

Freedom Rings For Defendants In The Recorder's Court

Judgment Suspended Without Any Cost After Defendant Pleads Guilty

Freedom to beat up, abuse and stab rang out in clear tones in the Martin County Recorder's court last Monday when Judge H. O. Peel called six cases and adjourned the session within two hours. The State failed of prosecution in one case, judgment was suspended without cost or condition in another where the defendant had previously pleaded guilty of assaulting and abusing his wife, and in still another a \$100 bond was reduced to \$50, the court directing the surety to pay the latter amount.

The old Homer Glosson case, one that has had a peculiar course in the Martin Superior court, was brought to a final close in the lower tribunal this week when the defendant pleaded guilty of drunken automobile driving. Glosson was arrested in the Farm Life community of Griffins Township on September 15, 1938 by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Patrolman W. S. Hunt for alleged drunken driving. He was later charged with running down and killing Isaiah Hardison, colored man, near Dardens on the evening of September 14. Action was taken in the superior court to recover damages for Hardison's widow, but in some way the plaintiffs never succeeded in determining ownership of the truck Glosson was alleged to have been driving that night. The superior court settled its criminal claim against Glosson when the solicitor noloed the case upon condition that the defendant plead guilty in the county court of drunken driving. Glosson pleaded guilty in the court this week, Judge Peel imposing a \$50 fine and revoking his license to operate a car for one year. Costs in the case were also taxed against the defendant. Unofficial reports from Hardison's widow indicate that she and her brood are living from hand to mouth.

Pleading guilty in early January of assaulting and abusing his wife, Jasper Roebuck this week was given his unconditional freedom last Monday when the court suspended judgment in the case. The payment of the case costs was not stipulated in the judgment.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Irvin Latham failed to appear when called for trial. Judgment absolute was ordered declared on his \$100 bond to be discharged by the surety upon payment of \$50.

Ben Reeves, charged with stabbing Johnnie Powell, was found not guilty. The defendant maintained that Powell threw a bottle at him, but the State maintained that the attack victim was unarmed when the actual attack was made.

Adjudged guilty over his own plea of innocence, Preston Clyde Durant was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his license revoked for a period of one year in the case charging him with drunken driving. He appealed to the higher court and bond was required in the sum of \$100.

Esther Woolard failed to answer when called in the case charging her with an assault. Papers were issued for her arrest.

In a civil action brought by J. T. Daniels against G. H. Manning, Columbian Peanut Company, Gus Forbes and Will Morton, trading as Forbes and Morton, Judge Peel ruled the defendant was not indebted to the plaintiff, that the plaintiff take nothing and be taxed with the cost. An appeal to the higher court was noted.

County Resident Dies In Hospital

Mrs. Melrose Bonds Williams died in a Washington hospital yesterday morning at 12:30 o'clock after a long illness. She had been in declining health for almost two years and was a patient in the hospital for two weeks.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bonds, she was born near Williamston 22 years ago, and had lived in this vicinity all her life.

She was married at an early age and is survived by her husband and two children, Geraldine, 4, and Frankie Ann, 18 months old. She also leaves her parents and the following brothers and sisters, Mervin, John Fenner, Earl, Cecil, U. A., and Conrad Bonds and Mrs. Eleanor Moore and Miss Virginia Dare Bonds, all of near Williamston, and Mrs. William Clark, of Cross Roads.

Funeral services are being conducted at Skewarkey this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Elder B. S. Cowin. Interment will follow in the family plot in the churchyard.

Jameville Intruder Is Subjected To Gunfire

Apparently making an attempt to break into the Martin home at Jameville last week-end, an intruder was greeted by fire from a gun in the hands of Harry Martin. No hit was scored and the identity of the intruder was not determined, the sheriff's office reported.

Martin Farmers Giving More Attention to Timber Lands

Showing a greater interest in their forest resources and the preservation of their woodlands, Martin County farmers are planning a series of forestry demonstrations next week, it was announced yesterday by Assistant County Agent John I. Eagles. W. J. Barker, assistant state forester, is planning four timber thinning demonstrations in Goose Nest and Bear Grass Townships next Wednesday. The first of the demonstrations will be held at 10 o'clock that morning on the farm of Jesse F. Crisp, near Oak City. That afternoon at 1 o'clock the forestry expert will hold a demonstration on the farm of Elder A. B. Ayers in Bear Grass. Other demonstrations will follow on the farm of C. U. Rogers at 2:30 o'clock and on the farm of Calvin Ayers at 4 o'clock in the same township.

