

Its Docket Cleared, Court Takes Recess Until Next Tuesday

Court and Bar Will Observe Easter Monday As a Holiday Here

Completing the trial of the criminal docket and handling a few civil cases, the Martin County Superior Court ordered a recess until next Tuesday morning, Judge Q. K. Nimocks announcing that Easter Monday would be observed as a holiday.

Complications presented themselves and the court was delayed in clearing the criminal cases from the docket until Wednesday. Starting work on the civil calendar, the court cleared a number of cases from the docket, including four divorce actions.

Judge Q. K. Nimocks, Jr., presiding over the term, tempered his sentences with mercy and defendants are said to be fairly well pleased with the length of their terms and the action of the court.

Neither admitting nor denying the charge of non-support in the case against him, Gus Forrest is awaiting the pleasure of the court. An investigation by the welfare department was ordered by the court.

Lin Williams, charged with drunken driving, was sentenced to the roads for twelve months and had his license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for a period of five years.

Vernon Whitehurst, charged with forgery, was sentenced to the roads for three months.

The court made rapid progress in clearing its docket when Dennis and Bill Wynn, young white men, and Grandy Pemberton and Lawrence Wiggins pleaded guilty in the cases charging them with breaking and entering and the larceny of automobile tires and other articles from filling stations. Dennis Wynn was sentenced to prison for a term of from three to five years. His brother was sentenced to prison for a period of two to three years, the court placing him on probation for a five-year period. Wiggins drew a similar sentence, the court also placing him on probation. Pemberton was sentenced to the roads for twelve months. In two other cases charging the Wynn boys with breaking and entering and larceny, similar sentences were meted out, the terms to run concurrently. In a second case charging Wiggins with larceny, the court sentenced him to the roads for three months, but Judge Nimocks placed him on probation.

Matthew Crandall was sentenced to the roads for a period of twelve months in the case charging him with breaking and entering and larceny.

The case charging Columbus Rogers with bastardy was nol prossed.

A similar result was recorded in the case charging Dennis Wynn with an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Thomas Ryan, Jr., was sentenced to the roads for six months in the case charging him with entering Farmer Bob Everett's smokehouse.

LeRoy Davis, charged with entering the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company's commissary, was sentenced to the roads for a period of

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Young Democrats To Hold District Rally

Plans for the Young Democrats district rally to be held in Greenville in April, were formulated in a special meeting held in the George Reynolds Hotel here this week.

Eli Joyner, of Farmville, rally chairman for the district, and Miss Patsy Davenport, of Greenville, vice chairman; Pat Darden and Walter Paramore, of Plymouth, and representatives from several other towns in the district were here for the preliminary meeting.

Hugh Horton, representing Williamston, said the district meeting would be held in Greenville on April 19th.

Condition Of Victim Of Attack Not Encouraging

Removed from a Tarboro hospital to his home in Oak City the early part of this week, Herman Manning, victim of a gun attack, was reported last evening not to be getting along so well. While there is still hope for his recovery, the report stated that his condition was not at all favorable.

Manning was shot through the lung by Ernest Harrell in a filling station in Oak City on March 7 during a quarrel over an account.

Victim Of Gun Shot Is Improving In Hospital

John Lawrence, colored man who was mysteriously shot in the back at his home near Spring Green last Sunday night was reported yesterday to be getting along very well in a Washington hospital. He is expected home within a short time.

Guy Rollins, Lawrence's brother-in-law, is being held in the county jail while officers continue their investigation of the shooting. No formal charges have been brought against the man.

Boy Scouts To Hold Camporee Next Week

Five Candidates In Race for Treasurer Of Martin County

Interest in Martin County politics is increasing rapidly as more hats are tossed into the ring for treasurer, the latest count showing five candidates already announced for the office. Filing time will be over on April 13 and there may be or may not be other candidates. The names of those officially announcing for the office are, H. M. Barras, John R. Peel, Warren Biggs, Dick Smith and Ben Courtney.

There is little activity along other political fronts in the county, no formal announcements having been made for any offices other than that for treasurer.

