

## Judge Thompson Handles 13 Cases In Superior Court

### Meat Thieves Draw Long Prison Sentences Monday

Opening a two-weeks term of Martin County Superior Court here yesterday, Judge C. Everett Thompson, of Elizabeth City, had plenty of time for meat thieves and violators of general laws. During the first day, the court handled thirteen cases leaving twelve for consideration today. The proceedings have been without high spots so far, and the second day crowds are not as large as they were yesterday when spectators crowded the aisles and windows during both the morning and afternoon sessions.

The court will spend a greater part of today if not all of it clearing the criminal docket. Civil cases will be called for trial tomorrow.

Battling through two sessions of the county recorder's court, William Baker and Gus Forrest, colored men, won a decision before Judge Thompson in the case charging them with violating the fish and game laws. Alleged to have taken under-sized fish from a county stream, the men were released when the State failed to prove that the law prohibiting the taking of fish under six inches in length had not been properly advertised.

Charged with bastardy, Walter Hester was directed to pay into the court \$5 a month for the use of the illegitimate child for 12 months, and report to the court next year.

Charged with forgery, Warren Griffin pleaded guilty of issuing a worthless check, the court suspending sentence upon payment of the court and \$20.00 to the prosecuting witnesses, Messrs. Britton and Perry.

The case charging Homer Glosson with hit and run driving and with assault with a deadly weapon was continued until the June term. The case was continued pending the trial of a civil action against the defendant in the court next week. Glosson is charged with operating a truck that struck and fatally injured Isaiah Hardison, colored, near Dardens last year.

Judge Thompson started bearing down on the subjects before him when alleged meat thieves were brought into the court for trial, the general public endorsing the sentences. The Jackson boys, T. F. and Solon, faced double charges, and as the prosecution tightened around the two, T. F. Jackson, the younger of the two tried to take the rap for his brother. Pleading not guilty, the defendants through their counsel, J. C. Smith, tried to prove that it was possible that a colored man and woman parked near the place where the stolen meat was concealed in a woods in Robersonville Township were looking for the stolen goods. When that alibi failed, T. F. Jackson pleaded guilty, and told the court that his brother knew nothing about the robbery, that he (Solon) knew nothing about the stolen meat. The two sets of tracks, leading across the field side by side, cast doubt in the minds of the jurymen as to the innocence of the older Jackson boy and he was adjudged guilty. On the meat stealing count, T. F. Jackson was sentenced to prison for not less than five and not more than seven years. Solon Jackson was sentenced to prison for not less than three and not more than five years.

In a second case charging Solon Jackson with drunken driving, the court sentenced him to prison for

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## Review Plans For 1939 Soil Program

A general review of the 1939 soil program will be made by the various community committees with individual farmers in the county during the next few days, T. B. Slade, special assistant to Agent T. B. Brandon, announced today.

Farmers are being asked to report to their committees for a study of the program which outlines in detail the maximum payments it is possible for a farmer to earn, the acreages that can be planted to various crops, and methods for improving the soil.

Farmers will be notified directly by the agent's office when to see their committees.

## Tobacco Plants Are Dying Martin County Farmers Say

Turning a pale yellow and rotting around the edges, tobacco plants in numbers of beds over the county are dying, farmers questioned this week explained. "I am not certain as to the cause," Farmer Herbert L. Roebuck, of Cross Roads Township, said, and added that it looked as if blue mold had attacked the plants. Excessive rains in recent weeks are believed to have damaged the plants and possibly they are dying as a result of the heavy rains, and not from blue mold, Mr. Roebuck explained. However, he did say that weeds in the plant beds were dying also.

Reports from other sections of the county indicate that blue mold has attacked the clover crop, but has not reached the tobacco plant beds as the plants are yet quite small, as a rule.

Farmers in counties south of here

are claiming a heavy damage to plants by the mold, and the indications are that the attack this season throughout the several belts will be far worse than at any time within the past several years.

Reasoning that the seasons to date have been inviting to the mold, farmers are understood to be making preparations for combating the disease. Orders are pending for shipments of "Kno-Mold" a tested treatment for the prevention and cure of blue mold.

Questioned as to the possibility of a decreased tobacco acreage as a result of an expected shortage of plants, farmers stated that they believed there would be enough plants for a normal crop and a small increase, provided, of course, no serious damage is caused by blue mold or insects.

## SUPERVISOR



Receiving the appointment of the Tobacco Board of Trade, Mr. K. B. Crawford now heads the local tobacco market as supervisor of sales.

