

Seven Cases Called In County's Court By Judge H. O. Peel

Tribunal Clears Docket in a Two-Hour Session Last Monday

Calling seven cases in a two-hour session of the county recorder's court last Monday, Judge H. O. Peel exercised his authority to the final limit in the handling of the case charging Isaac Willis with hiding under the home of Mr. and Mrs. Filmore Modlin, near Jamesville, last Friday afternoon and threatening the lives of members of the family and that of Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, the arresting officer. Willis was sentenced to the roads for a term of two years. Isaac pleaded not guilty in the case, but it was pointed out in court that he had made a habit of getting drunk and crawling under homes in his neighborhood. One report claims that Willis crawled under one home and ran the blade of his knife through a crack in the floor and ripped a rug. Johnnie Cook, Goose Nest Township colored man, charged with violating the liquor laws, had his case continued.

LeRoy Dunning, the white man who got mixed up in the case featured by a daring run through Gold Point by Reuben Bunting in his long drawers last month, got tired of staying in jail five weeks and asked to be sent to the roads. The court accommodated him but no credit was given for the time he spent in jail. He left this week for 90 days on the roads.

A motion for non-suit was granted at the conclusion of the State's evidence in the case charging Rod Rogers with larceny and receiving.

Frank Peterson, charged with violating the liquor laws, entered the court with an air-tight defense, the court apparently discrediting the evidence of the state witnesses in part, at least. Suspecting Patterson of hauling rural spirits, officers started to arrest him, on Williamston's Railroad Street two or three weeks ago. Patterson stopped his car, jumped out and ran away. Officer J. H. Allsbrooks stating that he thought he saw the fleeing man throw something into a clump of grass and weeds. Bennie Reeves who saw the arrest and Patterson's dash, told the officer that he saw Patterson pull a pint of liquor from his pocket and throw it away. Monk Bagley, a defense witness, stated that he saw Bennie Reeves pull the liquor from his pocket and throw it away, that the pint of liquor found by the officer came out of Reeves' pocket. Any way Patterson was not to be seen by the officers for several days until his attorney advised the law that the man was ready for trial. But at that time no warrant had been issued against Patterson and the case was carried over for another week. Last Monday, Patterson clamped the lid on a perfect defense when he explained that his kidneys were weak, that he was forced to jump and run, and that that was the only reason he ran. Defendant not guilty, the court ruled.

The case charging Joe Thad Savage with an assault with a deadly weapon was continued for two weeks the defendant having pleaded guilty to the charge.

Carey Whitehurst, charged with forcing and counseling his son to steal, failed to appear in court for

(Continued on page six)

Driving south on U. S. Highway No. 17 early yesterday morning, Glen Gillikin, 27-year-old Atway (N.C.) man struck and killed a mule near the Stanton farm. Gillikin, traveling alone, escaped without a scratch and continued in another car to his home in Carteret County. Apparently driving at a rapid speed, the car scooped up the mule, tore the animal apart and scattered him all over the highway for a distance of more than 150 feet. The front of the car was smashed in and the top smeared with blood and small pieces of meat and skin, looked as if it had been painted a deep red. After striking the mule, the car swerved to the left, tore down a ditch bank and traveled almost 200 feet before it came to a stop. Called to the wreck about 4:30 o'clock, Patrolman Whit Saunders summoned a special detail from the prison camp to clear the highway. The mule was so badly mutilated that ownership could not be definitely determined, but it is thought that the animal belonged to the Lindsley Ice Company here. Mr. L. P. Lindsley stated yesterday that several of his mules broke out of the company's stables some time during Wednesday night and that one of them was missing yesterday morning. The animal was valued at \$150. Damage to the car will approximate \$250, it was estimated. Early Wednesday evening, Mr. S. W. Manning crashed into an automobile wrecker on Washington Street here. The right front fender and headlight were damaged and the bumper broken on his car, but no damage was done to the wrecker belonging to the Chas. H. Jenkins Company. No one was hurt.

Mule Killed By Car Near Here Thursday

Increased Herring Catches Reported In Roanoke River

Opened a week ago by Fisherman Ira T. Coltrain, the herring season on the Roanoke is rapidly gaining momentum at Jamesville, late reports from the fishing center today stating that fish are being offered for sale on the streets there in small bunches. Said to have been offered for five cents apiece during the first few days, the fish are now being sold six for a quarter. The first offerings are of a nice size, and Jamesville is anticipating a successful season. No catches have been reported in the river at this point to date, but local fishermen are preparing their nets and will start dipping for the herring within the next week or ten days.

