

## Judge W. H. Coburn Handles Ten Cases In The County Court

### Several Sizable Fines Imposed And Number Road Sentences Meted Out

While the little crime wave that swept over a portion of the county last week-end had not reached the court for unraveling, Judge W. H. Coburn and Solicitor Don E. Johnson had a fairly busy day clearing the docket in the county's tribunal last Monday. Ten cases were on the docket, the court completing its work and ordering adjournment at 11:30. A fair-sized crowd was present and heard Judge Coburn impose substantial fines in a number of cases and heard his stern voice calling out road sentences for defendants in several cases.

Proceedings in the court: The case charging E. L. Whitehurst with violating the liquor laws was not pressed with leave.

A former judgment of the court having been complied with, judgment in the case charging Cary Whitehurst with an assault with a deadly weapon was suspended.

D. D. Hill was sentenced to the roads for a term of three months in the case charging him with trespass and larceny and receiving. He pleaded guilty in the case.

Charged with drunken driving, Booker T. Teel was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his license revoked for a period of one year.

Hopie Brooks, adjudged guilty over his own plea of innocence, was sentenced to the roads for a term of six months in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Joseph R. Whitaker, charged with drunken driving, was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his driver's license revoked for one year. He pleaded guilty to the charge.

Charged with selling wine without license, Clarence Tapir was fined \$15 and taxed with the cost. He pleaded guilty.

M. C. Britte, the Elizabeth City man who was on his way to Holly Ridge last Sunday evening when he was arrested on Williamston's main street for drunken driving, was sentenced to the roads for a period of three months, the court suspending the road sentence upon payment of a \$50 fine and the costs of the case. His license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for one year.

Brite, stopping when the bumper of his car locked with that of another machine on the main street, was said to have tried to push one of his companions under the wheel, but was caught in the act by Patrolman Whit Saunders. Brite's two companions, Cary Ballance and William C. Eason, pleaded guilty in the cases charging them with public drunkenness. They were each fined \$15 and taxed with the costs.

## Infantile Paralysis Drive Is Successful

The drive for funds to combat the dread disease of infantile paralysis was regarded today as the most successful ever advanced in this county, according to incomplete reports coming through the office of Dr. E. T. Walker, chairman of the campaign for Martin County.

Approximately \$50 was realized from the President's birthday ball here last Tuesday night, and the March of Dimes, still in progress, is said to be meeting with a marked success. Robersonville, reporting approximately \$25 from its tag sales, more than trebled its sales over the 1940 figures, and Oak City, reporting \$10, had a similar gain. Other districts have not submitted complete reports to the county chairman, but it is estimated that the March of Dimes will net approximately \$100. A year ago, the amount raised in the March of Dimes totaled hardly \$20.

Appreciative of the cooperation accorded him in advancing the worthy campaign, Dr. Walker will submit a complete report just as soon as all of the district chairmen are heard from.

## Judge Winston Dies At Home In Windsor

Judge Francis D. Winston, "Grand old man" of Bertie County and a congenial neighbor and friend of Martin, died at his home in Windsor last Tuesday evening. He was 83 years old. The last rites were conducted in the Episcopal Church on Wednesday afternoon, many from here and other parts of the State paying a tribute to his memory by attending the service.

The venerable old gentleman is remembered in this county by his friendliness which was readily extended to persons in all walks and stations of life. He attained prominence in several fields outside the field of law and the bench. The judge was a favorite after-dinner speaker, prominent churchman and a leading figure in the Masonic lodge of North Carolina. Enrolling as the first student in the University of North Carolina following the Civil War, Mr. Winston was one of the institution's oldest trustees.

## THEY'RE IN THE ARMY NOW



Pictured above are sixteen young Martin County men, fourteen of whom were accepted for Army service at Fort Bragg a short time ago. All of them volunteered, but Harris and Nicholson were rejected on account of physical defects. They are: First row, left to right: Jesse Roberson, Williamston, R. F. D. 2; Charles Elbert Bullock, Williamston, R.F.D. 3; Marvin Theodore Roberson, Williamston; Julian Albert Roebuck, Williamston. Second row, left to right: Claude Elmer Jenkins, Williamston, R. F. D. 3; Hildreth Rogerson, Williamston, R.F.D. 2; Joseph Elmer Griffin, Williamston, R.F.D. 2; Robert Claborn Harris, Hamilton. Third row, left to right: John Davis Warren, Williamston, R.F.D. 3; Dennis Harding Whitehead, Williamston, R.F.D. 3; Heber Taylor, Williamston, R.F.D. 2. Fourth row, left to right: James Oliver Wynn, Williamston, R.F.D. 3; Paul Cleveland VanLandingham, Williamston, R.F.D. 3; Grover Raymond Moore, Williamston, R.F.D. 2; Nathan Hedrick Mobley, Oak City; View Vister Nicholson, Williamston, R.F.D. 3.

