

## Judge Coburn Calls Fourteen Cases In The County's Court

**Sends Several Defendants To The Roads; Clears Docket By Noon Time**

Calling fourteen cases, Judge W. H. Coburn cleared the docket and adjourned the last session of the Martin County Recorder's Court by noon time Monday. Several defendants drew terms on the roads and others were fined for alleged violation of law and order in the county.

Proceedings: Pleading guilty in the case charging him with non-support, Elmer Gray was sentenced to the roads for a term of six months and required to pay the case costs. The road sentence is to begin at the direction of the court at any time within the next two years.

The case charging Raleigh Jones with an assault was not pressed with leave.

Jim Allen Hoggard, pleading guilty of drunken driving was sentenced to the roads for six months, fined \$50 and had his driver's license revoked for one year. The road sentence is to begin at the direction of the court at any time within the next two years.

The case charging Eddie Sheppard with cruelty to animals was not pressed.

George Andrews, charged with violating the liquor laws, was fined \$15 and taxed with the cost.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost and a \$25 fine in the case charging Leo Butler with disorderly conduct and an assault with a deadly weapon.

The case charging Blip Sutton with carrying a concealed weapon was not pressed with leave.

Henry G. Stokes pleaded guilty of drunken driving, and his case was continued under prayer for judgment until March 2, 1941.

Robert Williams was found not guilty in the case charging him with assaulting another with a deadly weapon.

Bernice Barnhill was sentenced to the roads for a term of twelve months for an assault with a deadly weapon.

The case charging Andrew Andrews with violating the liquor laws was continued until January 13.

In the case charging Turner Hines and Tobe Thompson with disorderly conduct and an assault with a deadly weapon, Hines pleaded guilty and was fined \$15. Thompson pleaded not guilty, but, adjudged guilty by the court, he was fined \$10. Each was directed to pay one-half the case costs.

Willie Joe Bunch was sentenced to the roads for three months in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Adjudged guilty over his own plea of innocence, Julius Bell, charged with larceny and damaging personal property, was sentenced to the roads for four months.

## Kiwanians Hear Business Review

Holding their first meeting of the year Thursday night, January 2, the local Kiwanis club entertained the heads or managers of the various business enterprises opening here in 1940.

Bruce Wynne first introduced N. C. Green, co-owner and manager of the Williamson Peanut Company. "We now employ approximately 65 or 70 men and women in our plant here and we hope to operate the plant seven or eight months each year," Mr. Green stated in reviewing the progress and operations of the enterprise here this year.

Henry Griffin, of the G. and H. Builders Supply Company, said his firm was satisfied with the business accorded them since they opened last September. "We are making plans to build a saw mill to the rear of our plant and we hope to eventually construct a dry kiln," Mr. Griffin said. According to Mr. Griffin, with these two additions they will be in a position to supervise and handle every transaction from the cutting of the tree to the finished product used in the construction of buildings.

Mr. Fitzgerald, manager of the Eagle Store here, stated their business here had far exceeded their expectations and that both he and the owners were well pleased with the town, section and patronage received by the store.

Mr. E. M. Knight, of Kiker and Yount, contractors of Reidsville, who are hauling the dirt used in raising and widening the fill, spoke briefly to the club relative to his work and the progress being made in completing the fill.

## New Year Greetings Get Attention In Store Here

Merchant Paul P. Peel who attracted considerable attention to his store during the Christmas holidays with a special scheme of decorations, patriotic and otherwise, has gone even further in extending New Year's greetings to his patrons and other friends in this section.

Employing a special artist, Mr. Peel advanced a truly personal atmosphere in his greetings.

## Business Line-Up in County Remains Unchanged for 1941

Safely tucked away from the war-boom centers and depending, more or less, on natural factors, business in Martin County is anticipating no marked change in its structure for 1941. One or two changes are being effected in the mercantile field and one firm is suspending activities on account of the owner's failing health, but as a whole business is expected to go forward and possibly some additions can be expected before the year is spent.

While interested in the affairs of state and those across the seas, Martin County farmers and business men are making preparations about on the same scale as they did a year ago. It is apparent that no strenuous effort will be made to boost inflation.

However, there is an apparent labor shortage staring both agriculture and business in the face. Reports state that quite a few people in this county are moving into the boom centers, one farmer stating that he had lost five tenant families, all of them going to the Norfolk area. The migratory movement is not considered serious in the county however, and farmers are now busily engaged packing away another year's supply of meat and making ready their tobacco plant beds in preparing for a normal schedule of activities during the New Year.

No extensive boom is expected here, but it is generally predicted that the current year offers increased opportunities for business and agriculture than last year.

