

Defendants Score Victories In The Recorder's Court

Sixteen Cases Are Called By Judge H. O. Peel Last Monday

Defendants, or rather a large percentage of them, had their day in the county court last Monday when seven out of eighteen gained their freedom before Judge H. O. Peel. The court was in session longer than usual as considerable time was spent in the trial of one or two cases. The court recessed out of respect to the memory of Mrs. J. B. H. Knight whose funeral was held that afternoon at 3 o'clock. The activities of the court were continued later in the day.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Joe Godard, of Jamesville; Alton Lilley and Jack Perry were declared not guilty.

A verdict of not guilty was returned in the case charging R. L. Commander, Elizabeth City man, with reckless driving.

Charged with drunken driving, Vance Price was found not guilty. Lawrence Lilley, charged with drunken driving, was found not guilty.

A verdict of not guilty was returned by the court in the case charging W. T. Crawford with drunken driving.

Charged with destroying personal property, Arthur Evans was found not guilty.

Sam Mabry was adjudged not guilty in the case charging him with violating the motor vehicle laws.

A solution was finally advanced in the case charging Dan Wynne with assaulting John S. Ayers, Hamilton officer, with a deadly weapon. Wynne was sentenced to the roads for sixty days, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court. It was also set out in the judgment that the defendant is not to go into the Hamilton business section on Saturday afternoons or Sundays and that he is to move by the first of next year.

Charged with riding a motorcycle while intoxicated, Floyd Wynne was adjudged guilty and was fined \$50, taxed with the costs and had his license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for a period of one year. He appealed and bond was fixed in the sum of \$100.

The case charging J. T. Matthews with drunken driving was heard and the court continued it under prayer for judgment.

Jake Moore, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, failed to answer when called and papers for his arrest were drawn at the direction of the court.

Charged with carrying a concealed weapon and attempted assault, LeRoy Coffield was found guilty on the first count and was sentenced to the roads for ninety days.

The case charging Clifton Moore with reckless driving was continued under prayer for judgment.

The case charging Norman Sherrod with larceny and receiving was not pressed with leave.

Prayer for judgment was continued in the case charging Clinton Lannier with reckless driving and disorderly conduct.

Allen McNair was sentenced to the roads for sixty days in the case charging him with drunken driving.

Six Cases Called In Mayor's Court

With the reopening of the tobacco markets this week came an increase in court activities here, Mayor J. L. Hassell handling six cases during the period up until today.

The trial justice tempered his judgments with mercy, but he issued a fair warning against continued violations of the laws when he said that substantial fines could be expected in future cases. "The markets have been closed and economic conditions have not been very favorable so I tempered the verdicts," the justice said.

Charged with disorderly conduct, Sam Stokes was taxed with the costs amounting to \$7.75.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of \$4.50 costs in the case charging Albert Wilson with an assault upon W. H. Speller.

The case charging Gullie Ann Purvis with stabbing Nat Goss with an ice pick was sent to the county court for trial. Reports state that the assailant climbed on the running board of a car and rammed the pick up to the handle into the man's breast.

Charged with being drunk, Hattie Rascoe was directed to pay \$5.50 costs.

Judgment was suspended upon payment of the costs in the case charging Pete and William Cherry with being drunk and disorderly.

Fire Destroys Laundry In Edenton Early This Morning

Numbers of Williamston, Plymouth and Columbia families lost their clothes when fire destroyed the Edenton Laundry early this morning. No estimate of the loss could be had, but reports reaching here stated that the building and all contents were destroyed. The origin of the fire was not determined.

Committee Elections Scheduled in County

APPROVAL

Although prices were not up to general expectations when tobacco sales were resumed on the markets this week, farmers for the most part expressed appreciation for the help offered by the federal government in relieving a bad situation surrounding the marketing of the current tobacco crop.

There was some dissatisfaction expressed on the markets early Tuesday, but as prices climbed to about a 15-cent level later in the day, farmers began to recognize the value of the efforts advanced by the government.

"Prices may not be high, but I hate to think what they would have been had the control measure failed of passage," a farmer said.

Martin Native Died Wednesday at Home In Beaufort County

Funeral for Mrs. Lon Peel Is Held at Cedar Branch Yesterday

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in the Cedar Branch Baptist church, near Jamesville, by Rev. W. B. Harrington, for Mrs. Annie Robertson Peel, who died in Beaufort County, near Pinetown, Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Suffering with Bright's and a complication of diseases, Mrs. Peel, wife of Mr. Lawrence Peel, had experienced failing health for a number of months. She was able to be up until about six weeks ago when her condition became worse. The last few days of her life were marked by intense suffering, but she bravely bore her affliction and without murmur.