## FARM FORUMS

A series of forums for the discussion of farm problems will be held in the county agricultural building during the course of the next several weeks following action taken at a meeting of the Farm Bureau members held here earlier this week. The first of the meetings will be held on Monday, February 10, at 7:30 o'clock. All farmers are invited and urged to attend and participate in the forums.

Dr. D. V. Clayton and other representatives of the County Farm Bureau at the national convention in Baltimore last December will address the first meeting.

## Forest Protection Growing In Favor In Martin County

That the forest fire protection service is rapidly gaining in favor in this county is pointed out by County Forest Warden Marvin H. Leggett in his annual report just released. There is yet much to be accomplished, however, the warden declares that the general public is realizing the value of forest protection and that more people are willingly cooperating in advancing the service in this as well as in other counties. Martin County appropriates approximately \$800 each year as its share of the cost in maintaining the service.

The past year was a busy one for the warden and his assistants. Dry weather prevailed during most of the fire season in the fall and winter. During the past twelve months there were 81 forest fires in the county. A few more than 3,100 acres were burned, the fires damaging on an average 38.34 acres. Carelessness on the part of cigarette smokers and farmers burning brush was given as the cause for 70 per cent of the fires, the origin of many of the others being unknown. Damage to timberlands was estimated at \$5,260. Charged with violation of the forest fire laws, six persons were convicted in the courts and fined \$87, this amount including the costs.

Warden Leggett worked 2,493 hours, traveled 8,983 miles in the interest of the service and in fighting fires. Assistant wardens and special helpers worked 6,974 hours fighting fires.

One story has it that the towerman in Griffins Township cited a fire in Cross Roads Township, that the warden and assistants reached the scene before the owner, hardly a quarter of a mile away, learned his woods were burning.

Effective tomorrow, Towerman Goodrich at Hassell is resigning. Warden Leggett stating that his successor has not yet been named. A closer check on brush burning is to be made this year at the direction of the State department. Beginning tomorrow all persons who plan to burn brush on their farms are directed by law to get a permit either from the warden, towerman or district wardens. Permits are issued without cost, and without them the persons burning brush or small tracts of woodlands are subject to prosecution in the courts. The warden has been as lenient as possible in enforcing this section of the forest law, but specific instructions have been received to warn against violations in the future.

## Lumber Business Approaching Peak In This Section

### Defense Orders Pushing All Idle Mills Into Operation Over Wide Area

Literally swamped with orders, lumber mill operators are working night and day to give this and other communities removed from the defense centers an idea of what is going on in this world. Possibly if it were not for the lumber manufacturers this and other peaceful communities would doubt the fantastic stories as they tell about the mushroom growth of such centers as Holly Ridge, Fort Bragg and other Army posts.

The manufacturing business is fast nearing a peak in this community, but already the activities here are fitting well into the defense program and in a big way, too. The G and H Builders Supply Company are making ready to place in operation a ground saw mill on their property just off the Jamesville Highway near the plant of the Columbian Peanut Company. H. B. Thompson, independent lumber dealer and operator of several portable saw mills, is making plans to install and operate a planing mill on the G and H property just across the railroad from the Farmville-Woodward mill. More than half a million feet of lumber have been placed on the lot already and the planing mill will likely be placed in operation within the next few weeks.

Independent owners are placing old mills back into operation, some of them almost obsolete, some are small and some are of moderate size. The defense program has issued an urgent call for lumber and while supplies have been virtually depleted, the manufacturers are apparently doing a good job in answering the call.

The Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company is now working on a big defense order, Plant Manager Dean Speight stating yesterday that three carloads of dressed and manufactured lumber were moved out of the plant yard in a single day this week for the defense project at Holly Ridge. The company has been

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## Condition Of Knife Attack Victim Grave

Carlton Reason, victim of a deathly knife attack near Dardens last Saturday night, continues in a serious condition. However, late reports from his bedside at this home in the Piney Woods section of Jamesville Township, state that his recovery is expected if no complications develop. Yesterday it was stated that the knife wounds requiring fifty or more stitches to close, were healing up very well, but that the man was in a weakened condition and that he had contracted a chest cold. He complained of being "touchingly" sore.

Nathan Cole, a second victim of the attack, is said to be up and getting along all right. Alton Lilley, the county's No. 1 carver, and Joe Lanier Godard, Sr., his companion in the last Saturday night crime, continue in jail. Bond has been denied the two men, and a preliminary hearing in the case is being delayed pending the outcome of Reason's wounds. Two main witnesses, Bertha Morgan and Minnie Owens, who were arrested along with Lilley and Godard, continue in the county jail.

