Governor Says Life Is Intolerable Without Friends

Reaching the age of sixty-one years on January 26, 1794, Sam Johnston, former governor of North Carolina, United States Senator and leader in the Continental Congress, expresses his deep regret of the passing of old friends in a letter dated the following day to his brother-in-law, James Iredell, then a justice of the United States Supreme Court.

The old correspondence, appearing here through the courtesy of Mr. Warren H. Biggs, was headed, "Hermitage, January 27, 1794," and was apparently addressed to Iredell in Edenton. Johnston, locating in Williamston in the early part of 1793, is believed to have bought and settled on the farm now owned by M. D. Wilson, and called it "Hermitage." Efforts to determine the identity of the land by a search of old county records have not yet proved successful.

The former governor of this State had been here almost a year when he wrote the following letter to his brother-in-law:

"Dear Sir:—Yesterday finished my sixty-first year; and, I thank God, I find myself in as good health as I ever was in my life. On looking back, what I have, the most to regret is the loss of many valuable friends whom I had reason to esteem; those who are left are now reduced to so small a number that I shall consider myself unfortunate indeed if I should survive any more of them. I am not tired of life as long as I can live with them; but without them it would be intolerable."

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