All farmers are urged to attend the demonstration nearest them. That Martin farmers and others are learning to appreciate the value of their timber and wood resources is evidenced in recent reports released by the forest fire warden, Marvin Leggett. Fewer fires were reported in this county during the last six months of 1939 than in any period in recent years. The loss by fire was negligible and the cost of maintaining the protection was small. The farmers are not only conserving their forest lands, but they are beginning to look upon their woodlands as a source of additional income. They are transplanting seedlings, taking more interest in the program in general and expressing a greater appreciation of the value to be derived from proper forestry practices.

RAINFALL

Snow and rain combined did not pull the January rainfall up to normal for the month in this section, Hugh Spruill at the Roanoke River station reporting a precipitation of only 2.86 inches during the period. It compares with a fall of 4.03 inches in January last year and 7.22 inches in January, 1937. The fall was the smallest since January, 1934, when only 2.51 inches of rain were recorded.

Two traces of snow and two snows, a 2-inch one and a 1.5 inch one, were included in the precipitation.

Reviews History Of Scouting Movement In Seventeen Years

First Troop Organized By a Small Group of Boys Back In 1923

Receiving little attention at times and none at others, the Boy Scout movement in Williamston has gradually come into its own and a goodly number of boys by their own right are joining in with millions of other youths in observing National Boy Scout Week. Already the boys have attended a religious service in a body, and last evening they attended a Scout party in Everetts. On Wednesday, February 21, they will join with all other Boy Scouts in the county at a father-son banquet to be held in Everetts. The public is being reminded of the special celebration by a display of Boy Scout handiwork in the show window of the Woolard Hardware company and by special messages appearing over the names of a number of local firms in this paper.

While there may have been some scouting activities advanced here prior to that time, the first definite movement to organize a Boy Scout troop in Williamston was advanced in the early twenties when Simon Lilley and W. H. Booker rounded up a few lads and placed them in uniforms. A definite schedule was followed, but there were intervals when the movement attracted very little interest. But all the while the foundation for an active council was being laid, and today scouting in Williamston is recognized as being equal to that anywhere in the eastern area.

Following Simon Lilley as Scoutmaster was Harper Holliday. He was followed by Loui Hallman. Attorney Wheeler Martin picked up the work where Hallman left off, and a marked growth was experienced in the activity. He was followed by Horace Ray. Rev. James H. Smith was the next Scoutmaster, and in 1937 he was followed by Horace Ray, the present youth leader.

The late W. C. Manning served as the first troop committeeman, and

Cotton Payments Amount to \$31,561 In Martin County

Cotton price adjustment payments, delayed in this county by a shortage of funds in Washington, are being resumed, reports from the office of the county agent stating that checks amounting to \$2,466.88 are being distributed to Martin farmers this week. So far 1,751 farmers in this county have received cotton price adjustment payments amounting to \$31,561.57. Checks received this week were held up pending the passage of a deficiency bill in Congress.

There are approximately 20 farmers in this county who are entitled to the cotton price adjustment payments, but their checks have been delayed, it was learned. Numbers of applications have been filed in this county for soil conservation payments, but none of those checks has been received for distribution so far.

Wm. Henry Rogers Dies At His Home Near Here Tuesday

Last Rites For Prominent Farmer-Citizen Held Yesterday

William Henry Rogers, well-known citizen-farmer, died at his home near here on the old Williamston-Everetts road last Tuesday evening at 7:40 o'clock, the end coming after a long period of declining health. About four years ago, Mr. Rogers suffered a stroke of paralysis. A strong constitution enabled him to recover sufficiently to partially regain the use of his faculties and he was able to be up and about after receiving treatment for a short time. About two years later, he suffered a second stroke but was able to be up for short intervals since that time. Last Sunday and Monday he appeared weaker, but he did not complain of feeling bad. Early Tuesday morning his condition became rapidly worse, death following from pneumonia that evening.

The son of the late John Robert and Henrietta Hassell, Mr. Rogers was born on January 20, 1872, on the farm where he spent all his life. When a youth he attended the old Slade school on the Hamilton Road and later studied in the schools here. When a young man he was married to Miss Minnie Virginia Askew, who died in late 1937. Three children, Messrs. Haywood, Lester and Minga Rogers, survive the union.

A nephew of the late Sylvester Hassell, Mr. Rogers' forebearers were prominent in the religious life of this section of the State. He heard his uncle preach regularly for many years while the distinguished churchman held the pastorate of the Skewarkey Primitive Baptist church, and he often attended services at Vernon, a small Methodist church in the community.

