

Superior Court Is Drawing Term To Close Here Today

Delayed Decisions By Jury Feature Special Term Activities

After remaining in session only one day last week, the special term of Martin County Superior court this week settled down to a heavy schedule of work and as the end draws to a close this afternoon it leaves the docket free of quite a few baffling cases. With only one more case on the schedule for trial, the court was expected to complete its work and pack up not later than four o'clock this afternoon. However, the jury in the Williams-Harrell case was making little progress about noon today after deliberating the issues since 4 o'clock yesterday, and it is possible that adjournment will be delayed.

This morning the court called the case of P. W. Williams against Lilley. An agreeable settlement was reported in the office just before noon. The last case scheduled for trial is that of A. E. James against Mrs. Minnie Leggett, the plaintiff asking the right of possession of certain properties.

Delayed jury decisions have featured the court activities this week. The Parker-Harrison jury was out over night, and the Williams-Harrell case jury had already broken that record about noon today. In this case the plaintiff alleged that undue pressure was brought to get her to deed away certain properties. The defense maintained that the deed transfer was perfectly legitimate, that he offered a very reasonable consideration for the property in question and further maintained that the deed should not be set aside. Apparently the jury is finding more for argument over the allegations.

The warmly contested case brought by W. K. Parker against George Harrison, Jr., was finally brought to a close Wednesday morning at 11:15 o'clock when the jury, after deliberating the issues for nearly four hours, returned a verdict favoring the defendant. Ruling that the plaintiff by his own contributory negligence was responsible for the accident near Everetts on June 16, the jury denied him any part of the \$5,700 damages claimed by him, and awarded the defendant a judgment in the sum of \$700 for personal damages and \$80 property damages. The defendant, entering a counter suit, asked damages in the sum of \$7,275.

Argument in the case was completed by Attorney B. A. Critcher for the plaintiff at noon Tuesday. Judge Johnson turned the case over to the jury about 3:30 Tuesday afternoon following a charge lasting a little over an hour. No decision was reached during the first two hours that afternoon, and the jury was dismissed with instructions to continue their deliberations the following morning. The jurymen were prompt reporting Wednesday morning and were back in the little ante-room arguing before 9:30. About two hours later they returned their verdict in open court.

Juror Lester Rogers, of near Williamston, fainted during the early morning deliberation Wednesday, and threw the group into a near-panic for a while. A local doctor was called, and Rogers soon continued his work in the case. The man's sudden sick spell apparently hastened a decision for the jury was not long coming out of the room after that time.

A review of the issues possibly explains the delay experienced in deciding the case. The issues and answers are, as follows: Was plaintiff injured by negligence of defendant as alleged in complaint? Answer: No. Did plaintiff by his own negligence contribute to his injury as alleged in answer? Answer: Yes. What personal injury damage, if any, is plaintiff entitled to recover? What property damage, if any, is plaintiff entitled to recover? The answers to these two questions were dependent upon the answers to the first two questions. Since the first two were answered "no" and "yes", no answers were necessary in the third and fourth questions. A fifth question read, "Was defendant injured by negligence of plaintiff as alleged in complaint?"

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First Execution Sale Is Held For Collection of Sales Tax

The North Carolina Department of Revenue resorted to the courts in this county this week for the first time in forcing the collection of taxes under the sales schedule. Claiming the C. and W. Motor Company, Robersonville firm, had paid no sales taxes since 1938, the Revenue Department ordered an execution sale, and in accordance with the law, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck sold the company's stock, furniture, fixtures, lock, stock and barrel.

According to reports reaching here, the stock was sold at a great sacrifice, the sale netting hardly enough to pay the tax, satisfy a few other claims and pay the handling expense. Automobiles, in fair if not excellent running condition, were sold for as little as \$12.50. The highest price received by the sheriff was \$74,

Juniors Are About Ready to Oust Seniors



It has been a hard struggle these past ten years, but the Williamston High School Juniors are now just about ready to oust the dignified seniors and claim the positions that are so longingly sought after by the rising students. Officiated by Elizabeth Parker, president; Roosevelt Coltrain, vice president; S. C. Griffin, treasurer,

Announces Closing Events in The Williamston High School

With several of the preliminary events cleared from the schedule, the local high school will offer a concerted commencement calendar program during Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, Principal D. N. Hix announced today, as follows: Sunday, April 28, 11 a. m.: Processional for Seniors, "God of Our Fathers"; "The Lord's Prayer," Malotte, by Ellen Taylor; Hymn No. 1, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," Choir and Congregation; Scripture Reading; Prayer;

"Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains," Mendelssohn, Girls' Trio;