## General Assembly To Convene Next Week

### FIRST TO LIST

Property Owner David Keel, of near Williamston, was the first man in Martin County to list his earthly belongings for 1941 taxation. He reported to List-taker Hugh M. Burras in the courthouse on Wednesday morning and without having to wait in line listed his belongings and was out in two or three minutes.

While no greater number has listed so far, List-taker Burras states that the work is progressing faster than it did a year ago. The list-taker is assessing personal property only. A special board of assessors will handle the real property assessments.

## A. Church Barnhill Passes In Everetts After Long Illness

**Funeral Services This Afternoon at 3 o'clock from Everetts Church**

A. Church Barnhill, retired farmer and well-known county citizen, died at his home in Everetts yesterday morning at 10 o'clock following a long period of declining health. A sufferer of asthma, he was forced to retire from his farming activities more than ten years ago. He located with his family in Everetts at that time, suffering patiently until the end. He was able to be up most of the time until last Saturday when he suffered a severe attack and complications followed to cause his death.

The son of the late Abram P. and Crecy James Barnhill, he was born in this county near Everetts, almost 60 years ago. After spending his early life on the farm he moved to Robersonville where he engaged in business for several years. While there he was married to Miss Jennie Whitchard. Severing his business connection in Robersonville he moved back to the old farm where he lived until his health forced his retirement about ten or twelve years ago.

A member of the Christian Church at Everetts for fifteen years, Mr. Barnhill was held in high esteem and had many friends throughout this section. He was a thoughtful neighbor and an understanding father and husband.

Besides his wife, he leaves six children, four sons, Clarence Barnhill, of Greenville; Delmus, Robert Abram and Samuel, all of Everetts, and two daughters, Mrs. Archie Roebuck, of Greenville, and Mrs. Robert Jackson, of Washington. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Nathan Rogers, of Bear Grass, and two brothers, Messrs. Jule T. Barnhill, of Williamston, and Joseph B. Barnhill, of Everetts.

Funeral services are being conducted by Rev. J. M. Perry in the Everetts Christian Church this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Interment will follow in the family plot in the Robersonville Cemetery.

## County Commissioners To Hold Regular Meet Monday

Scheduled to hold a regular meeting here next Monday, the Martin County commissioners have nothing but a routine calendar of business for consideration, J. Sam Gettlinger, clerk to the board, said this morning.

The commissioners will have a heavy schedule of work when they face the tax problem now in the making over the county. They will be required to sit as a board of equalization and review about March or April.

### ILL WITH PNEUMONIA

Mr. Herbert Cullipher is ill with pneumonia at Fayetteville where he went a short time to engage in defense work at Fort Bragg.

## Offers Preview Of Coming Session of State Legislature

**Representative Declares Secondary Roads Due More Consideration**

By W. CLARENCE GRIFFIN (Martin County Representative in the General Assembly)

The 1941 session of the North Carolina General Assembly promises to be a short routine session with very few pieces of major legislation. At this time it does not appear that there will be any controversial questions calling for a long hectic session such as was held over the sales tax and State-supported school fights.

The Democratic platform adopted at the last State convention provided for reappointment of the membership in our State legislature, and I expect this to be done with little opposition since both our State platform and Constitution provides for it. There will doubtless be some further aid given to school teachers along the line of retirement benefits and guaranteed tenure.

Governor Broughton, in his campaign, advocated further exemptions in our general sales tax law for items of food and it is generally expected this amendment will be adopted. This amendment has already been drawn and is supported by some of our strongest administration supporters. The fate of the ABC stores and the local option plan may be brought before the body. Should the General Assembly call for State-wide referendum on the subject, it is generally conceded that they would be abolished. All of the candidates for Speaker of the House have expressed their willingness to continue the present system, however, it is possible that the question may arise.

It is expected that the labor organization of the State will make a drive for more wage and hour legislation. The extent of their wishes and requests are not yet clear, but I expect we will hear more from them within the next few weeks. It is my opinion that there is a desperate need for some action to be taken to curb the high rate of highway fatalities. Certainly, there is a need to give the traveling public more protection than they are receiving today. Doubtless, a reduction in our speed limit law together with more emphasis on law enforcement would have a tendency to help the situation.

The most important matter of interest to our local citizens is the secondary road situation. I am sure that Martin County deserves decidedly more consideration than she has had on the road question. I have made my position clear on this matter to every candidate for Speaker of the House who has approached me for my support. With our citizens paying high gasoline and license taxes as they are at the present, they have a right to demand that they be delivered from the terrible situation in which they now find themselves. When we contrast the condition of the secondary roads of our county with those of neighboring counties, it is enough to arouse the wrath of any patriotic citizen.