Mr. Rogers, unpretentious in his daily life, walked humbly before the Creator, and valued friendship of his fellowman. He valued an obligation, and found peace and comfort in his daily tasks on the farm. Appreciative of the care tendered him during his last years of life, he never complained about his infirmities, but it was quite evident that he missed the daily schedule he had followed so long on the farm, first as a youth and later as a man. He was a devoted husband and thoughtful father who showed an interest in his household. For a long number of years he was a member of the Burroughs School district committee, and he was a loyal supporter of the institution that was housed in a small one-room structure just across the yard from his home. While he ably provided for his family, and worked untriflingly for their material advancement, he equally valued the finer traits of character and citizenship.

Funeral services were conducted from the late home yesterday afternoon by Elder B. S. Cowin, and interment was in the old Askew family cemetery, not far from the home.

Man Is Stabbed By Prisoner In Jail

A near murder was reported in the Martin County jail here late last Wednesday night when Willie McKenly Williams, colored man, drove a knife blade into the back of Joe Savage, a companion prisoner. Tearing through a muscle, the knife blade reached a depth of about three inches.

Treated by Dr. John Williams, county health officer, the victim is expected to recover, bearing complications.

Arrested for alleged drunkenness by Officer John Roebuck, Williams was searched but the officer did not find the small home-made knife that the prisoner had concealed on his person. The blade was taken from a knife and the handle was made from a small piece of copper.

The attack was said to have been made without cause, Jailer Roy Peel stating that Williams made a plunge for Savage and stabbed him from the back.

Commenting on the attack yesterday, Officer Edmond Early, who arrested Savage in Oak City last Friday night, stated that he (Savage) got about what was coming to him. Savage was said to have stabbed a colored man, Herbert Cherry, in the back with a knife in the up-county town that night. Cherry, stabbed near his backbone, is in a Tarboro hospital, reports reaching here stating that his condition is serious.

Williams is being held in the county jail for the alleged assault with a deadly weapon, but no hearing has been scheduled in the case late yesterday.

Everetts Citizens Much Interested In Water-Sewer Lines

Authorize Town Board To Ask Grant From Works Progress Unit

Showing a keen interest in a proposed water and sewer system for Everetts, about forty representative citizens in a special meeting there last Tuesday authorized the board of commissioners to apply to the Works Progress Administration for its cooperation in advancing the project and to investigate the possibility of floating a loan through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

While the action taken at the meeting does not mean that the town will get a water-sewer system, the citizens did express much interest in the project, and that possibly every effort will be made to have the system installed. No actual vote was taken on the proposal itself, but fully 85 per cent of the citizens attending the meeting voted to authorize the town board to investigate the proposal and submit concrete facts for consideration by the population at a future mass meeting.

Dr. John W. Williams, head of the Martin County Health Department, briefly outlined the need for a modern water and sewer system. He withheld no facts and his words were directly to the point when it came to public health.

State Health Department Engineer Abel discussed the project at length and pointed out the advantages of a modern water and sewer system. He listed such advantages as improved public health, greater conveniences, better fire protection and increased property values. "As far as convenience is concerned, the modern water system delivers water to the user at the rate of 10 cents a ton," the engineer said. Material savings can be effected in insurance premium and property values will be increased, the engineer added.

Delving into the cost of such a project, the engineer explained that ten towns have recently installed water and sewer systems without increasing their tax rates, that others had levied a rate of \$1 per \$100 property valuation to finance the projects, but that the average rate increase was around 23 cents. He cited quite a few towns about the size of Everetts and a number with a smaller population that had installed systems.

Town Engineer Rivers explained to the group that a survey had already been made and that no additional cost would result in applying to the WPA for its cooperation.

County Sanitarian Charles Leonard pointed out that it is possible the WPA will accept 60 per cent of the cost, leaving between \$12,000 and \$15,000 to be financed by the town through the RFC or some other financial agency. The sanitarian explained that the approximately 30 sanitary privies installed there in recent months could be sold as second-hand units in other parts of the county.

It was pointed out that the proposed project is a good business proposition and that if the people are interested they should act without delay.

Board Of Education In Meeting Monday

Meeting in regular session here this week, the members of the Martin County Board of Education discussed several topics, but postponed taking action in every case.

The sale of an abandoned school building was considered, but no definite action was taken to transfer title to the property, it was learned.

Supported by the signatures of 34 colored citizens, a petition was placed before the board members asking them to name the proposed school in Parmele the "W. C. Charice High School." Filed with the Works Progress Administration, the application for the school building has not yet been approved, the board members apparently considering it advisable to wait and see if they get a building before selecting a name for it.

Several County Schools Are Closed for Indefinite Time

Closed on Wednesday of this week, several Martin County schools face an uncertain operating schedule during the next few days, the county superintendent stating this morning that the reopening of five schools was quite indefinite, and that possibly the entire system would be closed down on account of bad road conditions.