"The Sleep of the Child Jesus," Gevaert, Mixed Chorus; Commencement sermon, Christ and the Young People of Today, Rev. J. H. Smith, pastor, Memorial Baptist Church; Hymn No. 2, "Fairrest Lord Jesus," Choir and Congregation; Benediction. Class Day Exercises, Tuesday, April 30, 8:15 o'clock. Graduation Exercises, Wednesday, May 1, 8:15 o'clock. Principal speaker, Dr. Frank Porter Graham, president, University of North Carolina.

and Mary Charles Godwin, the group of forty-two promising young boys and girls move up to the final high school notch next Wednesday. The names of the class members are seated, left to right:

First row: Billy Peel, Carlton Phelps, Joseph Gurganus, Jack Bailey, Billy Mercer, David Hardison; Second row: Ann Fowden, Dorothy Jones, Edith Andrews, Carrie Jones, Mary Alice Cherry, Susie Griffin, Bina Jackson, Sara Taylor, Mary Lewis Manning, Virginia Corey, Elizabeth Parker, Evelyn Wynne, Mary Kate Swain, Faye Gurganus, Miss Nancy Glover, teacher;

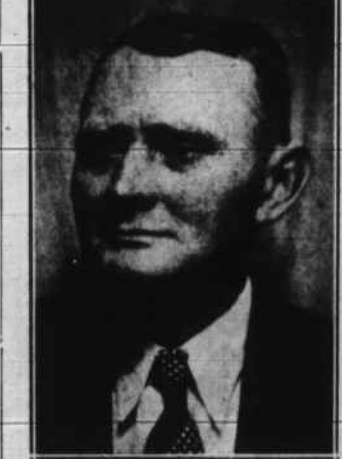
Third row: Rosa Davenport, Daisy Peaks, Eloise Hopkins, Ruth Ward, Mary Charles Godwin, Penny Rose Waters;

Fourth row: Susie Grimes, Josephine Andrews, Haywood Rogers, Charles Coltraine, S. C. Griffin, Garland Wynne;

Fifth row: Benny Godwin, Only Cowan, John Miller, James Willis Ward, Leroy Perry, Melbourne C. Hardison, John Peel, Roosevelt Coltraine, Ellis White, was absent.

\$220,000 Available to Farmers This Season

Nearly 100 Percent Of Martin Growers Sign New Contracts



Mr. George C. Griffin, who for several terms as a member of the Martin County Board of Education, has shown a marked interest in the advancement of the schools, is seeking re-nomination in the primary, May 25.

Orphans Appear In Special Concert Here This Evening

Arriving here at 10:30 this morning, members of the Oxford Orphan Singing Class were immediately located in private homes for an overnight stay during which time they will appear in a special concert in the high school auditorium. Headed by Miss Sadie Hutchinson and Manager Paul, the youthful singers will present their program at 8 o'clock this evening. No admission fee is asked, but a free-will offering will be received.

This afternoon the fourteen children will be special guests of Mr. J. Eason Lilley at the baseball game.

Places Announced For Registrations

Compliance Will Determine Amount To Be Received Under Program

According to unofficial estimates released this week, Martin County farmers can earn a total of approximately \$220,000 under the soil conservation program this season, the final amount to be determined by percentage of compliance by the growers themselves. The 1940 Agricultural Adjustment Administration act provides a total of \$182,000 or approximately that amount, in soil conservation payments and about \$28,000 in cotton price adjustment payments. The schedule of appropriations makes available the largest total amount ever offered Martin County farmers for participating in the government's farm program.

Up until now, Martin County farmers are in an enviable position to claim 99 per cent of the amounts offered. According to a reliable report, ninety-nine per cent of the farmers in this county have signed the new 1940 farm plans, and it is generally believed that there'll be no excess acreages planted to tobacco and cotton. It is possible that a few farmers will break over the bounds and plant slightly in excess of their peanut allotments. However, such a practice is almost certain to prove costly, agricultural authorities pointing out that excess peanut plantings will be

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Grade Operetta Is Well Received Here

The grammar grade operetta, "Little Red Riding Hood," was presented to a large and appreciative audience in the high school auditorium last Wednesday evening. Leading singing roles were played by Elizabeth Manning as Little Red Riding Hood; Zach Piepoff as the Woodman; Frances Griffin as the Grandmother, and J. D. Lilley as the Wolf.

The characters from Mother Goose were portrayed well, and the dances of the Bunnies and Jack and Jill were received with applause. The entire cast of more than a score of little folks combined their efforts to make the operetta a success.

The second grade toy orchestra of 24 members, dressed in their striking red uniforms, rendered three numbers at the beginning of the program, and a sextet of seventh grade girls sang several numbers between the acts.

The small admission fees charged total \$27.80 which will be used to purchase needed equipment for the music department.

Transplanting Of Tobacco Begins In County This Week

Martin County tobacco farmers this week engaged in the second round of the big task of producing another crop. While the transplanting of the crop is underway on a very limited schedule at the present time, a beginning has been made and by the latter part of next week, and the early part of the following week, Martin farmers will ignore their other farm duties and even their families, possibly, while starting their tobacco crops.