The daughter of the late Asa and Nancy Peel Robinson, she was born in Griffins Township, this county, forty-nine years ago. In early womanhood, she was married to Mr. Peel and lived in various parts of the county while he was engaged in school teaching and farming. During the early part of this year the family moved to Beaufort County, locating on a farm about eight miles from Pinetown.

Several years ago and while the family was making its home near Jamesville, she joined the Baptist church at Cedar Branch. She was faithful in her worship there and her membership was valued by church leaders. Mrs. Peel was a good neighbor, a devoted mother and a thoughtful wife. She was held in high esteem by all who knew her, and she enjoyed a large friendship circle in those communities where the family had made its home.

Besides her husband she leaves five children, three sons, Haney J. Peel, Luther D. Peel and James A. Peel, all of Beaufort County, and two daughters, Mrs. Jack Robertson and Mrs. William Lilley, both of Portsmouth, Va. She is also survived by four brothers, Messrs. Eddie Robinson, of Griffins Township; John H. and Sanford Robinson, both of Williamston, and one sister, Mrs. Tillie Gannell, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Following the church service at Cedar Branch, burial was made in the family plot at the Hardison Mill in the Farm Life community of Griffins Township.

Appreciative Group Hears Mordelia Trio

Pietro Mordelia and his two lovely daughters, Flora and Rita, have probably played to larger audiences but not to a more appreciative one than they did here last night. The high school auditorium was by no means full, but those who went out for the high-class entertainment were well rewarded.

Pietro Mordelia, the son of an Italian who made the first piano-accordion in this country, gave his audience first consideration, playing what it wanted and asked for. Most of the numbers were confined to semi-classics and popular music. Flora, a graduate in music at Boston University and the winner of the Beethoven prize for sopranos two years ago in New England, did the solo work, accompanied by her father either with the accordion or the piano.

Rita Mordelia gave several humorous impersonations and readings that were enjoyed by the entire audience. Truly a musical and interesting family, Pietro and his daughters gave their audience all they asked for. The program was interesting from beginning to end and those who were fortunate enough to be present were unanimous in their approval and appreciation of the entire program.

Number of the Old Members Ineligible For Future Service

Farmers Will Name Committee Members Week After Next In This County

Machinery for placing the Agricultural Adjustment Administration Act back in operation will be set up week after next when tobacco growers are to elect their community and county committees who will assign acreage quotas and administer the act locally. Plans for holding the district elections were formulated by the county committee in meeting here Wednesday afternoon. Instructions for holding the meetings will be advanced at a meeting of the community committee chairmen here on Monday, October 23, at 2:00 p. m. The first community elections will get underway the evening of October 24 according to a schedule prepared by the county committee.

Much of the criticism directed against the control program has been centered in and around the local and county committee activities. A review of the activities prove that many, if not all, the complaints have been biased and without firm foundation, but the new elections will give farmers an opportunity to effect any changes in the committee personnel, and every tobacco grower in the county is invited and urged to participate in the elections. At least eighteen of the old committee-men have rendered themselves ineligible for service as committeemen for the coming year. It is also possible for the farmers to elect new committees in their entirety, but it is reasonable to believe that when the time comes, the growers will re-elect quite a few if not most of the old committeemen who are eligible to continue in their positions.

The names of the present committeemen are, as follows:

Bear Grass: E. C. Harrison. Cross Roads: W. L. Aushon, H. L. Roebuck, Henry D. Peel and James Marion Griffin.

Goose Nest: J. C. Ross and L. H. Hux.

Griffins: George C. Griffin, J. C. Gurkin, Asa J. Hardison and A. C. Roberson.

Hamilton: D. R. Edmondson, J. H. Lillard and K. Brown Etheridge. Jamesville: C. C. Martin and J. L. Knowles.

Robersonville: R. S. Everett, S. T. Everett and J. R. Daniel. Williamston-Poplar Point: None. Williams: R. J. Hardison, O. S. Green and Joshua L. Coltrain.

The names of the county committee are, as follows:

J. R. Winslow, Robersonville; J. F. Crisp, chairman, Goose Nest, and W. M. Harrison, Bear Grass.

All of the above named men are eligible for re-election subject to the wishes of the growers.

The first of the community elections will be held on Tuesday, October 24, at 7:30 p. m. at Bear Grass, Robersonville, and Oak City.

On Wednesday, October 25, at the same hour, elections will be held in Hamilton, Cross Roads and Griffins Townships.

The last of the scheduled elections will be held at the same hour on Thursday, October 26, in Williamston, Jamesville and Williams Townships.