"If the weather is favorable and the roads dry out, it is possible all the schools will reopen Monday. If a slow rain falls during the week-end, it is possible the five schools now closed will not reopen and that some if not all the others will suspend operation," Superintendent J. C. Manning said.

Reports from the five schools now operating in the county stated to-

day that all the trucks made their trips, but it is understood that the equipment is being subjected to much damage.

Farm Life, without any hard surface and with only one improved road, suspended operation last Tuesday. Principal Martin stating that not one of the several trucks could travel Wednesday morning.

Oak City, closing down Wednesday with the intention of reopening next Monday, announces that the reopening date is not definite. A return to a normal operating schedule at Bear Grass, Jamesville and Haswell is also dependent upon weather and road conditions.

Fair attendance was reported in the schools at Williamston, Hamilton, Robertsonville, Gold Point and Everetts.

Enforcement Bureau Active in Past Year

Illicit Manufacture Of Liquor In County Is Sizable Business

Officers Wreck Nearly 200 Plants and Pour Out Much Beer

The illicit liquor manufacturing business experienced an unusually heavy operating and plant maintenance cost in this county last year when officers, led by Special Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck, wrecked 192 R. F. D. plants and poured out tens of thousands of gallons of beer. Filed a few days ago, the annual report of the special officer shows that the business continues to rank as a major industry in the commercial field in this county. The number of plants wrecked by the officers jumped from 165 in 1938 to 182 last year, indicating that the business continues to hold a firm footing after more than four years of control.

No accurate estimate of total production handled by the illegal industry is available, but the special enforcement officer is of the opinion that there was a slight reduction in the output last year as compared with the amount manufactured in 1938.

The officers point out that there are good reasons to believe that the cost of operation was increased last year over the cost figures in 1938. Wrecking parties are estimated to have inflicted a loss upon the operators in the amount of approximately \$80,000, the figure including plants and equipment wrecked and beer and liquor destroyed.

As far as it could be learned from a comparison of incomplete reports, the drive against the illicit business reached a climax last year, the anti-liquor campaign equalling if not surpassing the activities carried on in the old prohibition days.

Commenting on the enforcement work as it centers around the manufacture of the illicit spirits, Officer J. H. Roebuck is certain that the operators experienced economic reverses during the past year. The records show that the economic lesson was well taught in 1938, but the operators apparently come back again for more teaching. It is possible that some few have learned the business is economically unsound if not morally wrong, but others are stepping up to take their places about as rapidly as others step out.

Last year 71 persons were arrested for alleged violation of the liquor laws, the courts recording 44 prosecutions. A few are awaiting trial. In 1938, the officers arrested 59 alleged violators, the courts scoring 35 convictions.

Reports from the enforcement bureau indicate that the illicit manufacturing business is fairly well under control, but it is apparent that the distribution system and the retail business continue to function fairly smoothly. It is a bit puzzling

(Continued on page six)

BENEFIT BRIDGE

Greatly in need of funds to finance the purchase of lunches for needy children in the local schools, the Williamston Parent-Teacher association is sponsoring a bridge party in the Woman's Club hall here next Wednesday evening, February 14.

There are some pathetic reports coming from the lunch rooms, and few, if any, causes deserve a more whole-hearted support than the movement to raise funds to feed the numerous hungry little tots.

Jurymen For March Court Term Drawn By Commissioners

Judge Q. K. Nimocks, Jr. To Preside Over Two-Weeks Mixed Court

Arrangements for holding the first term of Martin County Superior Court in the new calendar year were made this week when the board of commissioners drew fifty-four citizens to serve as jurymen during the two weeks term convening on Monday, March 18. Scheduled to hear both criminal and civil cases, the regular term will be presided over by Judge Q. K. Nimocks, of Fayetteville. The visit will be Judge Nimock's first to this county as a member of the superior court bench.

Names of the citizens drawn for jury service during the first week follow, by townships:

Jamesville Township: Pete Warrington, E. H. Gaylord, R. L. Stallings.

Williams Township: N. S. Cherry.

Griffins Township: Thomas Manning, Oscar B. Roberson, Chas. M. Peel, Jr.

Bear Grass Township: Joseph Sheppard Holliday, W. A. Brown, J. Alton Harris, Maney Roberson, H. D. Harrison, Arthur Peel.

Williamston Township: W. M. Myers, E. G. Wynne, Joel Muse, J. Paul Simpson, Carl Mobley, S. C. Ray, J. D. Leggett, N. S. Riddick and Joe Henry Lilley.