Local Man Named Delegate To Rivers-Harbors Congress

Mr. G. H. Harrison, local business man, has been appointed by Governor C. R. Hoey as a delegate to the 35th annual convention of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress in Washington City. The convention will be held in the Mayflower Hotel there March 15 and 16.

Soil Conservation Checks Are Being Distributed in County

Half of Martin County's farmers are said to be expressing their sorrow for not participating in the soil conservation program last season as the other half are beginning to receive their participation checks from the government. Those non-participating farmers are too late in showing their sorrow, but there are happy times ahead for about 800 farmers. The first of the 1939 soil conservation checks are being distributed to Martin farmers this week, the office of the county agent yesterday notifying 84 farmers that nearly \$3,000 awaited them in soil conservation checks at the agricultural building.

The disappointing feature of the program, chargeable directly to the farmers themselves, is the limited payments this year. It is estimated that approximately 800 farmers will receive around \$82,000 in soil con-

POSTPONED

The regular meeting of the local Chamber of Commerce board of directors scheduled for tonight has been postponed until next Friday, Secretary Billie Clark announced yesterday. The meeting was postponed to avoid a conflict with a special meeting of Skewarkey Masonic lodge this evening, it was explained. The secretary calls attention to the big dollar day event that will be held here on March 7, 8 and 9. Extensive plans are being advanced in preparation for the event.

General Review Of Livestock Business In North Carolina

Livestock Numbers Increase In This State During Past Year

North Carolina farmers had more livestock on hand January 1, 1940, than a year ago, according to the annual livestock inventory released today by the Crop Reporting Service of the Federal Agricultural Marketing Service and the State Department of Agriculture. Beef cattle increased 13 per cent as compared with an increase of 3 per cent for all cattle. Although the number of all hogs on hand January 1 this year increased 1 per cent, the number of sows and gilts showed a decrease of 8 per cent from a year ago. Mules on farms remained the same as last year; however, the number of horses increased 1 per cent. The total number of chickens increased 2 per cent and the number of sheep decreased 10 per cent.

Cattle Numbers And Value Up

The number of cattle on farms in North Carolina, estimated at 684,000, was 20,000 head or 3 per cent more than reported a year earlier. The average value per head was \$32.20 compared with \$31.20 last year. The total of \$22,010,000 was up \$1,294,000 or 6 per cent from January 1, 1939. The number of milk cows two years old and over was estimated at 385,000 compared with 381,000 a year ago, and a 10-year (1929-38) average number of 348,000. The estimated value of milk cows was \$16,170,000 or \$42.00 per head compared with \$41.00 reported the previous year. The number of heifers from one to two years old intended for milk cows, placed at 79,000, was 10,000 head or 14 per cent more than a year earlier. Beef cows and heifers were reckoned at 43,000 compared with 38,000 the previous year.

Value Hogs Down 23 Per Cent

The number of hogs on farms January 1 this year, estimated at 1,167,000, was 1 per cent more than a year ago, and the largest number reported since 1922. The value per head, reported at \$7.20 or \$2.20 less than last year, placed the valuation of all hogs at \$8,358,000—a decrease of 23 per cent from a year ago. Although

Better Speech Week Posters Displayed

In connection with the observance of Better Speech Week, the Williamston Woman's Club offered a prize of one dollar to high school and grammar school pupils preparing posters on the theme. Teachers in the fourth through the eleventh grades yesterday collected approximately twenty-five of the better posters for Mrs. Harrell Everett and Mrs. Kenneth Lindsley, the club members, who are preparing the exhibit.

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Committee Delays Action To Change Tobacco Program

Tentative Plans Call For A Juggling of New Amendments

Apparently anxious to solve the serious problem facing the tobacco farmer, representatives of the tobacco-producing areas of the country met in special session for the second time this week in Washington to discuss several proposals. However, the meeting yesterday apparently refused to take the initiative in tackling the problem, reports stating that the group would delay taking definite action until farmers and other interested parties express themselves and approve proposed amendments. Farmers and farm leaders have expressed themselves as favoring a long-term program for a planned production of tobacco. They have said time and again they wanted a five-year program, that they preferred the five-year plan over the three-year proposal.

