

Criminal Docket Is Cleared By Superior Court In Single Day

Jury Dismissed Yesterday After Granting 3 Divorces And Hearing 2 Cases

Starting promptly at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, Judge W. C. Harris virtually completed the work of the one-week term of Martin County Superior Court before nightfall. All criminal cases were cleared from the docket, three divorces were granted to white couples who apparently could not get along together, and one or two motions were heard before the court took a recess shortly after six o'clock. Adjournment came shortly before noon today when the grand jury completed its work and submitted its report for the term.

In addition to granting three divorces, the petit jury acted in only two criminal cases, and the defendant in one of those cases was adjudged guilty on "smelly" evidence, according to the defense attorney, the Hon. J. Calvin Smith.

Hardly before the judgment was entered in the records, the successful plaintiff in one of the divorce actions was knocking at the license bureau door. He is the father of two little tots, one now in the custody of his mother and the other in his care. Times have changed since he was first married, and there was disappointment when he learned that he would have to have a health certificate. Said to have favored no delay, the not-as-yet cooled divorcee took his North Carolina bride-elect and left for unannounced points possibly to a clinic where the health tests could be effected without delay and where a ceremony could be arranged before nightfall.

Proceedings of the court: Showing great patience the court decided to wait until Roosevelt Fagan completed a sentence on the roads before calling him to answer in the case charging him with larceny and receiving.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with an assault with intent to kill, Garland Bailey was sentenced to the roads for eighteen months. Watchful parole board representative, Steve Kenney, took the victim in tow and the court placed him (Bailey) on probation for three years with the understanding that the \$200 doctors' and hospital bills be paid along with the costs of the case.

Ernest Johnston, charged with forgery on four counts, pleaded guilty in all cases, and was sentenced to the roads for a term of 12 months in each case, the sentences to run concurrently. He was placed on probation for three years.

Albert Williams was sentenced to the roads for a period of two to five years in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Onnie Hopkins drew from two to eight years in State's prison for breaking and entering and larceny.

James Curtis Nicholson, charged with drunken driving and larceny and receiving, was sentenced to the roads for a period of 12 months on the first count. In the second instance, he was sentenced to the roads for a period of three years, the sentence to begin at the expiration of the first. The three-year term was suspended on condition that the defendant reimburse Mrs. J. A. Eason \$600 damage done to the car when he wrecked it. Nicholson is to remain of good behavior for three years and make stipulated payments the first of each month in accordance with the terms of the judgment. Capias is to be issued upon failure to meet judgment terms.

Willie Purvis was sentenced to prison for a term of not less than two and not more than five years in the case charging him with an assault with intent to kill.

Willie B. Jackson drew six months on the roads in the case charging him with an assault and theft.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Jasper Roebuck pleaded guilty of an assault on a female and was sentenced to the roads for two years. Judge Harris suspending the sentence on condition that the defendant be law abiding for four years and refrain from (Continued on page six)

Road Commissioner On Inspection Trip

Carroll Wilson, district highway commissioner, is rapidly completing a detailed study of the highways in the fourteen counties under his supervision. Coming here last Friday afternoon, the Roanoke Rapids editor reviewed road conditions over the county, reports stating that he was much interested in the secondary roads.

Meeting with several county citizens, Mr. Wilson explained the limitations for secondary road construction, and would make no promises. Possibly more secondary road building would have been possible were it not for greater demand for improved main highways in connection with the defense program.

During his stay in the county he gained a complete picture of the road problems, and he was said to have shown much interest in needed improvements.

United Service Organization Drive Just About Completed

Although two townships have not yet reported and three others have not yet reached their quota, the United Service Organizations drive in this county was announced virtually completed by County Chairman R. H. Goodmon last night. Delayed reports and other contributions will be received direct by Rev. John W. Hardy, treasurer of the county unit.

The quota for this county has been more than subscribed, but the excess contributions and all other donations will be used in promoting the work in this county. The general public knows little about it, but individuals and rooming houses having been caring for "stranded" service men, and other considerations have been shown the young men in uniform. It is good to know that someone has been looking after the young men, but the meeting in the Legion Hut last night frankly stated that it was hardly fair to expect any one individual to carry the whole load. Plans are still going forward

for housing the young travelers in a special center, possibly in rooms to be built under the legion hut.