State politics continue quiet, and the national political front is awaiting developments in and around the White House. Some members of the North Carolina delegation in Congress declare they are very much in the dark as to the political trend back home and have no idea who will be the next governor. And that's unusual, really.

\$10,000 Damage Suit Against Hospital Is Not For Trial Here

Number of Civil Cases Has Been Settled By Agreement

The \$10,000 damage suit brought by Annie Mae Harris against the Tayloe hospital will not be tried in the Martin County Superior Court, unofficial reports stating today that the case had been settled by agreement. Scheduled for trial on several previous occasions, the case was calendared for consideration in the present term of the Superior court. No details were advanced in connection with the reported settlement, Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne explaining that a bill of costs had been asked for by the defendants, indicating that a settlement in the case had been effected by agreement.

The plaintiff alleged that the agents of the defendant had negligently left gauze bandage in an opening made for the removal of her appendix. The case was brought in the plaintiff's home county, Pasquotank, but was removed to this county for trial at the request of the defense.

Starting work on the civil calendar at the completion of the trial of criminal cases Wednesday, the court made considerable progress when the litigants agreed to settlements, making a review of the issues unnecessary.

Proceedings: In the case of James Dixon against the Durham Life Insurance Company, an agreement was reached, the defense paying the court costs.

Based on two years of separation, four divorces were granted by the court in the following cases: Malinda Patterson Coburn against James Coburn.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wynn against Bery B. Wynn.

Mamie Winston against W. H. Winston.

Cape Charles Brown against Ethel Blanch Slade Brown.

An agreement was noted in the case of William Henry Jones against P. D. Roberson, executor of Gus Coffield.

In the case of Mrs. M. E. Weaver against Elmer Parrisher, the plaintiff was given possession of certain property, the defendant to pay a stipulated rent.

The plaintiff, Clyde Hooker, was not present when the case against Hooker was called and a non-suit was ordered by the court, the costs to be taken from a deposit.

The case of Mettrell Cannon against Mabel Bright was settled by agreement.

FARM PLANS

Farm plans for 1940 in this county are being signed rapidly by Martin farmers, the office of the county agent stating this morning that possibly 1,400 of the 1,600 individual plans had been approved and signed by the farmers. Most of the signatures were placed on the plans last week-end in the several communities, late signers finding it necessary to report to the office of the county agent to comply with the first step in the 1940 program. April 15 has been fixed as the deadline for signing the plans.

Up until today hardly one-half dozen farmers in this county had refused to sign the individual farm plans for 1940, meaning they will not participate in the soil conservation program this year.

Proposed Changes In Tobacco Act To Receive Attention

Senate Approves Large Sum For Parity Payments To The Farmers

Agriculture came in for rightful consideration in Washington this week when Congressman Harold Cooley announced a hearing on the proposed amendments to the Tobacco Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration act and the Senate appropriated 212 million dollars for parity payments to farmers.

At a meeting to be held in Washington on April 3, farm leaders and others will discuss with farmers the proposed changes in the tobacco section of the AAA act with attention centering on a long-term program. If the proposed amendments are carried, then the farmer may decide two issues in voting in the next referendum. He may vote on control itself and the duration of control for one year or not more than three years.

The secretary of agriculture would be given power to determine the length of the program within these limits if the answer to both questions is in the affirmative.

Another amendment would remove the present requirement that the flue-cured marketing quota for any state shall not be less than 75 per cent of the 1937 production to take care of unusually bad market situations.

A third change would permit the carrying over by producers of tobacco from one year to another without payment of penalty if the tobacco is within the quota of the year from which it is carried over or if a smaller amount of tobacco is produced on the farm in the year to which the tobacco is carried over.

Exclusion of tobacco stored temporarily in this country because of war or other extraordinary conditions from the secretary's determination preliminary to quota proclamation is provided in a fourth amendment.

The last major amendment would permit the secretary to lift the quota 20 per cent rather than the present 10 per cent, thus providing greater flexibility in meeting unforeseen situations.

Action by the Senate to appropriate more than 200 million dollars for parity payments to farmers was a bit unexpected and it is now apparent that the House will concur in the movement. The parity payment as proposed by the Senate will bring prices up to 75 per cent of parity, an effort to boost the payment to 100 per cent of parity failing to gain strength when Senator Lee offered the amendment to boost the figure to more than 607 million dollars.