I shall welcome at any time the opportunity of seeing any of my friends of Martin County while I am in Raleigh and I hope they will feel free to call upon me for any service I can render them.

## County Board Education To Hold Meeting Monday

Members of the Martin County Board of Education will have very little work to do when they meet in a regular session here next Monday morning. "There's no business on the calendar," Superintendent of Schools J. C. Manning said, explaining that the meeting was being held in accordance with the State school law.

## Balkans Offering Unknown Problem On The War Front

**Russia Said To Be Mobilizing Its Forces For Any Eventuality**

While the tug of war in the air over Britain and Germany continues in varying degrees of intensity, the Balkans are offering the unknown problem in the European war at the present time. It would appear that the situation there has all the nations guessing. It is fairly certain however, that something is brewing, and that the pot will start boiling over possibly in the early spring if not before. Germany is moving hundreds-of-thousands-of-men into Rumania, and unofficial reports state that Russia has its forces in complete mobilization with attention centered on the Russian frontiers.

Bulgaria has admitted that its position in the war arena is futile, that she will be unable to stop a German thrust across its borders. The present indications point to a cooperative attack by Italy and Germany against the British in the Mediterranean and in Africa. While the shift to the Mediterranean area carries significance, invasion attempts are still anticipated by the British. It is thought in some quarters that the Germans with the aid of the Italians are planning to intensify their attack on British shipping with airplanes over the Mediterranean and submarines and raiders in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The British today reported the sinking of an Italian submarine; but the Italians countered with a claim that they had damaged a British cruiser.

The siege against Bardia in Africa has been increased, but the success of the movement had not been made public at noon today. British airmen directed another costly attack against Bremen and other German centers last night, and Ireland is now getting a taste of aerial warfare, one report stating that a church in Dublin had been hit and damaged.

Trouble continues to plague France a report today stating that Petain had shuffled his Vichy government again, possibly to gain greater considerations at the hands of Germany. A three-man cabinet was named to rule under him.

Offering to explain the large troop movements into Rumania, Germany declares that she has a vital interest there and that that interest must be protected.

The movement in this country to aid Britain was advanced today when Carter Glass, Virginia senator, stated that he strongly favored sending England everything possible to help wipe Germany off the map.

## End Successful Hunting Season

Deer hunters in this county last Wednesday ended a successful deer hunting season, reports also stating that several hunters, including Oscar Peel, had come out of the season with their shirt tails shortened.

No complete report on the hunting is available, but Game Warden W. O. Abbott estimates that more than 50 deer were taken in the county during the season just ended. It is the opinion that the high waters killed the food in the swamps and that the deer wandered out to the highlands and were found in greater numbers.

Commenting on the hunting season, Warden Abbott stated that there had been comparatively few violations of the hunting laws in the county this season. Joe Rogers and Bryant Williams were recently fined \$9.75 in Justice J. L. Hassell's court here for allegedly hunting without licenses.

The game warden is warning against Sunday hunting. It is understood that the Sunday hunting law is being violated in some sections, and that the warden is planning to investigate the alleged violations.

## Young Men Are Leaving Tuesday For The Army

Sixteen young Martin County men are scheduled to leave here next Tuesday morning, January 7, for army service at Fort Bragg. The selections have been made, but no reserve list had been announced today by the local office of the county draft board.

### STANDSTILL

Starting off with a bang the middle of last November, peanut deliveries have dwindled to a low point here during the past few days, local warehouse operators stating that less than 2,000 bags of the goobers had been handled since the re-opening last Monday.

It is estimated that there are hardly 20,000 bags of peanuts in farmers' hands in this county, and it is the general belief that the owners will hold them for market developments. Unofficial reports indicate that the open market is showing added strength for best quality peanuts.

## Real Estate Assessors Handle Initial Appraisals In Martin County's Revaluation Program

### Several Robberies Reported In County During This Week

**Establishments Are Robbed At Parmele, Everetts And Williamston**

County and local officers in several towns are working in an effort to solve a series of robberies reported in Parmele, Everetts, Williamston and near Williamston during the current week. Minor clues have been established in two or three of the cases, but no arrests have been effected. The robberies this week follow a series reported in Williamston during the holiday season.

The first of the robberies was reported in Parmele last Tuesday night after some one had entered the filling station of Tom Clay, colored, and robbed a music box of about \$5.80 in nickels. It was the second similar robbery Clay had experienced in about three weeks.