About all the meeting did yesterday was to offer three proposed amendments to the Agricultural Adjustment Act, two of which are likely to add confusion to the administration of the program. The other proposed amendment merely dumps the problem back into the laps of the farmers. Briefly stated, the committee washed its hands of the whole business, and apparently refused to take leadership in a movement to solve the tobacco problem. It will be left up to the farmers to say whether they want a long-term program, the committee saying that a three-year plan should be long enough, but if they get the three-year program the farmers will have to vote for it.

Parents - Teachers In Regular Meeting Here on Wednesday

Third Grade Pupils Present Playlet Miss Talton Addresses Group

A record-breaking crowd attended one of the most interesting parent-teacher meetings of the year in the grammar school auditorium last Wednesday afternoon. A patriotic playlet related to George Washington's birthday was presented by the third grades. Zach Piephoff as George Washington revealed some of the contrasts in eighteenth century living conditions and today by his inquisitiveness concerning the electric light, steam heat, the telephone, the radio used by the third grade children in their dramatization of school and home life. An interesting feature of the drama was the minuet danced by a number of the small girls.

Miss Grace Talton, primary teacher, spoke on "The Difficulties of Teaching Reading to Beginning Children." In discussing the problem, Miss Talton pointed out the following difficulties of the child as most prevalent:

1. Lack of physical efficiency.
2. Lack of mental efficiency and maturity.
3. Improper emotional reactions.
4. Inability of child to work and play with others.
5. Lack of reading experience.

The speaker pointed out the importance of the pre-school child being shown pictures, told stories, and enjoying experiences with other children. Miss Talton said, "All such experiences add to the readiness of the child. It was pointed out that all children do not progress at the same pace, and that children should not be encouraged to move beyond the pace for which they were equipped. After a piano duet, "Blue Danube," by Frances Griffitt and Sylvia Green, Mr. Toxey, high school teacher, presented an interesting discussion of the history of the parent-teacher association and its purpose. Mr. Hix mentioned the need for additional art materials in the school and discussed a plan for providing lockers at the high school by the beginning of the next school term. The members voted unanimously to support both projects.

Attendance prizes were won by the third and ninth grades. Wednesday, March 27, was set as the time for the next meeting, and the entire membership was urged to be present for the program which will be rendered by the second grades and the high school glee club. High school musical groups under the direction of Miss Mewborn will sing the numbers which they will enter in the district music contest in Greenville on March 29.

Instructive Forum Held By Farmers

Holding their weekly forum here last evening, a number of the county's progressive farmers heard an interesting discussion centering around power farming and the certification of seed. Messrs. Robert Everett and James Stephenson, of Palmyra, briefly discussed a program of power farming advanced on their farms during the past few years. It is quite evident, according to the facts offered by the two farmers, that power farming is cheaper and possibly more practicable than the old system.

Discussing the uses of the combine, Mr. Stephenson reviewed the operations of his machine during the past two seasons, explaining that the modern method has made the production of seed crops profitable. It is reasonable to believe that the combine will soon be as common on the farms as the old-type mowing machine.

A. D. Stuart, seed certification specialist, addressed the group and interestingly reviewed the work being done in an effort to promote the production of better seed in the State. Mr. Stuart is in the county today certifying potatoes for Farmers W. M. Hardison, D. G. Matthews and D. C. Gurkin. Several hundred bushels will be certified. The importance of certified seed was well established this season when hundreds of farmers offered diseased potatoes for sale at local packing centers. He discussed methods for preventing black rot in potatoes such as moving crop to fields where potatoes have not been grown in recent years, treating seed and observing plants for disease in the field.

Robber Enters Country Home And Steals \$50.00

Entering the home of Mrs. Bettie Bullock in Cross Roads Township last week-end while the family was away, a robber stole approximately \$50 in cash. The intruder shifted furniture around, threw bed clothing from the beds and scattered clothes and other articles in all parts of the home. The robber left an empty pocket book behind a trunk. Officers suspicion a certain party but no arrest has been made.