To date, the county has raised \$745.15, Elder P. E. Getsinger reporting last night that Griffins had gone over the top and could be depended upon for more if and when needed. Only two townships, Bear Grass and Hamilton, have not yet reported. The following table shows the quotas and amounts reported:

District	Quota	Raised
Jamesville	\$ 50	\$ 63.40
Williams	20	8.35
Griffins	40	46.50
Bear Grass	40	
Williamston	300	388.20
Cross Roads	40	34.85
Robersonville	120	120.00
Poplar Point	20	20.00
Hamilton	40	
Goose Nest	50	32.30
Totals	\$720	\$713.40
Offering		31.55
		\$745.15

Judge Harris Calls for School Bus Inspection

PERMANENT Pleads For Greater Safety on Highway In Charge To Jury

Martin County's last temporary or one-time grand jury is winding up its affairs today, the old system having served the cause of justice in this county for around 167 years. Next September and under a special act passed in the last session of the North Carolina General Assembly, a more-or-less permanent grand jury will be chosen.

Nine of the eighteen men will be chosen to serve for one year, the other nine to serve for six months. The group serving six months will be succeeded by a group who will serve 12 months beginning next March.

Expect Show-Down Between Russia And Hitler Before Long

World Is Guessing Outcome of Pending Developments Between Countries

The world today is patiently waiting the outcome of a strained situation existing between Russia and Hitler, observers claiming that it calls either for closer collaboration between the two countries or actual warfare. Needing oil and other supplies badly, Hitler is making new and greater demands on Russia with his eyes on the territory annexed by Russia since the war started and also on the Baku oil fields and the Ukraine bread basket.

The Russian, people are fast becoming suspicious of Hitler's tactics, and Stalin is apparently worried over the powerful might he will have to battle if Germany's demands are not met. It is a tenuous situation as it exists today with at least one million German soldiers either on or marching toward the German-Russian border to enforce Nazi demands.

Reports that Russia had ordered a complete mobilization of her troops could not be verified, but reliable information indicated that the Red Army was ready for any eventuality.

No startling news has come from the war front during the past few days, but heavy fighting has been reported in Africa and in Syria. The Royal Air Force is continuing heavy assaults on industrial Germany and successful raids were made on invasion points along the French coast last night.

In Africa the British forces took the Nazis by surprise in a spirited attack, and the drive is pushing on toward Tobruk. In Syria, the Vichy (yellow) government forces are offering a stubborn defense and Damascus has not been taken. One report stated that the Vichy French had counter-attacked, but the successes were limited.

Irritated by action of the United States government in "freezing" all German and Italian funds and closing all German consulates in this country, Hitler has already sent out orders of retaliation. All American property in Germany has been ordered confiscated, and some see the (Continued on page six)

Mill Whistle Hangs And Exhausts Itself Monday

Activity on Williamston's industrial front was proclaimed loud and long at 5:30 yesterday morning when a steam whistle at the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company plant lunged and blew itself out. For more than ten minutes, the whistle poured out its screams which lasted until the steam in the boiler had escaped.

Estranged Husband Narrowly Misses A Stay In The Jail Here

W. R. Copeland Placed in the Custody of Sheriff Until Alimony Is Paid

W. Robert Copeland, formerly of Williamston, narrowly missed a stay in the county jail here yesterday when he was called before Judge W. C. Harris in superior court to show cause why he had not complied with a judgment and later an order of the court directing the payment of alimony to his former wife.

Explaining that he had a \$200 gas bill and claiming that he must pay that bill, the defendant declared that he could not pay the alimony. Judge Harris, in turn, explained that the alimony was to come first, and if it could not be paid the defendant was to be taken into custody by the sheriff. The court completed its business and the judge and others left. Asked if he could pay the amount past due, Copeland said, "No." Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Jailer Roy Peel were taking their new charge to the jail when the defendant turned to the court clerk and effected settlement satisfactory to the court officer.

The exact amounts due were not immediately disclosed, but the plaintiff's attorney explained that the defendant was behind about \$312.50 according to an old judgment of the court, and \$92.50 behind under a more recent order of the court. Brought into court some time ago, the defendant was ordered to pay \$50 a month alimony. When he fell behind with his payments, he was ordered to pay \$37.50 twice each month until the payments were brought up to date.

