

Judge W.H. Coburn Calls Fifteen Cases In Recorders Court

Solicitor Don. E. Johnson Home From School To Prosecute Docket

Judge W. H. Coburn and Solicitor Don E. Johnson had a lengthy session of the county recorder's court before they cleared the docket last Monday. Calling fifteen cases, the judge held the court in session until almost one o'clock. A large number was present for the proceedings, and some comparatively "stiff" road sentences were meted out during the more than three-hour session. Solicitor Johnson, studying Diesel engineering at State College, Raleigh, in connection with the nation's defense program, was home for the day to prosecute the docket.

Proceedings in the court: The case charging Willie Smith with an assault with a deadly weapon and non support was not prosessed with the defendant subject to be recalled under a new warrant.

Pleading not guilty in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon and disorderly conduct, Jesse Warren was adjudged guilty and was fined \$25. The court costs were also added to the fine. In a second case charging Warren with attempted assault, he was found guilty of simple assault over his own plea of innocence. He was sentenced to the roads for 30 days, the court suspending the sentence upon the guaranteed good behavior of the defendant during the next twelve months. No costs were assessed against the defendant in the second case.

The case charging Joe Frank Mayborn with bastardy was not prosessed with leave.

Pleading guilty in the case charging them with an assault with a deadly weapon, Orlander Brown and Tony Manson were each fined \$10 and taxed with one-half the court costs.

Fined \$25 and taxed with the cost in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon, Horace Dixon appealed to the higher courts. Bond was fixed at \$200. The case originated when crime went on a rampage in Williamston during a week-end several weeks ago.

The case charging Linwood Williams, of Jamesville, with an assault with a deadly weapon, was continued until next Monday.

A continuance was also granted in the case charging W. K. Parker with failing to list property for taxation.

Charged with an assault and robbery, Jasper Roebuck was not guilty of an assault, and the case was not prosessed as to the robbery charge.

Ben Little failed to answer when called in the case charging him with disorderly conduct and carrying a concealed weapon. Papers were ordered issued by the court for his immediate arrest.

The case charging Brownie Whitehurst with an attempted assault was continued until October 20th.

John Moran, charged with the larceny of a dollar from a child at the fair ground last week, was sentenced

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Officers Wreck Two Plants In the County

Following a period of little activity, Martin County ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck, assisted by Deputies Haislip and Roy Peel, and Jim Manning resumed his work in the field this week.

Operating under the cover of darkness and expecting to find an illicit liquor plant in full operation, the officers got a cold reception in Bear Grass Township last Wednesday night about 10 o'clock. The plant while cold was ready for operation, but good fortune smiled down on the owner. The 50-gallon capacity drum was wrecked and the approximately 250 gallons of beer was poured out.

Yesterday morning in Free Union, the officers found after a long search a 50-gallon capacity copper kettle and poured out 450 gallons of beer. The fire was still burning at one of the two plants visited by the officers, but the operator had removed the kettle and hid it almost a mile away from the scene of operations. The officers tracked it down and brought in the copper. The second plant, partly dismantled, was wrecked.

Plan Home-Coming In Hassell Church

Sunday, October 12th, will be observed as annual home-coming day at the Hassell Christian Church. All members, former members, friends and former residents of Hassell are invited to enjoy the services, the fellowship and the basket lunch at noon.

Bible school will be held at 10:00 o'clock. Morning services at 11 a. m. and a visiting minister will speak at 2 p. m. Evening service at 7:30 p. m. with an appropriate closing service for the day. Special announcements and reports will be made at the evening service.

Growers Are Harvesting First Of Current Peanut Crop Today

Basking in a hot summer sun and untouched by rain, the first of the current peanut crop is being harvested or threshed on the farm of Joseph R. Winslow, near Robersonville today. The crop where early diggings were effected is ready for the pickers in other areas. Farmer Winslow dug his crop more than three weeks ago, and as far as it could be learned he is the first to start threshing operations. The threshing schedule will hardly get underway within the next two or three weeks on any appreciable scale. Picker operators are making ready for the season, the office of county register of deeds stating yesterday that 18 operator permits had already been purchased. The office of the county agent is preparing marketing cards for distribu-

tion, and the opening of the marketing season is expected to be somewhat earlier than it was last year, weather conditions being favorable.

The condition of the peanut crop is hard to guess. However, it is generally agreed that production will fall considerably below the record reported last season. Farmer Winslow, harvesting 25 acres this season, believes he will get no more than fifteen bags per acre against an average of 25 picked last year. The quality ranges from fair to good.

