

Convicted In County Courts, Defendants Are Seeking Parole

Commissioner of Paroles Is Now Considering Appeals

Tried in the courts of this county and sentenced to the roads and prison, several prisoners are seeking paroles at the hands of the parole commission in Raleigh. A short time ago, five former residents of the county appealed for their freedom, but as far as it can be learned only one of that group was granted a parole. James Moore, colored man who was sent to prison for the killing of Robert Coltrain on Williamston's Main Street a year ago last month, is said to have been released a short time ago. Phoebe Moore, colored woman sentenced to prison for a period of twenty years for the murder of a colored man here in 1934, continues in prison. Old Man Joe Davenport, who shot and killed his wife in 1934, continues to work on his 15-20 year sentence, but the old fellow is said to be longing to return to the Roanoke lowgrounds. Frank Cox, sentenced ten years ago to prison for the murder of Henry Jolly, continues in prison. Joe Wheeler James, colored and another sentenced in 1934 for murder, is still serving on a 20-year term.

Last week, Harry Davis, colored man who shot and injured Ben Biggs, Jr., is asking for a parole now. Davis was sentenced to the roads for 12 months by Judge Peel in the county recorder's court last January.

Mrs. Annie Roberson, sentenced to prison for five to seven years for an assault upon her husband, Jesse Ben Roberson, with intent to kill, has her application for parole before Governor Hoey. Her son, George Ben Roberson, appealed to the parole commission a week or two ago for his freedom. No action has been taken on the appeals, but the commission authorities are investigating their cases.

Bill Empowering Districts To Hold Tax Elections Approved

The second bill proposed in the General Assembly and affecting local county legislation was approved by the Martin commissioners in regular session this week. Boiled down to a final analysis, the action of the commissioners makes its first step in a plan for the people to voice their sentiments for or against a special tax for an extra school month in one or more districts in the county. Given the blessings of the commissioners, the bill will likely be placed in the legislative hopper of the House by Representative H. G. Horton this week.

Sponsored by the Williamston school local committee, the bill merely gives the people a right to appeal to the county commissioners for an election to determine whether

the voters want an added school month. Messrs. R. L. Coburn and R. H. Goodman, members of the Williamston committee, supported the bill before the commissioners at the regular board meeting.

The terms of the bill make it possible for 25 or more citizens in any school district in the county to petition the board for an election. When this is done, the people will have their say as to whether they want to be taxed in support of the ninth school month. The bill does not make provisions for a county-wide vote on the subject, and it is possible for one or all the schools in the county to vote on the proposal.

It is possible that no petition will be entered for a special election, the bill merely giving the citizens the right to call one.

To Condemn Property For Playground - Well

HEADS FIRM



James D. Taylor, retired auditor for the Southern Bell Telephone Company, held the formal opening of his soda shop, Taylor's, here yesterday. Large crowds were present.

Town Commission In Regular Session Here Last Evening

Water Shortage Discussed During Unusually Wet Season

A varied program of business was placed on the calendar for the local town commissioners at their regular meeting last evening, the authorities leaving most of the problems unsettled.

Condemnation proceedings to annex an additional strip of land for the recreational center on Watts Street have been started by the town attorney at the direction of the town commissioners. Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne is expected within the next day or two to name the commission to assess the property and set a value. The owners have offered to sell a strip of property about 18 feet wide and a small area between the town and county properties for around \$1,000.

Fearing there'll be an acute water shortage this summer, the commissioners are planning to sink a fourth deep well on part of the property, and turn the other to the recreational center.

In connection with providing an adequate water supply, the commissioners are planning a special meeting shortly to see if it will be possible to have a fourth deep well sunk within the near future on a 90- or 120-day open note. A Virginia well concern has offered to sink the well and guarantee a certain per-minute water flow for \$14,000.

A request for a donation to take the local independent basketball team out of financial difficulties was denied, the commissioners pledging to help the boys personally.

The commissioners asked that the State fire marshal, Sherwood Brockwell, pass on a request by Sid Mobley to alter the old Hand-made Furniture Company building on the Washington Road.

A permit for the removal of a small storage house in the fire district was supported by the board, the chief of the fire department explaining that the permit was issued before the fire district was created. Chief W. B. Daniel was instructed to swap the old police car for a better second-hand machine, a report for the mayor showing that the present car had been paid for out of case costs.