Parents - Teachers To Meet Wednesday

The Williamston Parent-Teacher Association will hold its March meeting next Wednesday, March 27, at 8:15 in the high school auditorium. The association heads plan one evening meeting each year so that a greater representation of parents, particularly men, can attend, and plans are being made for a large attendance. The special program being arranged will be in charge of Miss Mary Benson and Miss Kathryn Mewborn.

The second grades will present a short playlet of song and dance, "A Dream of Holland."

Musical organizations of the local high school will sing the numbers being prepared for the District Music Contest in Greenville on March 29. Group selections rerendered under the direction of Miss Mewborn will include, among others:

Mozart's "Lullaby," by the girls' chorus of 24 voices;

Gavaert's "The Sleep of the Child Jesus," by the mixed chorus of 24 voices;

Barnby's "Sweet and Low," by the boys' quartet;

Miller's "Boats of Mine," by the girls' trio.

At the conclusion of the program the home economics students will hold "open house" in the department rooms for their parents and members of the association. Dresses made by the class under the direction of Miss Mizelle, will be on display and refreshments will be served.

The meeting will be confined to one hour and all interested friends and members of the association are urged to be present.

Herman Bowen, Jr. Dies In Hospital

Herman A. Bowen, Jr., seven months old, died in a Washington hospital at 1 o'clock this morning following an illness of only a few days' duration.

The little child, experiencing ill health during the past few weeks, was taken worse last Tuesday and was removed immediately to a Washington hospital. Pneumonia, resulting from a complication of ailments, was given as the immediate cause of his death.

Funeral services will be conducted from the home on Watts Street here Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Perry, of Robersonville, and Rev. John L. Goff, local Christian minister. Interment will follow in the local cemetery. He was the only child.

Library Will Observe Monday As A Holiday

Along with a few business houses, the local public library will observe next Monday as a holiday. No books will be received or released that day.

Seine Fishing Is Now Underway In Roanoke

First Catches Are Encouraging at the Jamesville Fishery

Thirty-One Shad and Several Hundred Herring Taken Early Today

The Fleming fishery, opening the season at Jamesville yesterday, offered encouraging reports for successful operations during the next few weeks, the owner, Mr. C. C. Fleming, stating that he was well pleased with the size of the first catches.

Apparently delayed by cold weather during the past weeks, the fish are not yet running in any great numbers, but larger shad catches are being reported at this time than in any other period during recent years. By actual count, thirty-one white shad were taken in the first haul at the Jamesville plant early this morning. A lone rock and 230-herring were dipped out of the Roanoke along with the shad.

Operations were off to a smooth start yesterday, reports stating that the net was not damaged. Manager Stuart Ange was on hand to start his 45th season with the fishery, and workers, for years connected with the plant, reported to their posts. Already visitors are going to the fishery in fairly sizable numbers and the usual large crowds are expected to observe the operations on Easter Monday. The fisheries in the lower part of the county, near Plymouth, will not be in operation this season, and an increased number of visitors is expected at Jamesville.

Asked about the prospects for the current season, Mr. Fleming stated that he could not guess what the next haul would produce, that they were hoping for the best. It was apparent this morning, however, that hopes were running high at the fishery when thirty-one shad were taken at one dip.

Reports from the sounds and other outlying waters maintain that the catches have been small. Weather conditions have greatly interrupted the season, and it is possible that many fish escaped the first line of nets and will make their appearance in the Roanoke.

Operations at the fisheries along the Roanoke during the past several seasons have been marked by near-failure. Catches have hardly been one-third of normal, Mr. Fleming stating that the total catch last season approximated only one-half million as compared with catches totaling a million and a half in years past.

The old Kitty Hawk and Slade fisheries, in operation without interruption near Plymouth for a century, will remain idle this season, the owner, Roy Hampton, stating that income during the past two seasons was not sufficient to offset operating costs.

half a hundred every twelve hours, fishing comparatively small catches, fishing-machine operators stating today that catches were limited to around half a hundred every twelve hours.