In each of the districts the tobacco growers are to elect three committeemen and two alternates. In addition to those selections, the growers will elect a delegate and an alternate to the county committee meeting.

Any farmer promising to participate in the program during the coming year will be eligible.

Former Local Man Dies In Columbia

Rev. Arthur H. Marshall, one-time rector of the Church of the Advent here and St. Martin's Parish, Hamilton, died last Monday night in a Columbia (S.C.) hospital.

The jovial minister came here from Plymouth in 1929 and from that time until he left for Belhaven in 1932 he carried on an able work in the religious field and entered readily upon the duties so frequently assigned to community leaders. Gassed during the war, Mr. Marshall experienced feeble health during much of the time, but he carried on his work until about three weeks ago when he entered the hospital at Columbia.

During the past few years he was rector of the Episcopal church in Southport, and working out of there he plied the waterways of North Carolina with a small boat, carrying religious messages to isolated people over a wide territory. His work, touching more than 100 small points along the waterways, attracted national attention.

Funeral services were conducted at Southport yesterday afternoon.

Leaf Sales Resumed With Price Average Showing An Increase

Sales To October 1 Just a Few Million Under Those of The Past Year

That North Carolina tobacco growers will receive less money for the bumper crop this year than they received for a small crop last year is clearly indicated in the official reports showing comparative sales and prices up to October 1 this year and for the corresponding period in 1938.

Despite the holiday that held the markets idle during more than half of September, sales so far this year are just a little over thirty million pounds less than they were to October 1, last year, when there was no interruption in the marketing activities. North Carolina tobacco warehouses sold 235,049,504 pounds of producers' tobacco at an average season's price of \$14.76 up to the first of this month as compared with 265,153,771 pounds for an average of \$22.25 for the same period a year ago.

As a result of the markets being closed on September 13th, September sales for this year totaled only 91,958,277 pounds as compared with 182,065,634 pounds for September of last year. This year's September price averaged \$12.76 which is more than 3 cents less than August sales average and almost 9 cents less than September of 1938.

In this belt, the thirteen markets sold 55,141,918 pounds during the twelve selling days in September for an average price of \$12.61 against a price average of \$21.80 during September of last year. Season sales on the thirteen markets up to the time the holiday ended on Tuesday of this week amounted to 118,295,460 pounds. The price average was \$13.89 as against \$21.98 paid the growers for the corresponding period in 1938.

No official sales figures in the belt, as a whole, are available for the period since the markets opened on Tuesday of this week, but reliable estimates show that the price trend during the four-day selling period this week has been upward with the prices averaging from two and one-half to three cents higher than the average reported for the month of September.

The Williamston market sold well over four million pounds before the first of October at an average of \$13.93 as against the belt average of \$13.89. The report was incomplete as two warehouses had not filed their sales figures for the period.

Tells Experience As Tobacco Curer In Canada Recently

Marked Variation in Customs There And in United States

Leslie Smith, county man, had some rich experiences to relate following his recent return from Canada where he cured tobacco during the past season. The work in some sections of Canada is all right, and the young man is ready and willing to return but he is not so keen about going back to the farm where he was located this year.

Stationed on a large farm nearly 40 miles from any town, Smith said he found himself in a Hungarian community, that there was a marked variation in their customs as compared with those back in the States. Reporting to the farm owner, a doctor who lived in a town sixty miles distant, Smith said he did not see his boss but twice during the entire season.

It was tough going for the young man to get accustomed to the ways of the Hungarians and after recognizing it impossible to live as they lived he started cooking for himself. He bought small sausages from a store not far from the farm where he worked and set up house-keeping in and around the tobacco barns, and lived there most of the time.

"The Hungarians would kill a hog, wrap him in sacks and sawdust and set fire to sawdust and sacks. Then they would take him out, rake off the hair, dress him and the meat was then ready for serving," Smith explained.

A human being at death was recognized no more than any other animal.

While Sunday observance is unknown among some groups, a permit for Sunday work is required in other communities.

In some sections, according to Smith, there is a high standard of living and the people are unusually friendly and nice. While the Martin County man experienced no trouble or ill feeling, he is not so keen on spending several months with the Hungarians next summer.

The farmers in Canada, as a general rule, are learning tobacco culture mighty slow, according to Smith, who said that they were doing fairly well in cultivating the crop. When harvesting time arrives, they have a tendency to strip the stalk at one

(Continued on page six)

New Records Are Established On Local Tobacco Market During Short Selling Period This Week

General Review Of County Health Work In The Third Quarter

County-wide Drive Is Started Against Municipal Uncleanliness

By F. E. WILSON
Martin County Health Officer

During the months of July, August and September the work of the health department has gone steadily forward, taking the most pressing problems of this period and attempting to solve them. These problems have been mainly those of sanitation during the hot months, and examining the midwives for permits. The department was entered in the 1939 health conservation contest which is sponsored by the United States Chamber of Commerce and the American Public Health Association.