No price quotations have been listed in recent days, the marketing service stating that no goobers had been offered for sale. It has been rumored that the market will open around five cents a pound, but buyers and millers are withholding comment on the market outlook.

SWIFT

Given final approval only this week, the Farm Life gymnasium project will be completed in time for play by early December, according to predictions coming from citizens in the community yesterday.

Plans are being studied and arrangements are being effected for starting work on the structure within the next few days, Louis Roberson, builder-in-charge, said. Carpenters and helpers are volunteering their services, for the most part, it was learned.

Tobacco Allotment For County In 1942 Same As For 1941

Total of 9,521.4 Allotted To Approximately 1600 Martin Farmers

Despite uncertain conditions on the world front and in the marketing field, the tobacco acreage allotment for this county and the State will remain unchanged another year, the office of the county agent was notified this week by E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive at State College. Martin County tobacco farmers, numbering approximately 1,600, have been allotted 9,521.4 acres for the cultivation of the golden leaf, the acreage being the same as that allotted for the current year. The allotment was based on an average per acre poucentage of 960 pounds, or about 100 pounds more than the average for the State, as a whole. The allotment for the entire State is 513,676.3 acres.

Good, flue-cured tobacco prices on all markets this season have cheered farmers and promised good returns for future crops "as long as we farmers continue to plant only the amount of tobacco for which there is a demand," Mr. Floyd said.

The AAA officer explained improved prices this year as having resulted from a stronger domestic demand a crop reduction of 20 per cent due to unfavorable weather conditions.

"We may grow considerably more tobacco on the same acreage next year, however, if 'seasons' are right," Mr. Floyd continued.

Agricultural leaders from flue-cured tobacco states and federal AAA officials agreed at a recent food-for-freedom conference in Memphis, Tenn., to maintain 1941 flue-cured tobacco allotments another year. Flue-cured leaf is subject to marketing quotas until 1943 when farmers again may vote on the question of marketing allotments.

"It should be remembered," Mr. Floyd explained, "that a big part of the foreign demand for our domestic tobacco has been lost because of the war, and that means the planting and marketing of tobacco will have to be more carefully planned and handled in an even more orderly fashion than heretofore. We tobacco farmers are fortunate in that circumstances have permitted a continuation of 1941 allotments."

Commissioners Will Value Right-of-way

Unable to gain a right-of-way over the lands of J. G. Staton along the Washington Highway for its power lines, the Virginia Electric and Power Company a few weeks ago resorted to condemnation proceedings against the defendant. It was pointed out that the road had been designated as a defense highway, and that the company had been ordered to move its pole line a distance of not less than fifty feet from the middle of the highway.

Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne this week named Woodrow Tice, S. E. Manning and Garland Coltraine as members of a special commission to appraise the damage, if any, that will result from the change in the location of the line. The special commissioners are to make their survey next Wednesday morning at ten o'clock. Appeals from the special proceedings finding to the superior court are possible.

Marriage License Issuance Is Fairly Stable In County

Thirteen Couples Marry in County During Month Of September

After reaching the fairly high number of twenty back in June, the issuance of marriage licenses in the county is now maintaining a fairly stable trend. Dropping to twelve in July, the number of licenses issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getzinger climbed to thirteen in August and held to that figure in September. The record would indicate that young couples get married when they get ready and not in any particular month. There is one possible exception, however, and that month is December when the bureau ordinarily issues from thirty to fifty licenses.

Last month there were seven licenses issued to white and six to colored couples. For a goodly number of years, the number of colored marriages was far greater than the white marriages, but the trend has taken a fairly definite turn with the whites holding the advantage in numbers. In 1933 there were 103 white and 166 colored couples married in the county. The following year the count stood 116 white and 165 colored. In 1935, the gap began to close when 122 white and 129 colored couples were married in the county. A year later, the number of colored marriages gained slightly, 139 to 117, but in 1937 the count stood 147 white and 146 colored marriages. The number of colored marriages gained over the whites in 1938, but since that time there have been more marriages among the county's white population than among the colored race.

Licenses were issued of the following couples last month in this county:

White

James Exodus Moore, of Norfolk, and Alice Virginia Coltraine, of Robersonville.
Mack W. Ange, of Plymouth, and Irma Marjorie Perry, of Dardens.
Frank Edwards, Jr., and Geneva Adell Robertson, both of Williamston.
Ruby Williams and Sallie Scott, both of Oak City.

Delmus Williams, of Robersonville, and Ethel Bennett, of Williamston.