Whether a new judgment will be entered in the case today could not be learned immediately.

The defendant, traveling with his second wife in a big Chrysler automobile, returned to his home in North Wilkesboro late yesterday afternoon.

This Week In Defense

President Roosevelt, declaring a strike at the North American Aviation plant in Inglewood, Calif., was impeding the defense program, ordered the Army to operate the plant after workers rejected Mediation Board terms for settlement. Two days after taking over, the Army reported "100 per cent efficiency" with all employees returned to work. The President said plants which he might be forced to place under Federal control will be returned to private management as soon as possible.

The House voted for an amendment to the 1942 Army appropriation bill to prohibit the payment of funds to any individual or company failing within 10 days to abide by Mediation Board recommendations for settlement of disputes. The Senate approved a declaration that strikes or lockouts in defense industries are "contrary to sound public policy."

The Mediation Board announced settlement of three labor disputes, including the dispute of the soft coal industry. The U. S. Conciliation Service announced settlement of 34 additional disputes.

SELECTIVE SERVICE—Selective Service Headquarters ordered reclassification of all registrants "impeding the defense program." The order said "the citizen who has been deferred because of the job he is performing in the national defense program cannot expect to retain the status of deferment when he ceases to work on the job for which he was deferred."

The Senate approved a bill to defer men who reach their 28th birthday by July 1 of this year, except those already in the service.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS—The State Department announced sinking of the American freighter Robin Moor in the south Atlantic by a German submarine. Announcing the rescue of only 11 of 46 persons forced to abandon the ship, Under Secretary Welles told the press that international law requires precautions must be taken for the safety of passengers and crew before a ship is sunk.

SHIPS—The OPM granted full priority for materials necessary in the building of 289 merchant ships for U. S. and Great Britain and the 312 special lease-lend vessels.

OPM Production Director Biggers, speaking at Quebec, said "almost every ship now building in our rapidly expanding yards is ahead of schedule." The Maritime Commission directed the Southern Pacific Company to deliver for national defense purposes its entire fleet of 10 vessels (66,000 tons), formerly used in coastwise trade.

LEASE-LEND AID—President Roosevelt reported to Congress that \$75,232,425 of war materials have been transferred to the democracies since enactment of the lease-lend law and \$4,277,412,879 has been allocated for further aid out of the \$7,000,000,000 provided by Congress. He said that work has started (Continued on page six)

Prosecution of Delinquent Listers Placed In Lap Of County Court; Period Of Grace Recommended

Expecting Big Boll Weevil Infestation In State This Year

Estimated Farmers Will Lose One Or Two Bales Out of Ten If Not Careful

Are there any cotton farmers who can afford to lose, unnecessarily, one or two of every ten bales, and from 10 to 20 per cent of their cotton seed? Can North Carolina's cotton farmers as a whole afford to lose, unnecessarily, five or ten or fifteen million dollars? The answers are so obvious they need not be given.

But cotton farmers in Martin County will lose one or two or more bales in every ten, and the cotton farmers as a group will lose many millions of dollars if they are not careful. Boll weevils, if farmers are not diligent in fighting them, will cost as much as we have suggested, and perhaps much more. The time to make that fight is now.

Boll weevil damage in North Carolina has been as high as 26 per cent of the lint and seed crop; and in 1939 the damage was 23 per cent. Such losses would be disastrous now, more disastrous than they were in the years they occurred, because taxes and the cost of living in general are higher now. It will be tragic, and also inexcusable, if we let weevils thrive this year. We know how to kill them, and we know something else—the emergence of boll weevils this spring is seriously alarming in some states.

At the Pee Dee, South Carolina, Experiment Station the boll weevil emergence in early May of this year was more than 200 times as great as in the same period last year.

The winter of 1940-41 was perfect for weevil preservation. Therefore the cotton farmers face the possibility of weevil damage such as they have not suffered in several years. The hot, dry May has not killed the old weevils.

Last year the weevil damage was only one per cent. In 1939 it was 23 per cent. In 1938 it was 26 per cent. Over a period of ten years, the average has been more than 10 per cent. But there is no reason why it should be that high, and certainly no reason why it should rise to 20 per cent, or higher. It can be held to a much smaller figure.