## Building And Loan Association Issues Annual Statement

### Local Organization's Assets Are Now Nearing Half Million Dollars

The Martin County Building and Loan Association last year rounded out the most successful business period in its history, the assets of the organization nearing the half-million dollar figure at the close of business on December 31.

The value of the association as it relates to the material growth of this community is reflected in the mortgage loans, which total \$441,556.46, the loans on shares amounting to \$8,738.30. The association's assets, including \$8,873.33 in cash and \$3,000 in government bonds, total \$475,042.31. The organization has undivided profits in the sum of \$29,187.63 and a reserve for contingencies in the amount of \$7,000. Its stock, including installment and full-paid shares, amounts to \$345,222.80. Against its accounts payable of \$328.05, the organization has accounts receivable in the sum of \$1,498.16.

Williamston reported the construction of almost fifty new homes last year, the building and loan participating to a large extent in financing the construction. Other type construction, including repairs to homes, was also financed in many cases by the organization. In addition to its activities on the home-building front, the association reported increased accounts carried as investments. The association's savings feature is now regarded as one of the most inviting to be found.

Next month, the association has two stock series, No. 35 and No. 41-c, maturing. A total of \$23,800 in stock will be matured, \$17,000 of the amount to be paid in cash to the shareholders and the remaining \$6,800 to be applied on mortgages held by the organization.

The association will open a new stock series in March.

## Hitler Defies U. S. To Send Help To Embattled Britain

### Committee Support of Lease-Lend Bill Offered As Direct Answer

The House Foreign Affairs Committee in direct answer to Adolf Hitler's attack on American efforts to aid embattled Britain, yesterday approved the administration's lease-lend bill with only minor changes proposed. Recognized by some as a warning to the United States to go slow in extending aid to England, Hitler's 90-minute speech was one long boast. He threatens to destroy England in the spring and in defying American aid he declared that every supply ship moving American goods to England would be smashed and sent to the bottom of the sea.

Hitler spoke, with explosions of hatred and a smattering of wisecracks, before a wildly cheering crowd of more than 13,000 at the Berlin Sportspalast on the eighth anniversary of his rise to power as the Chancellor and master of Germany.

Germany has secret weapons — he called them "blue wonders," the German idiom for big surprises — in store for the mighty assault on Britain by land, sea, and air, Hitler boasted.

His 90-minute speech promising a final German victory in 1941 was heard throughout Germany and Nazi-conquered Europe as well as by millions abroad through radio hook-ups extending to Italy, Japan, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Finland, Yugoslavia and other countries.

## GREEK FUND

Although steeped in sorrow as a result of the death of their leader, Premier General John Metaxas, the Greeks are showing a greater determination to repulse Italian invasion attempts. As the Greek people rallied anew to their cause, local sympathizers boosted the relief fund for the little nation to almost \$100 since last Tuesday. Additional donations will be received by the local fund treasurer, John Hardy, The Enterprise, or Gus Rigas will call in person for a donation any one wishes to make. Contributions not previously reported:

P. P. Peele	\$ 1.00
Gus Rigas	1.00
Collected in coin box in Williamston Cafe	11.00
Previously reported	78.00
	\$91.00

## London After a Night Bombing



The havoc of war, which descends nightly upon a great city, is shown in this dramatic picture taken during the height of the great fire which ravaged sections of London after recent intensified incendiary-bombing of the metropolis. Large areas of the city have been set afire and blasted to the ground, but the city keeps on "living."

## Penalties For Late Tax Listing Likely

### No Extension For Listing Property Is Thought Likely

### Commissioners Have Very Little Business On Calendar For Next Monday

As the deadline for listing property for 1941 taxation rapidly approaches, there are quite a few owners who have not listed their holdings or polls, according to unofficial reports received here this morning from several of the personal property list-takers. According to unofficial reports, no extension of time for listing property will be granted when the commissioners meet in their regular session here next Monday. Late listings, it is understood will be dated and penalties added to the regular tax accounts of the late listers. Those who fail to list will be made subject to prosecution in the courts.

Possibly the commissioners will, in the event no extension of time is granted for listing, establish a penalty schedule for late listing in accordance with law which provides a penalty ranging from \$1 to ten per cent of one's taxes.

It has been reliably learned that some members of the board are in favor of invoking the penalties this year. They point out that delayed listings add to the tax cost, and that prosecution should follow in all cases where property owners attempt to escape taxation. It has also been rumored that a new deal is to be expected by those property owners who list their holdings and who try to meet their tax obligations. The new deal in taxation is expected to center around property listings, non listings and unpaid taxes. According to one report there are tax accounts approximately \$50,000 uncollected on the county books at the present time.

