

## Grand Jury Duties Outlined In Charge By Superior Judge

### Signals Out No Specific Type Of Crime In Short Address

Addressing briefly the Martin County grand jury, Judge C. Everett Thompson, opening the one-week term of Martin County Superior Court here yesterday, outlined the duties of the body and called the attention of the jurors to no particular crime. He urged the jurymen to be diligent and careful in their deliberations as they relate to upholding all laws.

After outlining the duties of the jury as they relate to the examination of witnesses and bills of indictment charging violation of the criminal laws, Judge Thompson specifically instructed the members to make a careful survey of public buildings and offices and to examine closely reports from guardians and report names of any orphans without guardians.

Limiting his remarks possibly on account of the warm weather, Judge Thompson said, in conclusion.

"In all of your inquiries be diligent, and in all of your conclusions be careful and deliberate. In a country like ours blessed with free institutions the safety of its people depends upon the vigilant and firm execution of the law.

"Everyone must be made to understand and constantly to feel that the law's supremacy will be speedily enforced by the constituted tribunals and that liberty cannot exist under a feeble, relaxed or indolent administration of the power of the law where crime goes unpunished and the law is condemned.

"There can be no just cause for sympathy with any party who voluntarily incurs the penalties of the law, and negligence or carelessness in your inquiries would tend to multiply the number of offenses and would deprive society and the individual citizen of the protection and security to which they are entitled.

"But in our desire to bring the guilty to punishment we must still take care to guard the innocent from injury, and you will, therefore, in every case that may come before you carefully weigh the testimony offered and present no one unless in your deliberate judgment the evidence before you is sufficient, in the absence of any other proof, to justify the conviction of the accused."

Mr. D. R. Chandler, of Robersonville, was made foreman of the grand jury, and Mr. W. A. James was sworn in as officer of the body. Members of the jury are: Rufus A. Coltrain, Jimmie Roberson, Dennis L. Peel, Zack Cowen, George B. Ange, C. W. Forbes, C. C. Parker, C. J. Griffin, Eli T. Hodges, L. F. Waters, Wheeler Manning, W. W. Whitehurst, Perlie B. Lilley, Joseph Phelps, LeRoy Savage, J. H. Chesson and H. C. Lassiter.

## Victims Of Wreck Improving Rapidly

Injured in a head-on automobile crash near Everetts last Friday afternoon, George Harrison, Jr., and W. K. Parker were reported to be improving rapidly in a Washington hospital this morning.

Suffering a dislocated hip and a broken arm in addition to cuts and bruises, young Mr. Harrison, however, has a long stay in the hospital ahead of him. At the end of three weeks he will be placed in a cast and will be allowed to return home where he will have to continue in bed for three more weeks. After that time and for about two weeks he will be able to get about with the aid of crutches.

Mr. Parker, suffering no broken bones but a severe cut on his left knee and chest bruises, is expected home within a few days. Charges have been brought against him in connection with the accident, it was unofficially learned here today.

The two cars, a Mercury driven by Harrison, and a Packard, driven by Parker were wrecked, the combined damage approximating \$1,500.

## Conducting Series Of Services In Everetts

The first in a one-week series of revival services in the Everetts Christian church attracted a large crowd last night, Rev. J. M. Perry, the preacher, announced today. Last night, Mr. Perry preached on the theme, "Adam, Judas and Co." Tonight he will preach on "What's in a name."

The services will continue each evening through Sunday.

## Prominent Goose Nest Farmer Ill In Hospital

J. T. Moore, prominent and well-known Goose Nest farmer, continues critically ill in a Tarboro hospital according to last reports reaching here.

Mr. Moore was taken suddenly ill while riding along the road last Friday and was removed to the hospital later that day.

## Stealing Wave Reported Last Week by Farmers of County

A stealing wave maneuvered by outside parties was reported on Martin County farms last week, the office of the sheriff reporting numbers of chickens and quantities of hams stolen. Conducting an investigation that has already been extended into several northeastern North Carolina counties and in the State of Virginia, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, stated this morning that the theft of 57 frying-size chickens from the coop of Prince Ayers, near Everetts last Tuesday, had been virtually solved.