Address Members Of Kiwanis Club Here

Newell G. Bartlett, secretary of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the Kiwanis Club here last night in behalf of the program sponsored by his association to increase the raising of cotton in Eastern Carolina.

Bartlett cited many interesting facts and figures in his appeal to the business men of the town to give their assistance to the program.

"An increased cotton crop means better business, a more diversified program of crops and the assurance against heavy losses in tobacco," Mr. Bartlett said.

Erskine Smith, candidate for lieutenant-governor, briefly addressed the meeting. He was introduced by Robert Coburn.

Acknowledging an appeal by David Hix for the school lunch rooms, the club donated \$25.00 which will be used to feed the underprivileged children in the schools.

State Secretary Of B. & L. Visits Here

Martin Gaudian, secretary of the North Carolina Building and Loan League, was here yesterday visiting Wheeler Martin, president of the State association.

Mr. Gaudian was enroute, with Mrs. Gaudian, to Elizabeth City, where he was scheduled to speak before a group of building and loan officials.

Local Choral Club To Present Cantata

The Williamston choral club will present "The Crucifixion," by John Steiner in the Episcopal Church tonight, March 22.

The program will begin promptly at 8:15 with Mrs. Wheeler Martin directing, and Mrs. W. C. Manning, Jr., as the accompanist.

The entire community is invited to attend this special service.

Electricians Quit Work In the Pulp Plant Yesterday

Martin County's first full-fledged labor strike in history was recorded yesterday morning when forty electricians walked out of the plant of the North Carolina Pulp Company in the lower part of the county. Few details of the strike could be had here, company officials making no mention of it to the general public.

Said to have asked for a 25-cent increase in their hourly wage of \$1.00, the workers entered the plant where they were installing equipment in several new buildings, gathered up their tools and walked out that morning. The walk-out was without event, and no trouble is anticipated. Unofficial reports stated last night that the union maintained two or three pickets at the gates to make certain that none of the forty would return.

It is not believed that the strike will spread to other construction groups, and it is possible that some settlement can be effected. The strike is not expected to delay the company's extensive construction program.

We have inspected the jail and find same in good condition. We examined the County Home and went over it with the keeper and found same in good condition, and talked with several of the inmates and they were well satisfied as being cared for as well as could expect. We also visited prison camp and found same in good condition.

We have inspected all school buses of the county and beg leave to report the following: Parmele—All trucks found in good condition. Robersonville—All trucks found in good condition except bad brakes on No. 10. Everetts—All trucks were found in very good condition. Hamilton—All trucks in good condition. Hassell—All trucks in good condition. Oak City—All trucks in good condition and everything except sewer line needs to be looked after. Farm Life—All trucks in good condition. Jamesville—All trucks in good condition, but it is recommended that heat be installed in the toilet. Bear Grass—All trucks in good condition except Trucks No. 11 and No. 12 had broken glasses that should be replaced, and the boys' toilet needs repair badly. Williamston—All trucks and general conditions very good. Williamston (Colored)—Bus in good condition.

State Ballot Takes On Definite Form For May Primary

Democrats Will Hold Their Party Fights To Six Contests

North Carolina's State political ballot took on a definite form last Saturday when the office aspirants were confronted with their first campaign obstacle—the filing fee. Filing time closed at 6 p. m. that day with the names of 47 Democrats and 23 Republicans in the pot. Not all those names will appear on any one ballot, and as a whole, the State ballot will be comparatively short in this county. However, the judges of election and poll holders will have an added ticket to count this coming primary as the Republicans will make their appearance on a separate ballot. But even with an extra ticket, the election officials will not be greatly troubled as the Democrats calculate there'll be very, very few Republicans voting.

Interest in the State ticket centers around the race for governor. There will be a little interest in the lieutenant-governor's race and possibly the race for commissioner of agriculture will get some attention, but the combined state ticket will hardly create as much interest as the race for county treasurer will likely create. But the county and district ticket is still in the making, and until the 13th of next month, no one will definitely know just how "hot" the primary is going to be in this county.

The Republican State ballot will hardly create a ripple on the political surface, and it is generally understood that the Republicans will not offer themselves for county posts.