Residents on East Academy street will have to continue to grope around in the dark, the superintendent of streets explaining that rules and regulations of the utilities commission prohibited expenditures in

(Continued on Page Four)

County Has Twenty-Two Cases Whooping Cough

Whooping cough, spreading in three sections of the county during late January and early February, has been checked after twenty-two cases were reported to the county department of health during the past month. Most of the cases were centered in the communities of Jamesville, Farm Life and Bear Grass.

Only one other case of communicable disease was reported. There was a lone case of chickenpox in the county last month.

Isaac Ampey In The County Courts For Thirty-second Time

Colored Man Now Known As Regular Knight in County's Court

Isaac Ampey, middle-aged colored man, is again in the courts. Falling victim of strong drink, Ampey was booked Monday for trial in the county courts on a charge of drunkenness.

Ampey, well-mannered and jovial with or without his freedom, has established somewhat of a record in the courts of the county during the past twenty years. Liquor, women, guns and stealing constitute his weaknesses, and he has been called to answer for one or more of them thirty-two times since 1921. Ampey has been in the county jail so many times and for such long periods that he has been dubbed, "A knight of the county court."

He holds no horror for confinement in the county jail, but he is not so keen about road sentences. In quite a few of his cases, he has worked a unique system. Ordinarily admitting his guilt, as the cases were called, Ampey would invariably appeal to the higher courts. Unable to furnish the required appeal bond, he would be placed in the county jail to await the convenience of the superior court. Appearing before the high tribunal, Ampey would again plead guilty and point out to the court his long stay in jail awaiting trial. Often times, the court would recognize the stay in jail as sufficient punishment and Ampey would go free. His system failed to function properly in later years, and the man enjoyed his freedom since August, 1937 until this week when he was booked for drunkenness.

Ampey has been in the county recorder's court twenty times and made a dozen visits in the superior court as a defendant.

Back in April, 1921, he was found not guilty in a case charging him with carrying a concealed weapon. Probable cause of guilt was found in a second case that same month and he was sent to the superior court for trial for alleged larceny. His appearance in the court satisfied him for five years, but in March, 1926, he started out to build up a record. In that month he was found not guilty in two cases charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon and fornication and adultery. Two months later he was booked for carrying a concealed weapon and an assault and was sentenced to the roads for six months. In the same court he was found guilty of lar-

(Continued on page four)

Prisoner Almost Killed At Camp

Struck on the head with a pop bottle, Linwood Speight, deaf mute serving time in the Martin County prison camp, was nearly killed there Sunday afternoon. His skull was fractured, the wound extending almost a third of the way around his head.

Speight, sentenced to the roads last December for a term of eight months by Judge Walter Bone for robbing the Williamston Cafe, was playing ball with a fellow inmate, Silas Green, sentenced from Pasquotank to serve five years. Green got mad because Speight played so rough, and slipped up from behind and dealt the heavy blow. The bottle was shattered, reports stating that even the bottom part of the container was broken into several pieces.

Given first-aid treatment here, Speight was later sent to the prison hospital in Raleigh. Green, who is no relative of the old showman, had his sentenced "flattened" and now faces trial in the courts for an assault.

Dental Clinics In County's Schools

The State Department of Health in cooperation with the Martin County Health Department is conducting a series of dental clinics in the white schools of the county. Holding the first clinics yesterday in the Robersonville district, Drs. A. D. Underwood and M. R. Evans will continue their work in the county until the close of the school term.

The tentative clinic schedule is as follows: Robersonville, Gold Point, Hassell, Everetts, Bear Grass, Williamston, Farm Life, Jamesville Oak City and Hamilton.

R. C. Holland Will Address Farm Bureau Meet Friday

Farmer, president of the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative and an able speaker, will address a meeting of Martin County Farm Bureau members in the court-house here Friday evening of this week following a big picnic supper in the New Carolina tobacco warehouse. Several hundred farm bureau members are expected here for the supper and address.

Offered free to the Farm Bureau members, the supper is being financed by leaders in the farm organization, some giving pigs, vegetables and others making cash donations. Supper will be served promptly at 6:30 Friday evening, reports from the county agent's office stating that eight pigs had already been given by members interested in the advancement of the farm bureau

movement in this county. Brunswick stew and slaw and cornbread are included in the menu.

The meeting Friday climaxes a successful membership drive conducted in the county by Team Leaders Van Taylor and Charlie Daniel. There are approximately 500 members in this county at the present time, and others are expected to join by Friday and attend the supper and speaking.