Farmers Chester Taylor and Buf Mobley launched the transplanting program out in Cross Roads Township the early part of this week, their work being the first of its kind reported in the county this year.

Last year at this time, transplanting activities were being advanced on an extensive scale, but the task was not completed until the early part of May.

Urges Legislation By The Towns For Mosquito Control

Health Official Says Main Supply of Mosquitoes Comes From Cans

Investigating the mosquito as a menace to the peace and health of Martin County people, Dr. John Williams, county health department head, said today that the main supply of mosquitoes comes from old tin cans and back yards, that comparatively few of the insects wander far enough from the swamps and lowlands to pester the residents, with some few exceptions, possibly.

In attacking the problem, Dr. Williams is urging the passage of ordinances by the several towns providing the services of an inspector and oiler.

The following statement was released by the health department head today:

"Ours is a county health department and naturally there is no money budgeted for mosquito control work in the different incorporated towns of the county. The department will supervise such control work if the different towns interested, will appropriate funds to buy spray oil which has to be used where drainage is impossible, an oiler, who can be used as a premise inspector, and lastly, but by no means least, each town will have to pass a specific ordinance making it compulsory for the citizens to drain private premises and remove the receptacles that are potential breeding places for mosquitoes.

"As far as Williamston is concerned there is being made a spot map of all areas on which water is ponded and at the present time cannot be drained. At the next meeting of the city officials, we are asking for an ordinance and inspector to be furnished us for supervision for the season.

"Later we may get WPA assistance for drainage work, after which oiling will not be necessary, but at the present time only continual premise inspection and weekly oiling of all standing water is our only method of pest control as well as the control of the mosquito which transmits malaria."

Debt Adjustment Bill Is Approved By Henry Wallace

Proposed Measure To Lower Interest Charges On Farm Mortgages

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Wallace told the House Committee on Agriculture that there has been "too much soft-headedness, too much ducking of the facts" in the handling of farm credit problems and gave strong endorsement to the Debt Adjustment bill introduced in the House by Rep. Marvin S. Jones, chairman of the House Committee. The bill has the backing of the National Farmers Union, whose representatives, M. W. Thatcher, and M. F. Dickinson, have already testified in support of the measure.

Wallace's statement was in sharp opposition to the arguments presented to the committee by Elbert S. Goss one of the officials recently removed from the Farm Credit Administration because of his stringent credit and collection policies. In answer to Goss' charge that the Debt Adjustment bill (HR 8748) would jeopardize the cooperative credit features of the system, Wallace replied that the system has never worked cooperatively.

Wallace pointed out that the original plan, whereby a farmer is compelled to buy bank stock to the extent of 5 per cent of the principal of his loan, was borrowed from the "Landschaft of Germany, founded

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Everetts School Seeking Hearing

A special committee named by a mass meeting in Everetts several weeks ago has not yet been able to schedule a hearing before the State School Commission to present an appeal for the re-establishment of a high school in the county town. The committee was to have made arrangements for the meeting with T. B. Atmore, member of the board in Washington yesterday, but Mr. Atmore was called out of town and the meeting there was postponed at the last minute.

Mrs. Jesse Keel and Mrs. A. P. Barnhill and Messrs. Herman Williams, V. G. Taylor, J. S. Ayers, Andrew Clark, J. T. Barnhill, Paul Bailey, Herbert Roebuck and J. Q. Patrick, members of the special committee, were to have asked Mr. Atmore to arrange a hearing and present their appeal to the commission.

The commission holds a meeting in Raleigh the early part of next month, and it is possible that the Everetts citizens will be accorded a hearing at that time. "We plan to carry a large group to Raleigh for the hearing," Paul Bailey, chairman of the committee, said.

County's Registration Books Open Saturday

Reistrars Attend Special School for Instructions Here



Mr. J. Linwood Knowles, prominent county citizen and well-known farmer of Dardens, has announced his candidacy for a place on the Martin County Board of Education. He is one of four candidates to announce for one of the three openings on the board.

Reistrars Attend Special School for Instructions Here

Everyone Who Participates in Primary Election Must Register

Advised that there is not a single name on the registration books in Martin County, Chairman Sylvester Peel of the county board of elections in a special school here yesterday advised the thirteen registrars that it was their duty to get the names back on the books in accordance with a resolution adopted under state law by the county election officials several weeks ago. Immediately most of the registrars expressed doubt if the county's voting strength could be returned to more than 80 per cent of normal during the registration period opening tomorrow. As far as it was disclosed at the meeting yesterday, no extra consideration other than the \$5 for each Saturday the books are open, will be allowed the registrars, and it is reasonable to assume that if there is any marked movement to get the people to register the action will have to be taken, to a great extent, by the candidates themselves and by party leaders and assistants.