Guy Whitfield, a native of the Bethel section and now a resident of Norfolk, with two companions, was reported to have sold about 60 chickens in Richmond soon after the Ayers robbery. He was arrested in Northampton County for the alleged theft of meat there and bound over to the courts of that county for trial. Plans for bringing Whitfield and his companions back to this

### COMPLIANCE

With the law on their tracks and about to overtake them, several hundred owners took advantage of the last opportunity to have their dogs vaccinated at a special dispensary here last Saturday.

Last week, according to an unofficial check of the canine population, 388 dogs in the county had not been vaccinated in the county in accordance with law. Nearly 300 were vaccinated by Dr. A. J. Osteen Saturday, leaving about 88 for the officers to round up and kill. The firing squad will go into action on or about July 1. Owners who fail to have their dogs vaccinated prior to that time will be made subject to indictment.

## Pests Parading In County Leaf Crop

While prospects are bright for excellent harvests late this summer and early fall, everything is not perfect on Martin County farms these days. Late reports state that the pests have formed an unbroken parade and are damaging the tobacco crop to a considerable extent.

After doing quite a bit of dirty work, the bud worm has just about withdrawn in favor of the horn worm and grass hopper. Farmers say their crops are being attacked by hordes of worms and that the grass hoppers are doing a great deal of damage between hops. The worms ordinarily holding off until the latter part of July and early August are well advanced in their march of destruction this season.

As a means of combatting the pests Agent T. B. Brandon offers the following control methods:

Bud worms: Mix one pound of arsenate of lead with 50 pounds of corn meal and put a small quantity in the bud at the rate of about 12 or 15 pounds to the acre. Applications should be made while the dew is on the tobacco and should be applied every 10 to 14 days until the tobacco is topped.

Horn worms: Mix one pound of paris green with 5 pounds of arsenate of lead and dust 4 to 5 pounds to the acre while the plants are dry. For a spray, use one and one-half to two pounds of this mixture to fifty gallons of water.

Grasshoppers: Mix 50 pounds of wheat bran, two pounds of paris green, six oranges, one gallon of molasses and enough water to dampen the mixture and apply in the middle of the tobacco rows at the rate of 10 to 15 pounds per acre. Poultry and livestock should be kept out of fields for three or four days after application of poison.

## Officers Capture Two Large Sills In Griffins Township

Pressed into service early last Sunday morning, Officers C. B. and J. H. Roebuck, Patrolman W. S. Hunt and Deputies Carl Wynne and Roy Peel wrecked two stills and poured out about 1,000 gallons of beer in Griffins Township. Expecting to find the plants in operation, the officers were disappointed when they discovered the operators had temporarily abandoned the territory.

The stills were made of ordinary block tin, officers explaining that the output would rate only at its best as a refined poison. The stills, both of about 75-gallon capacity, are among the few of that type ever captured in the county.

## Openings For Nine Martin Youth In The CCC Service

Openings for nine Martin County youths in the Civilian Conservation Corps were announced this week by the Martin County welfare office. Quite a large number is expected to file for the places. The quota provides for the entrance of seven white and two colored boys.

The successful applicants will report for camp on July 5. The boys will possibly be assigned to Camp Warren in Beaufort County for duty.

county for trial have not been perfected at this time. Whitfield and his companions constitute one group operating in this and other counties. Last Friday night members of a second group raided the poultry house of Farmer John Powell, near Robersonville, and stole a number of chickens. The following night the same group robbed the smokehouse of Cader Perry on the Lilly farm, near Skewarkey, and stole fifteen hams. The smokehouse of Farmer Rogers on the same farm was also raided that same night, but no large quantity of meat was stolen from him.

The thieves drove their automobile through corn shoulder high for a distance of 100 yards on the Lilley farm, duplicating the methods employed while raiding the Powell poultry yard, near Robersonville.

A few chickens were stolen from the Griffin farm here last week.

## Growers Favor An Earlier Opening In North Carolina

### Questionnaires Are Mailed To Tobacco Growers Over This State

North Carolina tobacco farmers and warehousemen are opposed to a proposal by buyers that the tobacco selling day be shortened to five and one-half hours, E. Y. Floyd, executive AAA officer at State College, said last week-end.

Floyd said he based this opinion on his contracts with farmers and answers to a query mailed to them by the state tobacco advisory committee.

Farmers and warehousemen, he said, are likely to vote against the proposal at the meeting of the United States Tobacco association at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., on June 29-30, when the dates will be set for the opening of markets and sales hours will be established. Growers favor retention of the seven-hour day.