Several of the township boards of property assessors have completed their work, but in at least two townships the work can hardly be completed before the second week in February. With the figures now available, it is impossible to estimate the trend in values with any degree of certainty. Some list-takers and several boards of assessors state that indications point to an increase, but they would offer no estimate as to percentage gains.

## No One Injured In Highway Accident

No one was injured and very little property damage resulted in an automobile-truck accident in Hamilton Wednesday morning at 7:45 o'clock. Mr. Henry S. Johnson, Hamilton merchant, was driving into town from Oak City and started to turn into South Street when a truck traveling in the same direction and driven by Henry Lewis Mitchell, of 310 Carolina Avenue, Crews, Va., crashed into the rear of his car.

## Respected Citizen Dies At Her Home Here This Morning

### Last Rites For Mrs. Elizabeth Gurganus To Be Held Sunday Afternoon

Mrs. Elizabeth Blount Gurganus, highly respected local citizen and member of a prominent Washington County family, died at her home on East Church Street here this morning at 9 o'clock following a two years' period of declining health. Suffering an attack of influenza shortly after Christmas, Mrs. Gurganus was getting along very well until last Wednesday afternoon when she was taken suddenly and seriously ill. Within a few hours she had lost consciousness, the end coming gradually. Pneumonia was given as the immediate cause of her death.

The daughter of the late Alfred and Nancy Hubbell Blount, she was born in Washington County, near Roper, 70 years ago. She spent her early life there, marrying Nicholas Mobley, of this county, in 1886. They built a new home on West Main Street and lived here a few years before moving to Belhaven where they spent about two years. While there Mr. Mobley's health failed and they returned to Williamston. Following the death of Mr. Mobley in 1891, she returned to the home of her parents in Washington County and lived until her marriage to Samuel H. Newberry, of Williamston, in 1896. They made their home here on Church Street and following Mr. Newberry's death about 1910 she returned to live with her father. A few years later she was married to Eli Gurganus of Williamston, and since that time she made her home here.

A direct descendant of a family prominent in Colonial affairs and leaders in the Revolutionary cause, Mrs. Gurganus received her education and training at the direction of her parents and private tutors, a custom that marked the educational movement of that period. She joined the Episcopal Church when a young girl, and held membership in the Church of the Advent here for more than half a century. She was liberal in its support and humble in her worship. Thoughtful and neighborly, she was devoted to her family. Only a few days before her death she visited the sick and expressed an interest in the welfare of others. Her acts of kindness were removed from the public eye, but her walk through life was marked by Christian ideals and by a willingness to help others. She had a motherly understanding for her grand-children, and in the home she cherished and enjoyed the companionship and love of her family.

Members of the immediate family were at her bedside when the end

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## Mrs. Louisa Leary Dies In Bear Grass

Mrs. Louisa Rogerson Leary, highly respected Bear Grass citizen, died at the home of her son, William Leary, there early yesterday afternoon following a long period of declining health.

Mrs. Leary was born in Bear Grass Township on May 20, 1872, and spent her entire life here. In 1886 she was married to Levi Harrison who died a few years later. Two children born to the union, died in early youth. In 1897 she was married to J. G. Leary, of South Carolina, but continued to make her home in her old neighborhood. Three children, Mrs. J. G. Bailey, William and Jesse Leary, were born to this union. Mrs. Bailey dying suddenly less than two weeks ago. Mrs. Leary's condition was regarded as serious at that time.

She was numbered among the first to affiliate with the Presbyterian Church at Bear Grass. Humble in her walk through life, she was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She was devoted to her family and friends, and her life was marked for its Christian character.

## Changes Announced In V.E.P. Personnel

Several changes in the local office personnel of the Virginia Electric and Power Company were announced this week by Manager R. H. Goodmon. Arthur D. Bertolett, of the company's engineering department and a reserve Army captain, is leaving today for a year of active service with the armed forces at Fortress Monroe, Va. His successor has not been named.

Jesse Wilson Price, accounting clerk, is being transferred to the company's Norfolk division. He is leaving today. For the present, Mrs. Price and daughter will make their home with relatives in Windsor. Wheeler Manning, cashier, succeeds Price as accounting clerk and Miss Ruth Ward is the new cashier.

## CALLED TO COLORS



A captain in the United States Army Reserve Corps, Arthur D. Bertolett left today for a year of service at Fortress Monroe, near Norfolk. He is the first reservist in this county to be called by the Army for active service in the present emergency. Mrs. Bertolett, a native of Rhode Island, and two children, will continue to make their home here.