Martin County Boy Scouts Hold Their Second Annual Meet

More Than 100 Hear President Fletcher in Splendid Address at Everetts

It was a great time for boy scouting in Martin County last Wednesday evening when more than 100 youths, their dads and a few special friends held their second annual banquet in the Everetts school building. Foreign to the field of politics and business, the event attached great significance to the future of the numerous youths there and to the future of the county and its several communities. The fathers were not as well represented as one would wish for, but there were enough present to give the meeting a distinct father-son atmosphere.

Joe Winslow, Jr., who is a candidate for the rank of Eagle Scout, welcomed the group with a few well-chosen words, Attorney H. G. Horton responding. The program, supported by a diversified schedule of stunts, quartets and special numbers including a guitar duet by the Lilley lads, was entertaining, the dads and special friends of the Scouts enjoying it thoroughly. And the program proved beneficial to them, no doubt.

Delivering the main address, Dr. M. O. Fletcher, president of the East Carolina Council, offered some timely advice in an interesting manner and straight from the shoulder. Basing his remarks on a pure and undefiled heritage for the common good of future generations, the speaker urged the youths to keep themselves physically fit that they might give America a better generation.

"It has been said that the time to start training youth is 100 years before the child is born. My years of experience in the hospital have proved to me the value of a free and pure heritage," Dr. Fletcher said, explaining that he had seen so many sad cases where young girls and boys had nothing to build their lives on.

"What we find in youth and other things, too, is partly determined by the way in which we look at it," the speaker said, in explaining that the father could see great things for his boy if he would look at him in the right light. He illustrated his point by explaining the use of the telescope.

The council president plainly stated that we are stressing the importance of thoroughbred horses, pigs and chickens and not paying enough attention to the importance of product in thoroughbred youth. "There was the farmer who displayed his fine pigs, but never mentioned his three little children," Mr. Fletcher said. He told a little story illustrating how the thoroughbred pig had rooted the baby out of the cradle, literally speaking, of course.

"The tired farmer came in from work and while his wife prepared supper, he sat down with his paper, rocking the cradle with his foot. His interest centered in the paper, the farmer did not hear the baby as it cried, but the first time the pig squealed he heard it and ran to see what was the matter. The daddy of the baby was not a thoroughbred but a rascal."

Recognizing the value of training by Christian mothers, the man who has shown a great interest in Boy Scout work pointed out that the father must make his son proud of his name, that all must pull together if the boy is to get the best. He challenged the fathers, teachers and others to see that youths get jobs, for in them he sees the future hope of America.

Dr. Fletcher was introduced by Clarence W. Griffin, Williamston attorney. Boy Scouts and their fathers were present from Robersonville, Powellsville, Jamesville, Williamston and Everetts. Served by members of the Robersonville High School Economics class, the delicious meal, offered at an unusually low price, was enjoyed.

Scout Executive J. J. Sigwald was introduced by Toastmaster J. Q. Patrick and he told of the coming camporee at Kingston in April and cited improvements that are being made to Camp Charles.

An impressive court of honor with Rev. F. H. Craighill, of Rocky Mount, as chairman, was held at the close of the program. A number of scouts was advanced, and the service was quite impressive.

Local Seniors Hear County Health Head

Dr. John W. Williams, Martin County Health Physician, addressed members of the sociology class of the local high school yesterday afternoon on the subject of "Personal Hygiene." In pointing out health problems, the health head emphasized the fact that "good health" was largely a personal matter and that youths must decide for themselves whether or not they would live efficiently.

Dr. Williams said, "Proper health habits cannot be acquired by comparison with one's neighbors or keeping up with the Jones." Every youth must decide for himself his needs as concerns sleep, food, recreation and exercise.

Believes Cotton Will Be As Profitable As Tobacco This Season

Specialist Urges Farmers To Keep Acreages At Home

Declaring the outlook for cotton is as encouraging as it is for tobacco this year, R. Shep Oliver, farm specialist, urged a large group of farmers in a meeting in the agricultural building Tuesday night to hold their cotton allotments and hold the acreage at home. "Farmers to the south of us are begging for increased allotments and if our farmers in Martin County and other sections of North Carolina continue to plant only half of their allotments, the acreage will move south," Mr. Oliver declared.