The Democratic State ballot as it will appear before Martin County voters on May 25, carries the following names:

For Governor—J. M. Broughton, of Raleigh; Thomas E. Cooper, of Wilmington; Paul Grady, of Kenly; L. Lee Gravelly, of Rocky Mount; W. P. Horton, of Pittsboro; A. J. Maxwell, of Raleigh, and Arthur Simmons, of Burlington. Bryant Thompson, of Hamlet, and Edwin P. Hale, of Leaksville, did not get over the first hurdle—the filing fee—although they had announced their intention to enter the race for the State's No. 1 position.

For Lieutenant Governor—R. L. Harris, of Roxboro; L. A. Martin, of Lexington; W. Erskine Smith, Albemarle; Dan Tompkins, of Sylva.

For Auditor—George Ross Pou, of Raleigh; Charles W. Miller, of Asheville.

For Secretary of State—Thad Eure, of Raleigh; Walter Murphy, of Salisbury.

For Commissioner of Insurance—Dan C. Boney, of Raleigh; William B. (Continued on page four)

DELIVERY

Beginning April 1, the local post office will deliver by motor parcel post to its patrons in town. Postmaster L. T. Fowden announced yesterday.

Bids are being asked for a contract covering the use of a passenger automobile, the postmaster explaining that the department would not operate and maintain a regular truck of its own just now. Bids will be received until March 25.

Deliveries will be effected each week-day afternoon.

Recommend Action By Court For Not Listing Property

Grand Jury Completes Work And Files Report Here Wednesday

The practice of failing to list property by a few owners in this county received the attention of the Martin Grand Jury this week, the body recommending that criminal action be instituted against those who fail to list their taxes at the proper time. The recommendation also designated that action be taken against those who fail to list poll and dog taxes.

Considerable work was handled by the grand jury under the direction of Foreman A. R. Osborne, the group of men completing their work and filing the regular report with the court Wednesday afternoon.

The report reads, in detail, as follows: All bills have been disposed that came into our hands.

We find that all Justices of the Peace filed their reports, and all fines paid to the county treasurer.

We find that all guardians have filed reports as required.

We inspected the offices of the sheriff, clerk of court and register of deeds and found same in good order and general conditions very good. County treasurer office found in good condition.

We have inspected the jail and find same in good condition. We examined the County Home and went over it with the keeper and found same in good condition, and talked with several of the inmates and they were well satisfied as being cared for as well as could expect. We also visited prison camp and found same in good condition.

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Skewarkey Lodge Plans Open House

Next Tuesday night the Masons of Skewarkey lodge are planning to have open house. At this time the lodge will give certificates to those Masons who have been members in continuous service for 25 years.

Those who have been serving Masonry for a quarter of a century or more are, J. G. Staton, J. T. Price, S. S. Brown, T. C. Cooke, F. U. Barnes, J. W. Biggs, S. R. Biggs, Dr. J. S. Rhodes, L. M. Brown, J. H. Bailey, S. M. Cleary, A. T. Perry, G. A. Peel and H. C. Green.

The certificates will be presented to these members by W. J. Bundy, of Greenville. Mr. Bundy is Junior Grand Steward for the State of North Carolina.

The public is invited to come to the lodge hall on Tuesday night, March 26th, at 8:15 o'clock. After the certificates are awarded, refreshments will be served.

Maternity Clinics Attract Large Numbers In County

A maternity and infancy clinic will be held in the municipal building in Robersonville on Tuesday, March 26, at one o'clock. This is the fourth clinic of this type to be held there and is for both white and colored patrons.

At the Oak City clinic this week, conducted by Dr. E. E. Pittman in his office 23 mothers and two babies reported for examinations.

That the clinics are meeting with marked success is evidenced in the increased attendance being reported by health forces.

Some Business Houses Will Observe Monday As Holiday

There'll be nothing like a general holiday here next Monday, but several business houses will close for the day, according to incomplete information reaching this office today.

The banks and library will be closed all day, and the offices of the Virginia Electric and Power Company will close for the afternoon.

None of the schools will observe the day as a holiday, the office of the county superintendent said today.