Later that same night and while Williamston was celebrating the passing of the Old Year, some one broke into Eddie W. Brown's Little Savoy cafe on Washington Street and robbed a music box of about \$8 or \$9 in nickels and reduced the cigarette stock several cartons.

Early yesterday morning, some one attempted to break into Exum Ward's filling station on the Everetts Highway, near here. The robber removed part of the lock, but failed to gain an entrance. He then tried to use a skeleton key, and after failing to get in he moved on down to Mizell's filling station, near the fairgrounds. An entrance was gained by breaking a window there. Several cartons of cigarettes were stolen.

Late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning, two robbers broke through a back window and robbed the store of Dillon Peel in Everetts. Believed to have been traveling in a truck the robbers carried away a barrel and a half of flour and possibly other merchandise. While prowling around the store, the robbers kicked over a bucket of floor oil and tracked the store from one end to the other.

## Twenty-Six Couples Married In County During Past Month

**Only One Wedding Solemnized In County During The Holidays**

Twenty-six marriage licenses were issued by the license bureau in this county last month, the number dropping two below the issuance for December, 1939. There was a marked absence of holiday weddings in the county, a report stating that only one couple dared take the fatal leap during Christmas week. During the corresponding period in 1939 there were a few less than a dozen holiday weddings in this county.

The licenses were issued to the following couples in the county during December, sixteen white and ten colored:

### White

Daniel Wilson Manning, of Oak City R.F.D. 1, and Dorothy Louise Whitehurst, of Bethel.

Joseph Staton Griffin and Verna L. Keel, both of Williamston RFD. Jesse David Hardison and Agnes Virginia Maydon, both of Jamesville.

Lewis Andrew Weaver, of Robersonville RFD 1, and Elsie Williams, of Everetts.

Hubert F. Whitaker, of Williamston R.F.D. 2, and Pattie Keel Nicholson, of Williamston R.F.D. 3. Simon Jasper Barber and Thelma Louise Martin, both of Jamesville.

Melvin O. Crisp and Martha E. Bennett, both of Oak City.

Warren V. Council, of Williamston R.F.D. 3, and Eliza Gardner, of Williamston.

### Colored

Shug Davis and Mary B. Williams, both of Palmyra. Thomas Peel and Mary Lloyd, both of Williamston.

Oscar Council and Annie Towns, both of Robersonville, R.F.D. 2. Augustus James and Fannie R. Williams, both of Williamston.

John Henry Teel and Fannie I. Griffin, both of Williamston.

Roy Outterbridge and Lucy Mae Peel, both of Williamston R.F.D. 3.

Nathaniel Brodus and Gen Ann Langley, both of Robersonville.

Willie James Whitley and Artelia Moore, both of Oak City.

Curtis Rhodes and Cleo Bell Scott, both of Williamston.

Ollie Gainer and Katie Lee Eason, both of Williamston.

### NO OLD TAGS

Chalking up one of the largest purchases in recent years, motorists in this section are sporting the new 1941 tags to a car. Patrolman Whit Saunders stating last evening that he had not seen an old license tag on the highways in this section.

Up until late Wednesday night, the local license bureau in the Williamston Motor Company had sold 3,053 auto tags for \$30, 085.05, and 482 truck and 370 trailer tags for \$20.183. Title transfers and penalties imposed by the State amounted to \$402, boosting the total receipts handled by the local office to \$50, 670.05, according to an official tabulation released this morning by Chief Clerk Joseph G. Corey.

## Noisy Celebration Marks Passing Of The Old Year Here

**Joy-makers Carry Program To An Extreme; Police Hear Some Complaints**

The dying wails of the old year and the weak cries of the little 1941 baby were drowned out here last Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning when local people participated in the noisiest celebration in the history of the town. The peaceful sleep of farmers seven miles away was disturbed by the exploding bombs, apparently fired to frighten life into the body of the baby New Year.

A distant bell at 11:20 Tuesday night pealed out the first warning that the Old Year was nearing its end. With a noise equalling that of a German blitzkrieg, firecrackers were shot in countless numbers, and the old year's demise is to be understood for that reason, but it is difficult to understand how a bright and innocent young New Year could survive in such a setting. "Never mind how it survived, it will be here when many of those participating in the celebration are gone," an observer commented. The fire-cracker attack was launched a full half hour before midnight and continued until the wee hours of the morning, local police stating that all the smoke and stink had not lifted from the main street when the New Year opened its eyes on a mad world on Wednesday morning.

Characteristic of us Americans, few tooted their own horns or shouted with their own lungs. Starting considerably ahead of a decent schedule, the joyous crowd mashed the buttons of mechanical horns made by some unknown worker miles away, and hardly left a single firecracker in China unfired.