We have started a county-wide campaign against municipal uncleanliness. The town of Hamilton and the town of Williamston have called special meetings of their commissioners asking the Martin County Health Department to direct campaigns in their towns. These towns have cooperated by sponsoring the movement and giving it publicity. It is our purpose to make these campaigns permanent. In Williamston particularly, there has been a decided increase in the cleanliness of the back alleys of the business section. This campaign was publicized in the news-letter of the health conservation contest.

During this quarter we were fortunate in having an assistant health officer, and an additional nurse for six weeks, without cost to the county. They helped in completing our immunization campaign and in the instruction and supervision of the midwives. They also made it easier for the personnel to take much needed vacations without hindering the progress of our work.

The maternity and infancy centers were fairly well attended with a total of 53 patients being examined. The venereal disease clinics had a slump in attendance due probably to the harvesting of the tobacco crop. 2822 patients came to the venereal disease clinics for either treatment, examination, or advice during the quarter.

Plans for an extensive school health program were studied and several new procedures were started. All applicants for school bus drivers' permits were given a visual test, and exactly one-third failed. To require a bus driver to have good vision is a safeguard against many highway accidents and injuries to school children. It was decided to stress the importance of visual health in examining the school children, and to determine the relationship between visual defects and poor illumination and to determine the number of repeaters due to poor eyesight.

During the hot months of July, August and September efforts in sanitation were very much impeded.

(Continued on page six)

European Situation Is One Big Muddle

With both sides declaring they will fight to a finish and neither taking the initiative to prosecute the war, the European situation is recognized as one big muddle. Hitler said a few days ago that unless his peace terms were accepted, Germany would fight to a finish. Daladier, speaking for the French, and Chamberlain, speaking for the English, said no peace could be founded on the invasion of Poland and that peace could not be considered as long as Hitlerism prevails in Germany. England and France declare they are ready to fight to a finish.

Some observers predict peace will be considered. Other observers predict a fight to a finish, and that a strong German offensive can be expected shortly.

While Germany is accepting invasion costs, Russia is reaching out for more territory to aggravate the general European situation. Finland and Sweden are fast setting up a defense against Russia while Italy, occupying a precarious position on the proverbial limb, is quiet. Italy has verbally attacked Hitler's friends on the one hand and his enemies on the other. England has negotiated trade agreements with Russia and Germany is complaining about the inferior quality goods she is receiving from Russia.

German submarines, after a two-weeks' period of inactivity, renewed activities this morning and sank two allied ships, a British merchant ship and a French tanker. On land, the belligerents hastened war preparations.

GOOD-COUNTRY

"It's a good country to be in," a member of a small French party said while making a brief shopping tour here Wednesday morning. The large American-manufactured car carried a French license and the group of three — a chauffeur and two French women—was traveling South.

Coming to this country just a short time ago, the members of the party could not speak English very well and withheld all comment on the foreign situation. They carried two dogs, but neither of them resembled a German police canine in the least.

Cooperative Cites Need For Control Peanut Production

Plans Are Made at a Recent Meeting in Edenton To Receive Peanuts

Although peanut farmers are assured this season of a price stabilization program which guarantees a minimum price of three and one-half cents for top grade Virginias, with a corresponding schedule of prices the same as paid last year at the warehouses of the Peanut Stabilization Cooperative, at the annual membership meeting of the cooperative held recently in Edenton it was pointed out that a serious situation faces the peanut farmer next year unless some method and program of production control can be worked out.

Only a few growers were present for the membership meeting, which was held in the ancient Chowan County courthouse, although over sixteen hundred who had sold their peanuts through the government-backed cooperative warehouses were represented by proxies. All members of the board of directors were re-elected and at the directors meeting held immediately following the membership meeting, R. C. Holland, who has guided the operation of the cooperative since its organization three years ago, was re-elected president and manager, B. D. Stephenson, of Pendleton, and J. B. Fearing, Windsor, were re-elected vice president and secretary, respectively. Other directors of the cooperative are Martin Kellogg, Sunbury; J. C. Shields, Hobgood; R. B. Knight, Tarboro; J. L. White, Hertford; J. H. Hassell, Plymouth; R. H. House, Robersonville; W. R. Everett, Martin County, and Mayon Parker, Ahoskie.