Prominent figures in the State Farm Bureau, including President J. E. Winslow, Secretary E. F. Arnold and Field Representative Cooper are expected to attend and participate in what bureau officials predict will be the largest meeting of its kind ever held in the county. Special invitations have been extended to farm bureau officials and farm agents in adjoining counties to attend the meeting.

Grimes Appointed Tax Supervisor for County

Appointment of Ten Township Listtakers Is Expected Shortly

Citizens in Isolated Areas Appeal to Board For Better Roads

Meeting in regular session here yesterday, the Martin County Commissioners took the first step in handling that old routine task of listing taxes when they unanimously selected S. Harcum Grimes to supervise the work again this year. Grimes formally accepted the position, and he is already making preliminary arrangements for making the list-taker appointments and holding a meeting with the taxing authorities in the courthouse Monday after next.

Twelve applications for the list-taking positions were filed with the board and they were turned over to tax supervisor for consideration and without specific recommendations by the board. Three of the applicants are new, one former list-taker, Mr. Gordon G. Bailey withholding his application on account of ill health. Three citizens in Williams Township applied for the position, and in that district will the tax supervisor find a selection difficult. Applications placed before the board meeting: O. W. Hamilton, Jamesville; Lucian J. Hardison, Vernon W. Griffin and Joshua L. Coltrain, Williams Township; Geo. C. Griffin, Griffins; A. B. Ayers, Bear Grass; H. M. Burras, Williamston Township; W. F. Crawford, Cross Roads; H. S. Everett, Robersonville Township; L. G. Taylor, Poplar Point; L. R. Everett, Hamilton, and James A. Rawls, Goose Nest.

Schedules for listing personal property will be determined and instructions given for handling the 1939 lists at a meeting of the list-takers and supervisor and possibly representatives from the county board of commissioners to be held on the third Monday in this month.

The session was a long one, the commissioners entertaining during most of the morning delegations interested in more roads and better roads. The visits stirred the county authorities to action, and they are in Raleigh today to plead with highway authorities.

A petition, carrying 22 names, was placed before the board urging the State commission to add to its system and maintain a road in Jamesville-Township known as the Ward or Glade road, leading from Jordan Thick road, near residence of Blount Ange and extending in a southerly direction via the farms of Levin and Romulus Ange, Leo Gardner and others to farm now owned by Luther Hardison, a distance of about two miles. The road,

(Continued on Page Four)

F. C. X. Meeting Is Postponed One Month

The annual meeting of the F. C. X. (Farmers' Cooperative Exchange) will not be held on Friday of this week on account of a conflict with the Farm Bureau meeting, it was announced today by Manager Stephenson. Plans are being made for holding the meeting on April 7 at 7:30 p. m.

County Council Of Social Work Holds Meet Here Tonight

State Welfare Leaders Will Address in Agricultural Building at 8 P. M.

Rev. E. C. Shoe, chairman of the Martin County Welfare board, will preside over the first meeting of the Martin County Council of Social Work which will be held in the auditorium of the agriculture building at eight o'clock tonight.

Mrs. W. B. Aycock, who is director of county organizations for the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, and who was at one time state president of the parents-teachers association will explain the purpose and function of organized councils of social work, and the benefits derived therefrom to the entire public.

Mr. Nathan H. Yelton, who is head of the division of public assistance, which includes old age assistance and aid to dependent children, will talk to the group on North Carolina and Martin County's part in this program.

Five minute talks on their particular work will be given by Mrs. Dorothea B. Tucker, of the state commission for the blind, Mr. John Lang or Mr. Hugh Evans, from the National Youth Administration, and Miss Emma A. Maurer, area social worker of the W. P. A.

A brief open forum will be had following these five minute speeches after which the meeting will be adjourned.

Packs of Foxhounds Exempt From Taxes

Under the provisions of a special act passed by the State legislature last week, fox hounds in Martin County will not be subjected to taxation in the future. However, comparatively few hounds will escape the tax collector's eye, because the law specifies that the dogs must be kept in packs of twelve and hunted exclusively for foxes.

The law was given foundation when it was pointed out that the number of foxes in the county is increasing rapidly, and that the animals are doing considerable damage to farmers' property. It was also pointed out that the tax exemption would encourage a greater drive against the animal.

Reports state that since increased protection has been provided for woodlands, the number of foxes is increasing. One group of hunters accounted for almost a hundred of the animals last year in the county.

The actual exemption of dogs from taxation is discretionary with the county commissioners.