How? By a proper and diligent use of the 1-1-1 mixture. Every farmer may get full directions from his county agent, or directly from North Carolina State College, or from his nearest cottonseed oil mill. Also he can learn from any of these sources how to obtain the molasses and calcium arsenate necessary for the mixture. The third ingredient is water.

At a cost of about 75 cents in out-of-hand money (for 3 applications), an acre of cotton may be protected from excessive weevil damage. And that investment of 75 cents, plus a few hours labor, easily may be worth from five to ten dollars in additional income from cotton lint and cotton seed.

Last year the total value of North Carolina's lint and seed was close to \$44,000,000. Last year the yield per acre was the highest ever known in this State—427 pounds. The use by thousands of farmers of the 1-1-1 mixture is part of the explanation of that value and of that yield.

What will the figures be for 1941? No one knows. We cannot control weather. But we can control weevils if we begin fighting them now; and unless we do, we can be certain that cotton figures for 1941 will be discouragingly if not disastrously low.

North Carolina is a cotton producing State, and must remain a cotton producing State if our economic picture continues. It can do that, and become more and more prosperous. But, to do so, it must win the annual battles with boll weevils, those fifth columnists of the cotton fields.

Few Have Signed In Cotton Stamp Plan

Less than a dozen Martin County merchants to date have made plans to participate in the surplus cotton marketing plan, according to a report coming from the office of the county agent. That there will be others to cooperate is certain, but arrangements should be made as soon as possible. The first of the cotton trade stamps will be distributed among the approximately 450 cooperating farmers in the county during early July.

The stamps to be issued the farmers will be accepted by cooperating merchants in exchange for strictly cotton goods. The stamps are turned over to cooperating banks by the merchants for collection. Any merchant handling cotton goods may participate in the program by contacting the office of the county agent.

BROKEN

This section's long dry spell has been definitely broken! While plows continued to run in some communities, others reported the land too wet for plowing, all agreeing that they have had a good season to date.

The week-end rains dealt the backbone of the drought a staggering blow. At this point the largest rain—2.09 inches—since last August 14th was recorded. It was followed by a heavy shower Sunday night. Nearly all of the 2.09 inches last Saturday night fell in about 40 minutes. Hugh Spruill at the river station, that much hail fell in that neighborhood. Little hail was reported elsewhere, and no general damage was reported. So far this month, 4.29 inches of rain have fallen at this point.

Two Motor Vehicle Wrecks In County Over the Week-end

Several Person Badly Hurt; Merry-go-round Burns Near Here Sunday

Two persons were badly injured and two others were slightly hurt in two motor vehicle accidents on the highways, in this county last week-end. Resulting property damage skyrocketed to a new high record. Patrolman Whit Saunders estimating the loss in excess of \$10,000 for the two-day period.

H. U. Peel, Bear Grass Township farmer, and his 10-year-old daughter, Polly, were hurt when their car struck a Virginia Electric and Power Company service car on the Washington Highway near the Paul Lilly filling station last Saturday night about 10 o'clock. He suffered a severe chest injury and a broken rib. His mouth was also bruised and cut. His daughter suffered a broken nose and a dangerous cut just over one of her eyes. Mrs. Peel was slightly bruised. C. B. Clark, sitting in the parked service truck holding a spotlight on W. S. Garris who was repairing a damaged transformer on

a pole, was slightly bruised and terribly frightened. Parked several feet off the hard surface, the light service truck was knocked about 55 feet down the highway and almost across the road. Peel stated to Patrolman Saunders that he was blinded by lights.

Damage to the car and small truck was estimated at \$100.

Loaded with the Crescent Amusement Company's merry-go-round, a truck and trailer turned over on U. S. Highway 64 at Peter Swamp between here and Jamesville Sunday morning about 9:30 o'clock. Started by leaking gas, fire burned the truck and the merry-go-round, unofficial estimates placing the loss at \$10,000. James H. Elliott, of East Lake and driver of the truck, was only slightly hurt on the leg. The property was partially covered by insurance, it was learned.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman Saunders stated that the steering apparatus apparently locked, causing the driver to lose control. The truck went off a small embankment and turned over. The local fire department received a call, which stated that a truck was burning just below Jack Daniel's filling station on the Jamesville road. The firemen carried the truck beyond the creek, and thinking the fire had been put out and the truck had moved on they turned around. The location was later determined and the apparatus was carried out a second time, but nothing could be done to save the truck and merry-go-round. Two large tires were removed from the rear wheels of the trailer.