Buyers have dropped a proposal that the sales week be reduced to four days, with the seven-hour day retained, Floyd reported. "The farmers probably will ask, he said, that the opening date of the selling season be advanced two weeks on each market.

The query mailed to farmers by the tobacco committee asked:

- "In view of the large crop this year, do you think it advisable to cut the hours for selling tobacco from seven hours per day to five and one-half hours?"
- "Would the farmers in your community favor opening the markets by belts two weeks earlier than last year for all belts in the flue-cured area?"
- "Would the farmers in your community market their tobacco in the middle of the week rather than Monday and Friday of each week if they were assured that the prices per grade would be the same as on Monday and Friday?"
- "Would the farmers in your community prefer a longer selling season if they were sure the prices per grade would hold up?"
- "Would the producers in your community prefer a permanent opening date for the market, so that this question would not have to be decided each year?"

## Several Injured In Wreck Here Today

Dr. T. G. Charles, of Beardstown, Ill., suffered a broken leg, his son, Tom, was badly cut on the elbow, Mrs. Lela Copeland suffered internal injuries and Miss Edna Earle Sanderlin and Tilford Copeland were cut on their heads in an automobile crash near the plant of the Farmville-Woodward Lumber company here just before noon today.

Dr. Charles, driving his car into Williamston, was removed to a Washington hospital after receiving first-aid treatment in the offices of Drs. Saunders and Brown. Mrs. Charles escaped injury.

Painfully but believed not critically hurt, Mrs. Copeland could not be removed to a hospital immediately and continued in the offices of Drs. Rhodes and McAllister.

Caleb Copeland, of Gates County, accompanied by Mrs. Lela Copeland, Miss Sanderlin and Tilford Copeland, young boy, was driving toward Washington and started to make a left turn into the Farmville-Woodward mill yard when the Charles car, passing another, crashed into it. Both cars were wrecked.

## Postpone Meeting Of Town Commissioners

Delayed twice in the absence of a quorum, the June meeting of the local town commissioners was again postponed last night pending the completion of a special report by the treasurer. Next Monday night was set as a possible date for the meeting. The nature of the treasurer's report was not disclosed.

## Fire Chief Hall Files Answer In Suit For \$10,000.00

### Maintains Main Street Accident Was Due To Negligence of Plaintiff

Denying negligence on his part and alleging the plaintiff was wholly responsible, Fire Chief G. P. Hall through his attorneys, B. A. Critcher and Coburn and Coburn, filed a long answer in the \$10,000 damage suit brought against him by Joe Mitchell, as next friend of Jimmie Mitchell, as a result of an automobile-bicycle crash on Williamston's main street the early part of last March.

After denying the charges in the complaint as they relate to negligence, the defendant says further in his answer:

That the Town of Williamston is a municipal corporation and has a population of around 4,000 inhabitants and for one of its departments in carrying out the governmental functions, it has established a fire department and has the latest fire engine and apparatus and in connection therewith, has duly organized and trained men to operate said fire engine and apparatus during a call by the blowing of a siren to put out fires reported and as the head of this organization, the defendant Hall was at the time of the aforesaid accident the Chief of the Fire Department and under the rules of the organization, it was the duty of G. P. Hall, upon blowing of the siren, which was notice of a fire, to go immediately to the City Hall where the fire engine was located and direct the other men in putting out fires.

That the plaintiff, Jimmie Mitchell, is a young man, twelve (12) years of age and has passed through the seventh grade in high school and is an extraordinarily bright boy for his age and the said Jimmie Mitchell, who lives in the Town of Williamston, and who is familiar with the rules and regulations of the Town Ordinances and the laws governing crossing and driving upon said streets, and who especially is familiar with the rules and laws governing all drivers of vehicles or pedestrians at the time the siren or signal is given for a fire.

That on the 7th day of March, 1939, about 4 o'clock, P. M., the siren at the City Hall was blown and the defendant who operates a barber shop at the West end of the business section of Main Street, immediately at the sound of the siren, left his business and got in his car and was traveling down Main Street going to fulfill his duty, to-wit: to take charge of the men in operation of the fire department; that he was driving his car down Main Street in a careful and prudent manner and at the same time was blowing the siren on his car, warning the people who were on the street driving automobiles, as well as pedestrians, that he had the right-of-way and that it was the duty of all citizens on said street to yield the right-of-way to him as well as all the remainder of the fire department vehicles.