Preparations are being made to have warehouses ready for receiving peanuts at the cooperative warehouses at all points where they were operated last year, with the possible addition of warehouses in South Carolina and Kentucky to be operated this season under the management of the North Carolina cooperative.

In his annual report Manager Holland stated that warehouses were operated at twenty-eight points last season, handling approximately 25,000 tons of peanuts, practically all of which were diverted into oil. This volume was about a third of the quantity handled the year previous but it accomplished the purpose of the program by stabilizing prices and diverting a sufficient quantity of peanuts from the regular channels of trade, into oil, so that millers bought peanuts throughout the season at and above the government's schedule of prices which was paid by the cooperative.

Indirect benefits accruing to farmers out of the program due to the stabilized prices, both those who delivered to cooperative warehouses and those who sold direct to millers, were estimated at approximately two and one-half million dollars.

It was pointed out by President Holland that a hard fight and united

(Continued on page six)

Few Liquor Plants Raided In The County This Month

Little activity has marked the illicit liquor traffic in this county so far this month. Special Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck stating today that only three liquor plants had been located and wrecked and that very little liquor had been confiscated.

Last week the officers wrecked a steam plant and poured out 300 gallons of beer. Two plants were wrecked and 350 gallons of beer were poured out in Cross Roads Township.

Yesterday afternoon, the officer, accompanied by Policeman Allsbrook, raided a damp spot on the Plymouth railroad branch and dug up nine quarts of illicit rum.

No arrests were made during the period.

Average Is Ranging Between Fifteen and Sixteen Cents Today

Inferior Grades and Damaged Leaf Affecting General Price Average

Selling well over a million pounds since the reopening of the markets last Tuesday, the Williamston Tobacco Market is chalking up an all-time record this week. Never before has there been as much tobacco offered for sale, and at the end of each day the buyers are about as far behind in clearing the block as they were when the selling activities were resumed early this week. Traveling as rapidly as the warehouse association's schedule will permit, the selling organizations have lost no time, and today a steady gain is being maintained in an effort to sell out the more than 300,000 pounds on the New Carolina floor.

The general price average for the week will fall between fifteen and sixteen cents, with a spurt now and then boosting the price figures well over 17 cents. Much inferior tobacco is being offered and this, with some damaged leaf on the floors is having a tendency to weaken the general price average. But it can't be denied that prices are low, and some few farmers are turning tags. General observations are that while the farmers are not pleased with their sales, they realize that under the conditions they are receiving as much for their tobacco as could be expected. When questioned this morning, numbers of farmers frankly stated that they did not know what would have happened had the government remained off the market. The general opinion is that the price would be less than half the amount being received at the present time, that with the deliveries blocking warehouses and streets the companies would have withdrawn again before now.

Reports from early sales today pointed to added strength in the price average. One entire row averaged right at 20 cents, the next row dropping to \$13.68 and the next pulling right up to fifteen cents. The better grades of the leaf are selling fairly good, but there is a considerable amount of the 8-10 and 12 cent tobacco.

Reliable reports state that the price is ranging from two to three cents above the closing-day figures last month.

Forgetting all about first sales and when they can get a sale, farmers are now looking for available floor space. Warehouses have been blocked and traffic interrupted on the streets by the heavy deliveries. Two houses were virtually filled at noon today, and the leaf continued to roll in on cars, trucks, trailers and horse-drawn vehicles. Considering the big rush, it is remarkable how the price average holds up as well as the reports indicate.

It is now apparent that when sales get underway next Monday morning there will be about as much tobacco awaiting the buyers as there was on the floors last Tuesday morning.

No mention of a shorter selling day or selling week has been made, but there is some doubt if the buying companies can continue to handle the situation if deliveries continue to hold up in volume for any great length of time.

Comparative reports show that the Williamston market is holding its own with all others, that despite heavy offerings of inferior types and some damaged leaf the general average will stand right at the top in the belt.

Charged With Violating Fire Zoning Ordinance

Charged with violating the town's fire zone ordinance, K. G. Strawbridge was fined \$50 in Mayor J. L. Hassell's court here last evening. He appealed and will appear before the commissioners for relief at their next regular meeting. No bond was required in the case.

The defendant is charged with building a small addition to the old buggy factory building on Smithwick Street, and he was quoted as saying that he would prefer going to jail rather than tear down the small addition.

Victim Of Pistol Shot Said To Be Recovering

His intestines punctured in eleven places by a pistol ball, James Whitehurst, colored man, is getting along very well in a Washington hospital and is expected to recover if complications do not develop, according to information received here late yesterday afternoon.

Whitehurst, coming here from Bertie only a short time ago, was shot by Rander Jones on the town's East Main Street last Saturday evening.