## Local Man Will Head Market As Sales Supervisor

### K. B. Crawford Appointed By Tobacco Board of Trade

K. B. Crawford, local insurance man and well-known county citizen, was unanimously selected to head the Williamston Tobacco Market this coming season as supervisor of sales and general market statistician. Succeeding Henry Johnson who resigned after two years in the position of sales supervisor, Mr. Crawford was chosen from a field of several applicants. Mr. Johnson resigned the position to devote his entire time to the supervision of the Williamston Stockyard.

Meeting in special session last week-end, the Williamston Tobacco Board of Trade in the appointment of Mr. Crawford as supervisor of sales laid the foundation for a successful season for the local tobacco market. With partnerships formed for the operation of the four big warehouses and with the appointment of Mr. Crawford as supervisor, arrangements are fast taking form for the operation of the market.

"We are anticipating a successful season for the market," Mr. Crawford commented today, pledging his every effort to the advancement of the market and for the advantage of its patrons.

A ticket marker on the local market for nearly 36 years, Mr. Crawford is well qualified for his newly assigned duties. During that long period, he has always shown a keen interest in the market patrons, and extended every courtesy possible to them. Mr. Crawford recognizes the problems of the farmers, and in his new position he will continue his efforts to solve those problems in the interest of the market patrons.

## Contract Let For Filtering Plant

Meeting in special session here yesterday afternoon, the local board of town commissioners let the contract for filters and recirculating equipment for the municipal swimming pool. Bidding \$3,495, the Roberts Filter Manufacturing Company, of Darby, Pa., was awarded the contract. The letting was made subject to the approval of the town engineer, Henry L. Rivers.

Work on the swimming pool continues to progress slowly, a workman on the project guessing yesterday that the project would be completed possibly not later than mid-summer. Others maintain that the pool will be ready for use by the time the summer sun starts bearing down in earnest. Half of the pool floor has been poured, and the pool proper will possibly be completed within a week or ten days. Forms have been placed for pouring the concrete dugout for the filtering plant, and it is possible the structure will be ready for the installation of the circulating equipment some time in April.

## To Attend Rivers-Harbors Congress

Appointed a delegate by Governor Clyde R. Hoy last February, Mr. G. H. Harrison leaves tomorrow for Washington City where he will attend the 34th annual convention of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress. Sessions will be held in the Mayflower Hotel on Thursday and Friday. Mr. Harrison is one of eleven delegates appointed by the governor to represent North Carolina at the congress.

## To Let Contract For Large Rural Electric Project

### Fifty-One Martin Farmers To Get Power And Light Service

A contract for the construction of a 225-mile rural electric line is scheduled to be let by the Martin-Halifax corporation through the Federal Rural Electrification Administration next week, according to information released yesterday by Mr. E. V. Smith, director of the local association.

Designed to serve nearly seven hundred farm homes, the line will be centered in a portion of the upper part of this county and in a greater part of Halifax. The line in this county will center in the Palmyra territory, but will extend within about one mile of Oak City on the Oak City-Hobgood road.

The association has signed contracts with about 51 Martin County farmers at the present time, and a Martin County young man, T. B. Slade, III, is superintendent of the joint project. About 15 of the proposed 225-mile project will be located in this county.

According to reliable reports, the association has borrowed approximately \$225,000 from the government to finance the construction of the lines and make available the service to the large number of customers.

The completion of the project in the Oak City-Palmyra area will make a total of 58 miles of rural electric lines and 240 customers in the county.

## Dental Clinics Are Being Conducted In County Schools

### Free Treatment Will Be Given Those Unable To Pay

Hundreds of underprivileged school children in this county will have dental treatment provided for them without cost until the close of school.

Treatment will be administered at clinics to be conducted in as many schools as possible in this county by Dr. M. R. Evans, of the division of oral hygiene of the North Carolina Board of Health.

The first clinic opened March 6 at the Robersonville school. The services of these clinics are available during school hours.

Insofar as time permits, all school children who so wish, will be examined. Free treatment will be given those whose parents are unable to bear the expense. Children deemed able to pay will be referred to their family dentist.

Like others being conducted throughout the State this work has the hearty endorsement of the local board of health, school authorities and dentist, who point out that the program supplements but does not compete with the work of the local members of the profession.

Dr. Evans comes here highly recommended. A native of Winston-Salem, he took his undergraduate work at Rutherford College and the University of Maryland, he also received his degree in dentistry at the University of Maryland. He did private practice for three years following his graduation and has been connected with the division of oral hygiene.

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## Large Number Cases Are On Federal Court Docket

Unofficial reports state that approximately 70 cases are scheduled for trial when Judge I. M. Meekins convenes the spring term of federal court in Washington week after next. Most of the cases, it was learned, charge violation of the liquor laws.

Only one of the approximately seventy cases originated in this county, "Red" Taylor having been bound over to the court under a \$300 bond.