That defendant is informed, believes and so alleges that the plaintiff, Jimmie Mitchell, at the time that the siren was blown, was on his bicycle on West end of the business section of Main Street coming down Main Street towards the City Hall and upon the blowing of the siren, that he began going down Main Street at a rapid rate of speed, riding around and in front of cars and that previous to the accident, he was warned twice that he had better stay off of Main Street or that he had better ride more carefully, and the defendant further says that while the plaintiff, Jimmie Mitchell, knew the rules and laws governing traffic and pedestrians and knew it was unlawful and dangerous for him to even ride his bicycle on Main Street when the siren had blown, and the men operating the fire department were hurrying to the City Hall down Main Street for the purpose of going to put out fire somewhere in the city, and he knew it was his duty the minute he heard the siren to drive his bicycle to the right hand side of the curb on Main Street wherever he was and come to a standstill, and remain there until the fire department had gone to the scene of the fire or he had been directed to move by the city officers or patrolman, and the plaintiff, Jimmie Mitchell, knew that just previous to the accident that several of the firemen were coming down Main Street going to the City Hall for the purpose of organizing and going to put out the fire and he knew and he observed that the remainder of the people on Main Street had stopped and turned to the right and driven up to the nearest curb and stopped waiting for the fire department to pass, and the plaintiff, Jimmie Mitchell, further knew that he was not exercising due care and prudence equal to his capacity, knowing the rules and laws of North Carolina and the fire de-

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## Superior Court Term Dragging To A Close

### Adjournment Due This Afternoon Or Early Tomorrow

#### Trial of Murder Case Likely To Continue Remainder Of Today

With all cases cleared from the docket but one, the June term of Martin County Superior Court is dragging to a close here this afternoon. While making itself felt in no uncertain way, the hot weather has not delayed the activities of the court and it is possible Judge C. Everett Thompson will complete the work and adjourn the term late this afternoon or possibly early tomorrow.

Proceedings in the court: Jeff Whitehurst, charged with temporary larceny, was not returned from the roads for trial, the court postponing the case with leave. Whitehurst, sentenced to the roads for five years last March for the alleged theft of peanuts, was one of three defendants convicted at that time for operating a peanut theft ring.

The case charging Leander Griffin for bigamy was continued until the September term.

In the case charging Mrs. Effie Virginia Cooke with bigamy, the defendant was sentenced to jail for twelve months, the court suspending judgment upon payment of the court costs and remaining of good behavior for three years. Mrs. Cooke was granted a divorce in her case against Grover Cooke earlier in the day. The action was based on two years' separation.

When the court reached that portion of the docket carrying cases charging breaking and entering and stealing, it found no solid foundation to work on, and careful scrutiny of the docket proved that there had not been as much stealing going on as the number of cases first indicated. And then it faced certain obstacles that interrupted the record established by Judge Thompson when he presided over the March term of the superior court in this county.

George Perkins and Willie Green, charged with breaking into and robbing the Peele Jewelry Store in Williamston, defied the court and skipping the country, leaving their relatives with two \$300 mortgages to satisfy. The disappearance automatically continued the trial of Eddie Watson Brown who was charged with receiving two of the stolen watches, knowing them to have been stolen.

The case charging Marvin Ross with breaking and entering and larceny and receiving was remanded to the juvenile court for trial. B. H. Ross, Jr., a second defendant in the case, was sentenced to the roads for three to five years, the court suspending the sentence and placing the defendant on probation for five years.

A verdict of not guilty was directed at the conclusion of the state's evidence in the case charging William Taylor and Charlie Rhodes with larceny and receiving.

Nineteen years old and appearing inside of a court room for the first time in his life, Douglas O'Mary pleaded guilty in the case charging him with the theft of three hams from Farmer Matthews' smokehouse near Parmele. Sentencing him to the roads for a period of from three to five years, Judge Thompson suspending the sentence and placing him on probation for five years.

Joseph Byrum, charged with drunken driving, monopolized the

(Continued on page six)

### WELL PROTECTED

While a few more than 6,000 people in Martin County have already insured themselves protection against typhoid fever for the next three years, it was pointed out by the office of the Martin County health department that at least four or five made certain that the fever would not overtake them by taking four injections of the vaccine. The victims of the hypodermic needle misunderstood the schedule and visited each of the