The amusement company was moving its equipment to Hertford after making a one-week stand here. Local little tots were greatly disturbed when they learned the merry-go-round had burned down.

It was a busy week-end for Patrolman Saunders who in addition to investigating the accidents, arrested three drunken drivers, three drunks on the highways, and a driver for operating an automobile without an operator's license.

Man Arrested Twice On "Drunken Driving Charge"

Arrested early Sunday night for alleged drunken driving, Howard Cherry, young Martin County man after being released under bond was back in the jail yesterday on a similar charge. Cherry was arrested on Sunday night when he ran Patrolman Whit Saunders off the highway near Sweet Water Creek. He was arrested by Corporal Long of the highway patrol yesterday noon in Williamston. Placed under a \$200 bond, Cherry had not been released early this afternoon.

Grand Jury Returns 1.225 Names To The Courts For Action

Prosecution Will Be In Order At End Of 30 Days in County Court

The final round-up of approximately 1,225 Martin County citizens who for one reason or another did not list their holdings or poll for taxation as of January 1, 1941, is scheduled to get underway on or about the middle of July as a result of an order handed down by Judge W. C. Harris in the Martin County Superior Court here late yesterday afternoon.

The recent action by the court advances the round-up several months from the former schedule calling for the issuance of warrants following action by the grand jury with the prosecutions to follow in the next term of the superior court in September. Judge Harris in a special order offered the opinion that any prosecution of delinquent listers could be handled more advantageously in the county recorder's court, and ordered the list turned over to the prosecuting attorney of the county recorder's court with the recommendation that thirty days notice be given the delinquents, and that upon failure of any one of the parties to list and pay his taxes, a warrant be issued immediately.

Prepared by county tax authorities at the direction of the March grand jury, the list was placed before the court for action. Judge W. C. Harris, presiding over the short term of the superior tribunal issued the following order:

"The Grand Jury having returned into court the attached list of delinquent taxpayers of Martin County, the court being of the opinion that it would be more expedient that any prosecution of these delinquent taxpayers be handled through the recorder's court of Martin County,

"It is hereby ordered that said list be delivered by the sheriff of the county to the prosecuting attorney of the recorder's court with recommendation that thirty days notice be given to each of said delinquent taxpayers by mailing each of them a notice and publish in the county paper and that upon failure of any one of said parties to list and pay taxes up to and including 1941 a warrant be issued in the recorder's court—of Martin County against such delinquent taxpayers."

Unable to determine a list with absolute accuracy because nicknames, initials, part names were substituted for full names and because listings were some times effected in the wife's name, the tax authorities finally submitted a list of 1,225 names which, according to the records checked against the draft registration, the election poll books and the 1941 automobile registration, did not appear on the books for general taxation. It is reasonably certain that there are duplicates in the three lists that some of those whose names could not be found on the tax books are actually listed.

The county officials and the tax authorities have done everything possible to limit the list of names to those who did not list their properties, but it is possible that there are some names there that should not be there. However, in the interest of those taxpayers who are anxious to round up those who for one reason or another dodge their fair share of the burden. It is a fairly well established fact that about one out of every nine citizens in the county is not acknowledging his debt to society (Continued on page six)

Negro Bible School Has Large Opening

The Daily Vacation Bible School opened at Shiloh Baptist Church on Monday morning with an enrollment of 218 students and 18 workers.

The school was opened by Rev. J. H. Smith, of the Memorial Baptist Church, with a very inspiring worship service. The students entered into the service wholeheartedly.

The memory lesson for the week is the 100th Psalm.

The students were divided into various sections for enrollment and study groups. The enrollment was so large that the Junior and Intermediate groups were transferred to the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Edith Evans of Kelford, was sent by the State board to assist the Bible school workers in getting organized.

A larger enrollment is expected within the next few days. The money collected during the two weeks will go toward the Red Cross fund for Refugee Children, but no tuition fee is asked and only free-will offerings are taken.