While the trend is toward an increased acreage over the actual cotton plantings of the past two or three years, Mr. Oliver was the first man to express the belief that one acre of cotton will prove just as profitable as one acre of tobacco in 1940. Centering his talk around the profitable production of cotton, Mr. Oliver briefly outlined certain requirements that must be met before cotton can be produced profitably.

State Health Head Reviews Activities For The Past Year

Gains Reported in the Battle Against Disease in the State Last Year

BY CARL V. REYNOLDS, M. D., State Health Officer

Raleigh—Last year witnessed gains on several important fronts in the battle against disease in North Carolina.

Information that is both interesting and encouraging is found in the 1939 provisional report of the State Board of Health's division of vital statistics, of which Dr. R. T. Stimpson is the director. On the other hand, certain weaknesses also are revealed. Any report that simply gives figures, uninterpreted, carries little weight and is soon forgotten.

We must bear in mind that a year's compilation is merely factual; that it can, at best, reflect only a "trend" encouraging or discouraging as the case may be. To get the true picture, we must follow the "trend" through a series of years.

Vital statistics figures in North Carolina for last year, which have just been compiled, do, in some instances, reflect a very decided and encouraging "trend." The 80,421 births reported during the year outnumbered the 31,928 deaths that occurred during the same period by 48,493, and there were 1,636 fewer deaths than were reported the previous year, bringing the rate down from 9.5 to 9.0 from 1938 to 1939. If the 1938 rate had remained unchanged in 1939, the total number of deaths would have been 33,839, instead of 31,928, which means that, on this basis, the number of lives saved was, in reality, 1,911 instead of 1,636. Please bear in mind and recall in your future reading that an increase or reduction of one point represents the saving or loss of 3,500 lives within a year.

Pneumonia—Brighter Picture

Pneumonia has continued through the years to be one of the greatest scourges that has harassed humanity. Men and women, physicians and the laity, have bowed helplessly before its inexorable law of death. But a new day appears to be at hand in the battle against this arch enemy.

While a single year's figures cannot be taken as final as they apply to pneumonia any more than in their application to any other disease, yet we have here a very striking example of an encouraging "trend."

In North Carolina last year we saved the lives of 537 more pneumonia patients from untimely graves than we did the previous year. This total number of deaths from this cause in 1939 having been 2,172 as

(Continued on page six)

Tobacco Seed Are Coming Up In The Cross Roads Area

Despite unfavorable weather during recent weeks, tobacco seed are coming up in this county, reliable reports stating that Jesse Woolard, Cross Roads farmer, has a good stand of tiny plants breaking through the earth in a well-protected plot on the Roberson farm.

The seed were sown the 18th of January, but the farmer placed a heavy canvas over the bed immediately after the seed were sown, and that with a warm location pushed the seed through the ground in a hurry. However, the plant beds were prepared late, as a whole, and it is possible that transplanting will be delayed next May. As far as it can be learned nearly every farmer in the county has planted his seed beds.

Specialist Urges Farmers To Keep Acreages At Home

Production Methods Are Only 85 Percent Efficient In This State

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Eli Rogerson Died Yesterday Morning

Eli Rogerson, well-known farmer, died suddenly at his home in Bear Grass Township early yesterday morning. Arising about his usual hour, Mr. Rogerson built a fire in the heater and a few minutes later he reached down to get out the draft and suffered an heart attack, death following within a short time or about 6 o'clock.

Mr. Rogerson had suffered a stroke of paralysis eight or ten years ago, and had been troubled with an heart ailment within recent months. His condition was not considered critical until he suffered the attack yesterday morning for he had been able to be up and attend to duties on his farm.

The son of the late Reuben S. and Sallie Ann Rogerson, he was born in Bear Grass Township on November 3, 1880. He lived all his life in Bear Grass and farmed all the time with the exception of a short period he was employed in the telephone business here.

His wife who was Miss Sallie Lilley before her marriage, survives with five children, Miss Mamie Clyde Rogerson, Mrs. Clarence Bailey, Mrs. Johnnie Wobleton, all of Williamston, and Foy Rogerson, of Robersonville. He also leaves a sister, Mrs. A. F. Taylor, of Williamston, and two brothers, Jim and Gray Rogerson, of El Dorado, Arkansas.

The funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 2:30 from the late home by Rev. Z. T. Froyhoff, Presbyterian minister. Interment will follow in the family plot on the home farm.

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