The peal of the bells was drowned out by the noisy horns. Now and then a vibrant note would break through the din of the horns, but Officer John Roebuck, standing at the base of the town clock, stated that he was doubtful if he could have heard the peals of the old fire tower above, the noise was so terrific.

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## Congress Facing Great Problems

Convening at noon today, the 77th Congress of the United States is without doubt facing the greatest and most far-reaching questions of any in the history of the nation.

John Nance Garner, in a sullen manner, called the session of the Senate to order and eleven new Senators were sworn in. It was a dull time in that chamber. Sam Rayburn was made speaker over in the House where the more than 400 representatives were sworn in and advised to get ready for a momentous session. President Roosevelt will address the Congress next Monday, and little or no action will be taken until then.

Among the important questions before the present Congress is the nation's program of aid to Britain. Then there is the possibility of a call for ten more billions of dollars to finance the defense program. And then and most important of all is the possibility that the Congress convening today may be called upon to declare war.

In his press conference today, President Roosevelt named Harry Hopkins, former secretary of commerce, as his personal representative in London. An ambassador to succeed Joe Kennedy will likely be named next week. The President also outlined a 300 million dollar ship building program which is to produce about 200 merchant ships within a year.

## No Marked Change In Real Property Values Is Expected

**Slight Gain Is Reported in First Test Listings in County Yesterday**

Martin County's real property assessors realized they had an enormous and trying task ahead of them yesterday when initial appraisals were made in several townships. Working in a group, the thirty assessors minus two who were detained at home by illness, made the test appraisals for a working foundation for valuing the real properties in the ten townships.

The results of the tour starting in Williams Township yesterday are far from conclusive, and it is impossible to predict a trend in the valuations, as a whole. However, using three test listings effected yesterday, it is possible the total values will reflect a slight gain over the last listings which were based on a half-hearted revaluation schedule made back in 1937.

Comparing the test listings with those made four years ago to the best advantage possible, it was the tendency of the assessors to up the value of dwellings and buildings and to hold farm land about to an average figure for the three cases under consideration. However, there were some variations in the listings yesterday as compared with those a year ago, but when the three cases had been completed there was a resulting gain of \$57.

Making the first test listing, the assessor yesterday recorded his estimate on a piece of paper. The estimates were then averaged and a value of \$920 was placed on the structure as against an \$800 assessment placed on the same building four years ago. Following the same procedure, the out-buildings were valued at \$150 as against \$325. Cleared land was valued at \$38 an acre, and woodlands were assessed at the rate of \$5 an acre, as against \$40 and \$5, respectively, four years ago. In 1937, the farmer's property was valued at \$3,155. The assessors yesterday valued the same property at \$2,970, a reduction of \$185. A new building had been constructed on the property and that was valued at \$60, but this is not considered in the comparison.

Making the second test listing, the assessors placed a value of \$420 on the farmer's dwelling as against \$500, four years ago. The cleared farm land value was dropped from \$25 to \$18 an acre, and the woodlands was reduced \$5 on the total. In 1937, the property was valued at \$2,150, as compared with the assessed value of \$1,771 effected yesterday, or a resulting reduction of \$379.

In the third test case or the first made in Jamesville Township, the assessors increased the assessed values on the farmer's home and cleared land but reduced the value placed on waste or woodlands four years ago. Buildings, valued at \$900 four years ago, were increased to \$1,140 by the assessors yesterday. Cleared farm land was valued at \$47 an acre as compared with the four-year-old value of \$40. The property valued at \$4,170 four years ago was considered worth \$4,677 by the assessors yesterday.

Combining the three test-listings, the assessors had placed a value of \$34.33 on an average on each acre of cleared land as compared with an

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## Man Lost In River Swamp Over Night

Losing his way while trapping in the Roanoke River swamp below Jamesville last Wednesday, Howard Hardison, young Jamesville Township white man, spent many miserable hours before a searching party found him yesterday morning. Found by Harold Williams, the lost man was no worse for his harrowing experience.

Entering the swamp that morning with F. C. Williams, Hardison was scheduled to meet him at a certain point shortly before noon. He failed to show up at the appointed time, and later in the day he was reported lost. A searching party was formed and at the end of an all-night search the man was found. He had built a fire during the night, but his nervous condition would not let him rest. He tried to find his way out a number of times, but each time he returned to the fire. A short time before morning, he heard the searching party, but when he tried to make contact he would lose his way.

Cloudy skies made it impossible for him to follow the sun out, and when he was found he was on Bull Creek about nine miles below Jamesville.