Last week-end four men were bound over to the court for trial by U. S. Commissioner Walter Halberstadt here. Charged with removing and concealing non-tax-paid liquors, Latham Wilkins and Willie Darden, colored, and Arthur and Governor V. Lassiter, white men, were arrested in Bertie and bound over to the Washington court for trial on April 3. Unable to arrange bond, the men were carried to Raleigh and placed in the Wake jail to await trial.

## Make Plans for Vaccinating All Dogs in Martin County

Under instructions of the board of commissioners and in accordance with State law, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck this week completed arrangements for the annual vaccination of all dogs in Martin County during April and the early part of May. Announcing the schedule for the vaccinations, the sheriff said today that prosecutions could well be expected by those owners who fail or refuse to have their dogs vaccinated.

Dr. A. J. Osteen, licensed veterinarian, has been employed to handle the vaccinations, and stations will be established throughout the county for the convenience of the owners in getting their dogs vaccinated.

Since the drive to eradicate rabies in the county was started four

years ago, there have been few mad dogs. Several dogs, falling victims of fits, have been killed, but the official records show that only one mad dog has been seen in the county during that time and that one came in from a neighboring county. The number of children and others who were advised to take the painful Pasteur treatment following attacks by dogs has been materially decreased.

As a rule, dog owners in this county have cooperated splendidly in the eradication drive. The few who have evaded the responsibility of complying with the law will be subjected to prosecution in the courts, the sheriff pointed out.

The first of the clinics will be held on April 10, and those who have their dogs vaccinated will be given credit on the tax books.

## Clyde Silverthorne Has Long Record In County Courts

### Now in Jail Awaiting Trial In Superior Court Today

Clyde Silverthorne, World War veteran, is again in the courts, his appearances before "Your Honor" in the past twenty years establishing a record second only to that of Isaac Ampey, colored man, who has been in the courts 32 times in the past twenty years. Silverthorne has been in the courts on sixteen counts, and is dubbed a second knight in Martin County's court.

Confronted with the possibility that Silverthorne was mentally deranged while in the army service during the World's War, the courts have played the role of helpfulness rather than meting out due punishment. The repeated cases have combined to offer the courts, both county and superior, one big problem, a problem that has not been solved.

Road sentences have been meted out with fair regularity, and the man has been ordered placed in state and veterans' hospitals. Once he was sent to a West Virginia hospital for veterans and he was said to have returned before Officer Allsbrooks, who carried him there, could get home. Appearing before Judge Harris, Silverthorne was ordered sent to the State hospital for examination. Apparently given a clean bill of health there, Silverthorne returned and happened to be directing traffic on a main street intersection here when Judge Harris saw him. Silverthorne was bundled up and sent to the roads the next day for twelve months.

Clyde's record dates back to March, 1918, when he was hauled in to the courts and adjudged not guilty in a case charging him with carrying a concealed weapon and an assault with a deadly weapon. About nine years later, he started building up his unusual court record. Charged with disorderly conduct, he was released upon payment of the case cost. About three years later in June, 1930, he was sentenced to the roads for 30 days, the court suspending judgment in the case charging him with being drunk and disorderly. Three months later a case charging him with a similar offense was not proessed. When he

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## Making Religious Survey Of Town

At a recent session of the town ministerial association the pastors all voted to make a religious survey as a feature of a simultaneous evangelistic movement in all of the churches. Sunday afternoon all of the ministers met with a large interdenominational committee who will make the census this week.

The object of the survey is to discover the possible constituency for each church in the town and especially to learn the denominational preference of all who are not members of any church. The census will also disclose many church people in our midst whose membership is held elsewhere than in Williamston. This group will be urged to transfer their membership and become a vital and effective part of the local church life. It is definitely expected that the survey will materially increase the number of people attending Sunday school.

The ministers are asking for cooperation with those taking the census in order that the survey may be taken rapidly yet accurately this week.

## MORE CHECKS

A temporary lull in the receipt of soil conservation payment checks has been experienced in this county during the past few days, the office of the county agent stating that only 25 vouchers amounting to \$1,642.01 had been received since last Thursday. More are expected daily, however.

To date, \$38,742 have been received for distribution to 741 farmers complying with the terms of the soil conservation program.

As a rule, the size of the payments is larger than the farmers anticipated.

## Indications Point To A Ten Per Cent Leaf Crop Increase

### Size of Increase Dependent However Upon Weather Conditions

Flue-cured tobacco growers of North Carolina indicate they will increase their acreage 11 per cent above last year, the State Department of Agriculture reported in its March state-federal intentions to plant survey.

"Ability of Tar Heel farmers to carry out their intentions will depend upon weather conditions during April and May and upon the adequate supply of plants," W. H. Rhodes, chief of the department's statistics division, said. "The increase in the numbers and size of plant beds indicate that farmers' intentions are for a considerable increase."