Cross Roads Township: J. F. Allen and J. C. Bullock.

Robertsonville Township: A. S. Perkins, A. R. Ausbon, J. V. Moye, B. A. Rogers, L. A. Croom, Thomas L. Johnson and Leslie Riddick.

Hamilton Township: W. B. Weaver.

Goose Nest Township: J. F. Council, Jack Smith, W. W. Casper and

(Continued on page six)

Committeemen To Hear Complaints Here Next Week

Farmers, dissatisfied with their 1940 tobacco allotments and who have filed complaints, will be heard in this county on Wednesday and Thursday of next week, it was announced yesterday by the office of the county agent. A special committee from Beaufort County will hear the complaints and act accordingly separately from the action of the Martin committee. Each farmer will be allowed fifteen minutes to present his case, but it isn't required that each farmer appear in person. Written complaints will be given careful attention.

Approximately 34 complaints have been filed in this county, but many of them will not be carried before the special committee next week, it is understood. The Martin County committee will hear complaints in Bertie and Chowan Counties in the near future.

Interesting Forum Held By The Farm Bureau Last Night

C. G. Crockett Addresses A Small Group of Representative Farmers

Centered around several timely and extremely important topics, the second weekly farmers' forum held in the agricultural building here last evening proved of much interest to the small group of 25 or 30 representative farmers.

C. G. Crockett, local fertilizer man; K. P. Lindsley, local representative of the Garrett Company, and Robert Everett, leading farmer of Goose Nest, had parts on the impromptu program in addition to the county agents. Few lectures offered by the most learned in college or convention could have been of more importance to those groups than the forum here last night was to the group of Martin farmers. Offering to stop at the end of an hour, the agents were advised to continue the program, and it was almost 9 o'clock before the meeting was adjourned.

Facts are not complete for general publication, but it was intimated at the forum that the application of certain rock plaster on peanuts not only proves costly but that it also lowers the actual yield. Sulphur dusting was an interesting topic, incomplete tests showing that sizable gains had been attained by its application. While these facts were revealed at the meeting, recommendations will be withheld until additional tests are made.

Mr. Lindsley explained a cooperative contract for farmers wishing to grow grapes for the commercial market. He has an inviting contract, and interested farmers are urged to see him at once.

With a return to cotton predicted as a result of curtailed tobacco acreages, Martin farmers are much interested in the crop that has been kicked around in recent years. Speaking interestingly on the cotton topic, Mr. Crockett said that Martin farmers planted 3,107 acres of cotton last year, that they had been allotted 5,762 acres this year. "I believe that Martin farmers can plant their cotton allotment and make a good crop of a bale or more to the acre by following the simple method of using good seed, treating seed, fertilizing properly, cultivating well and poisoning carefully. Mr. Crockett also offered some helpful information in the advantageous handling of Irish potatoes for market.

In connection with the cultivation of cotton and boll weevil control, Mr. Crockett had the following to say:

"Many North Carolina farmers allow the boll weevil to destroy the greater part of their cotton crop. A few farmers in the State are making good crops of cotton by the mopping method of boll weevil control. We are convinced that the boll weevil can be controlled and that good crops of cotton can be grown. "Mix one gallon of black-strap molasses and one gallon of water, then gradually pour in one pound of Calcium Arsenate being careful to continuously stir the mixture so that the Calcium Arsenate will completely dissolve. This quantity is sufficient to go over one acre of cotton when the cotton is small, or for the first and second applications, when the cotton is larger and the fourth or fifth applications are made it will require slightly more per acre. "The mopping should start when the very first squares begin forming at which time the cotton is usually about six or seven inches tall, repeat the mopping every fifth to sixth day until you have mopped five times (if it rains within twenty-four hours the mopping must be repeated but after twenty-four hours it will have served its purpose of killing the

(Continued on page six)

Roanoke Will Not Overflow Its Banks

No unusually high water is looked for in the Roanoke River at this point during the next few days, according to information received here today from the state weather bureau in Raleigh.

Reaching a 30-foot stage in Weldon this morning, the river was rising there slowly, the weather men explaining that there was apparently no indication the stream would overflow its banks at this point to any great extent within the near future. The old-timers maintain that when the spring comes and the snow begins to melt up in the mountains there'll be plenty of water in and out of the river at this point. Considerable amounts of ice and trash are floating down the stream daily, but it is not believed that the watershed up in Virginia has started spilling its melting snow and ice into the river as yet.

College Glee Club Will Appear In Stokes Church

The A. C. College glee club will render a program in the Stokes Christian church next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The singers were to appear there that afternoon at 2 o'clock, but a change in the hour was necessary, it was announced this morning.