Former Native Dies In Sparta Friday

Miss Dora Cherry, native of this county, died at the home of her niece at Old Sparta in Edgecombe County last Friday. Miss Cherry, 76 years old, was the daughter of the late Mack and Lydia Cherry. About 46 years ago she moved with her parents to Edgecombe County where she made her home. Enjoying fairly good health and unusually active for one of such advanced age, Miss Cherry suffered a stroke of paralysis about two weeks ago, and never rallied.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon and interment was in the family plot in the Hamilton cemetery.

Four brothers and two sisters survive. Their names are Tom Perry, of Griffins Township; Henry Perry, of Robersonville; Will Perry, of Poplar Point, and Colon Perry, of Williams Township; and Mrs. Ade Davenport, of Williamston and Mrs. Dennis Barber, of Williams Township.

Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon at two o'clock from the late home by his pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister. Interment was in the Harris burial ground near Wilts Sid-ing in Williams Township.

Plan Series Of Services In Baptist Church Here

al counties of northeastern North Carolina will hold their quarterly retreat in the local church next week, Rev. J. H. Smith, local pastor, announcing that services will be held for the public each evening with Rev. Henry B. Anderson, of Durham in the pulpit.

House Mental Cases In The County Jail

Denied admission in State institutions for the insane, two mental patients continue in the Martin County jail with the possibility that one will rot and die there. The other, a young colored boy, will possibly get a transfer when death creates an opening in one of the several crowded State hospitals for the mentally weak.

The older patient during the nearly two months he has been in jail has almost constantly wiped the iron bars and talked about farm work. He "feeds" his livestock regularly and plans his work a day ahead.

Jailed last Saturday, Cleo Godard, 16 years old, has slammed and banged, whooped and yelled night and day. Tearing all the clothes from his body except his socks, the young Negro has tirelessly paced his cell night and day, taking little time to sleep.

Applications for their entrance into the hospital at Goldsboro have been filed, but the authorities at the institution say, "We can't take them, for there is no room."

Honor Roll In The Everetts School

To be eligible for this distinction a child must have attended for the past two months without missing a day and made grades of B or above:

- First grade: Bobby Eakes, Sammy Keel, Jr.
- Second grade: Bill Mobley, Tom Jones.
- Third grade: Claton Ray Keel, Mildred Griffin.
- Fourth grade: Dallas Hopkins, Furney James, Annie Jean Taylor, Lela Brown Mobley.
- Fifth grade: Bruce Stalls, Wren Bailey, Ellen Clark, Edward Biggs.
- Sixth grade: Rachel Edmondson.
- Seventh grade: Billy Clark, Geo. Cherry, Mary Lou Wynn.
- Paul Black and his Carolina Ramblers will appear in the Everetts school auditorium Thursday night, March 9th at 7:30. He will feature Stubby and Bobby, sons of the west; Succase Simpson and his washboard, and Frank Murder, wizard of the banjo.
- These boys have been on the air for several years and have played in many western pictures. The proceeds will go to the benefit of the F. T. A.

Eleven Marriage Licenses Issued In Month of February

Issuance Is Smallest Since Any February Since The Depression

The number of marriage licenses issued in the county last month was considerably below normal, but considerably above the issuance for the depression year of 1933 when only five marriages were recorded. At no time on record has the number of colored marriages in this county been limited to one as it was in that February, six years ago.

Last month marriage licenses were issued to four white and seven colored couples in the county, the issuance of eleven falling considerably below the average of 20 for the particular month in the past two or three years.

In January of this year, there were nineteen licenses issued, four to white and fifteen to colored couples, and the issuance for that month was considerably below the average. The trend in the past sixteen months shows the number of colored marriages exceeding those among the white population.

Licenses were issued to the following last month:

White
Joseph Hubbard Saunders, Jr., of Williamston, and Mary Jane Pendleton, of Fincastle, Va.
Roland Ray Saunders, of Manteo, and Mrs. Lonnie Wynne, of Norfolk, but formerly of this county.
Winford Mobley and Catherine Wynne, both of this county.
Joseph R. Whitaker and Virginia Lilley, both of Williamston, R. F. D. No. 2.

Colored
Richard Ruffin and Lizzie Williams, both of this county.
Paul J. Moore and Irma Mae Everett, both of Martin County.
James Bullock, Jr., and Alice Rascoe, both of this county.
Walter Rogers and Odessa Norfleet, both of Martin County.
Joe Harrell, of Pitt County, and Lenora Perkins, of this county.
John Everett and Mittie Ann Purvis, both of Williamston.
Bruce Rogers and Emeline Latham, both of Martin County.