"Prices of tobacco have been conducive to larger plantings and the withdrawal of control measures will permit growers to plant whatever acreage they may desire. The effect of low prices in practically all other money crops also will have its influence."

The report reveals: 1. Farmers intend to plant 663,000 acres of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina, an 11 per cent increase over last year and six per cent more than the state's past 10-year average.

2. Eastern New Bright Belt—328,000 acres, 14 per cent above last year.

4. Border or South Carolina Belt—68,000 acres, or 12 per cent more than last year.

"For the total flue-cured belt extending from Virginia to Florida, the indicated increase in acreage is 11 per cent, or 900,400 acres compared with 893,000 planted in 1938," Rhodes said.

Growers in other flue-cured states report intentions to increase their crop, above last year, as follows: Virginia, 10 per cent increase; South Carolina, 10 per cent; Georgia, eight per cent, and Florida, 15 per cent.

Last year, North Carolina tobacco growers harvested an average of 861 pounds of tobacco per acre and yields during the past ten years have averaged 783 pounds, which is approximately the same as the 10-year average for the entire flue-cured belt."

## DELAYED

Unofficial reports received here today indicate that seine fishing on the Roanoke will hardly get underway at Jamesville before the latter part of next week and possibly not before the week following. High waters still cover the battery at Jamesville, it was stated.

Last year this time, the seines were operating, but the catches were comparatively small.

## Grand Jury Hears Instructive Charge

### Judge Thompson Reviews Origin of Jury and Outlines Duties of Jurymen

Coming to Martin County for his first visit as a member of the North Carolina Superior Court bench, Judge C. Everett Thompson delivered an instructive and interesting address to the March grand jury here yesterday morning.

Holding up the grand jury system as one of the basic fundamentals to freedom, Judge Thompson reviewed its origin. "Some claim the jury system had its origin with the Athenians, and some claim for it an Anglo-Saxon origin. Others contend that it came into existence with the enactment of the great document known as the Magna Charta in 1215 when King John was compelled to abolish a great many abuses which had theretofore been countenanced by the power in control," Judge Thompson said.

"But whatsoever the origin of the grand jury may have been," the jurist continued, "we find in those struggles the grand jury standing as a barrier against persecution in the name of the King \* \* \*"

"In every quarter of the globe in which the Anglo-Saxon race has formed settlements, that race has carried with it this time-honored institution, ever regarding it with the deepest veneration. Upon the formation of our government its founders determined that not one advantage obtained in the system should be abandoned. The first clause of the third article of the Constitution of the United States provides that the trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury."

The jurist pointed out that several states in their constitutional conventions strengthened the system by extending its application and the adoption of "heavier sanctions."

Pointing out to the jurymen that they had been selected in the manner provided by law, the jurist said, "You are a shield to protect the weak and innocent from false and unjust charges and a power also to accuse the guilty be they ever so great or popular."

The real meaning and the untold value of the grand jury in the protection of human liberty and rights was again pointed out when Judge Thompson said, "Were the important function of accusation placed in the hands of an individual officer, however elevated, it would be difficult to avoid the suspicion of partiality or favoritism, a disposition to screen the guilty or persecute the innocent. But your body, by the mode of its selection, by its number and character, and the temporary exercise of its powers, is placed beyond the reach of the suspicion of being over-awed by power or seduced by persuasion."

Outlining the duties of the grand jury, the Elizabeth City jurist said to the jurymen, "You are neither appointed for the prosecutor, the solicitor or the court, you are appointed for the government and the people, and both the government and the people are surely concerned, on the one hand, that all crimes,

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## Defendant Skips In Peanut Case

Court machinery, oiled up and made ready for handling the case charging Herbert Brown, Jeff Whitehurst and Johnny Jones with operating a two-county peanut theft ring, was held still here last Friday evening when it was learned that Jones, the Bertie partner in the ring, failed to appear for a preliminary hearing before Justice J. L. Hassell. Jones was not to be found and Eleanor Ward, his mother-in-law, paid the \$100 bond in cash.

An all-day search Saturday was fruitless and the court gave the other defendants a preliminary hearing. Brown admitted the charges, but Whitehurst maintained a stubborn denial. They were placed under \$1,000 bond each.

Brown and Whitehurst are alleged to have stolen around 130 bags of peanuts from a storage house here and delivered them to Jones at \$1 a bag. Whitehurst is charged with stealing Farmer Johnny Gurkins' truck and delivering 30 bags to Jones last Wednesday night. He emphatically denied the charge, and was said to have told Brown in confidence, "You certainly hurt my feelings when you told them I used that truck last Wednesday night. The case will not be tried at this term of court."