Calling the school to order at 9:30 o'clock, Instructor Peel and his colleagues, Messrs. J. R. Winslow and Wade Viek, reviewed briefly the laws governing the new registration and briefly touched on a few problems as they related to the primary election itself.

A brief review of the instructions follows:

Every citizen who wishes to participate in the primary election on May 25 and subsequent elections must register between April 27 and May 11, inclusive. Today there isn't a single name on the registration books, and it does not matter how many times a citizen has voted heretofore, he must register again. A new registration has been ordered, and the order means that everyone who will participate in the primary next month and other elections to follow, he must register again. Because a man's name was placed on the books at some time in the past, it does not mean that he can vote in future elections. He MUST register again.

In registering, each citizen must declare his party affiliation; that is, whether Democrat or Republican. A Socialist, Communist or member of some other political group cannot register for the primary election, but he may register in the general registration book with the view of participating in the next November general election. In declaring his party affiliation, the elector determines which primary he will participate in next month. If he is listed as a Democrat he will have to vote a democratic ticket or none at all. If he is listed as a Republican he will have to vote a Republican ticket, or none at all. No provision is made for voting for candidates of other parties in the primary.

Before any citizen can become a legalized elector he must subscribe to the following oath or one of close similarity: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith; that I have been a resident of the State of North Carolina for one year, and of the precinct for four months; or that I was a resident of precinct on the

day of (being four months preceding the election) and removed therefrom to precinct, where I have since resided; that I am twenty-one years of age; (Continued on page six)

Property Owners In Court For Failing To List Taxes For 1940

Crowded Docket Is Awaiting Attention of Judge Peel In Recorder's Court

Four county property owners will be called into court next Monday to explain to Judge H. O. Peel why they did not list their property holdings for 1940 taxation. The warrants were sworn out a few days ago by County Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes against Atwood Tetterton, Elmer Riddick, Heber Taylor and Tilmer Riddick. This is the second year that such warrants have been drawn in the county, but defendants in the first cases are not included in the group scheduled for trial in the recorder's court next Monday.

A fairly crowded docket awaits the attention of Judge Peel after his court remained idle while the superior tribunal was in session two weeks. To relieve the congestion next Monday one justice of the peace bound over several alleged violators of the law for trial on Monday, May 6, instead of next Monday.

Other cases on the docket are, as follows: Joe Purvis, larceny; E. L. Whitehurst, violating the liquor laws; Harry Augustus Robinson, drunken driving; Grady Hardy, non-support; Floyd Lilley, bastardy; Ben Octavius Nichols, cruelty to animals. The defendant in this case is alleged to have given a mule box lye. Tobe Rogers, assault with a deadly weapon; Columbus Ward, drunken driving; Elmer Swain, carrying a concealed weapon and disorderly conduct; King Staton, assault on a female; Hardy Smallwood, carrying a concealed weapon and assault with a deadly weapon; Robert Year, violating the liquor laws; Woodrow Liocks, assault with a deadly weapon.

Local Young Man To Give Recital In Duke Chapel

Ben E. Manning, Duke University senior, is extending invitations to local people to attend his organ recital in the Duke Chapel, Durham, Sunday afternoon, May 5, at four o'clock.

Township Census Taker Faces His Own Individual Problems

Claude Smith, since the first of April, has had the huge task of counting all the men, women and children, both white and colored, in Robersonville township. "I have also been asked to determine and record each individual's status in life and list their earthly belongings," Mr. Smith said. Before his task is completed Mr. Smith will have to visit every nook and corner and back road in the township.

It is a gigantic undertaking, this business of finding out exactly where each of more than 150,000 people live and what they do for a living, and what they have to show for what they have accomplished. One hundred and twenty thousand enumerators will get the answers to more than 2,000,000,000 questions before the census is complete and before Uncle Sam has finished his nose counting. The enumerators will have traveled more than 25,000,000 miles. Mr. Smith said yesterday that he was not making as much progress as he first anticipated and without the

cooperation of the people it will take several days longer than first estimated. "The census is not taken to check-up on the individual but to let the government know how to better serve the people. While some of the questions we ask approach the personal side of life, the information is not to be regarded as personal, and it will be treated confidentially," Mr. Smith said.

"It is a most difficult job. The ladies will not receive you early in the morning. In the late morning some of them are preparing dinner and in the afternoon they are playing bridge. At night they are either out riding or at the show. What are you going to do," the census taker asked. "When you get to the Negro sections of town, the trouble really begins. I ask the head of the family for the name of each individual living under that particular roof. I get Jim's name and age. I then ask how old Jack is, only to get this reply after I have already recorded two names—'Jack and Jim is de same one,'" Mr. Smith lamented.