Ivey Miller Warren, of Plymouth, and Katie Gray Purvis, of Robersonville.

Robert Lee Callahan, of Camp Lee, Va., and Viola Melito, of Erie, Pa.

Colored

Jasper Purvis, of this county, and Loney Cherry, of Pitt County.

Charlie Ben Wilson and Thelma Melton, both of Williamston.

George E. Williams and Lizzie Hassell, both of Williamston.

Sonnie Moore and Hope Basnight, both of Plymouth.

Dave Purvis, Jr., and Annie Mae Johnson, both of Williamston.

Robert Small and Florrie Mae Brown, both of Williamston.

Deep Well Is About Ready For Use Here

Delayed by material shortages and unforeseen mechanical difficulties, work on the town's new deep well is now complete and water from the new source will likely be pumped into the mains within the next day or two or just as soon as the State Health Department approves the supply.

Arrangements were virtually completed several weeks ago to place the well in production, but the contractors, Layne-Atlantic Company, at the direction of their representative, Mr. Jack Sunquist, removed the pump and several hundred feet of pipe and replaced them to eliminate excessive vibration.

Highest Sales Of Season Reported On Market Today

An upward trend in tobacco prices was noted on the market today when new limits were reached by several of the buying companies. The change was centered in the better types of leaf, with most of the others showing added strength.

Farmers declared that the sales today were the best they had seen this season, early estimates placing the average at or above 40 cents. Approximately 125,000 pounds were on the floors today, boosting the total sales for the season to about six and one-quarter million. The average for the season is right at 30 cents.

While a fairly sizable sale is expected next Monday, it is becoming more apparent each day that the supply is diminishing rapidly, and that the markets in the belt are almost certain to chalk up a record for a short season.

Battle Participant Tells of Harrowing Experience In War

J. Oliver, Washington County Man, Working in Lower Part of County Now

John L. Oliver, 30-year-old native of Washington County, returned to his old home this week after nearly 15 months of service with the Royal Canadian Air Force, during which he took part in over 20 raids over Germany and German-occupied France, as well as being present when the British withdrawal from Dunkirk, France, took place in the spring of 1940.

Mr. Oliver had a rank of quartermaster sergeant major in the Canadian air force, serving as a gunner with Bomber Section No. 2, Fifth Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force. He received an honorable discharge from the service in May of this year as the result of injuries received when the motor went dead on a plane in which he was a gunner, the ship cracking up in the English Channel. Mr. Oliver said that when he enlisted in October of 1939 he "asked for action—and got it at Dunkirk, Scapa Flow and Dover" during the 14 months and 11 days he was in active service.

His airplane cracked up in November, 1940, and after he was rescued from the Channel he was taken to Westminster Hospital in London, where he had another narrow escape during the intense bombing raids last winter. A German bomb scored a direct hit on the west wing of the hospital, blowing it to bits, while Oliver, in the east wing, said he was yelling to be moved. After remaining in the London hospital from November to some time in January, he had recovered sufficiently to make the trip, so he was moved to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Canada. Following his recovery, he was discharged in May of this year and returned immediately to the United States.

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Baptismal Service Held In Bath Tub

Joining the Primitive Baptist Church during a special service held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Z. D. F. White in Robersonville this week, Charlie James, Pitt County man, was baptized in the bath tub there. Here's water right here, why wait, Mr. James reasoned, and the baptismal service was consummated without delay.

It is one of the few times on record that a bath tub was used for a baptismal service. While the practice is really unusual, it is all right and may become a more common custom if the dry weather continues to dry up the creeks and other small streams in the county. Several churches have found it necessary to change their places of baptism in the county during recent weeks.

P. T. A. TO MEET

The Williamston Parent-Teacher Association will hold its second meeting of the school year next Wednesday afternoon in the high school auditorium beginning at 3:30 o'clock. Mrs. John Goff, chairman of the program committee, announces that a special program with the general theme of "Security" has been arranged. A feature of the program will be a showing of two films, "Security for Today and Tomorrow" and "Families without Fear."

Delinquent Tax List Is Smallest In Many Years

Collections Largest Reported by County In Quarter Century

Less Than 500 of More Than 8,000 Accounts Remain Uncollected

Favored by a bountiful harvest and fair prices this fall, Martin County taxpayers, for the most part, moved to clear their tax obligations from the books. Reporting the largest collection percentage in nearly a quarter of a century, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, the collector, declared that the record is really an encouraging sign on the financial front in this garden spot of the world. Leaning over backwards to overlook the number of delinquents, the sheriff takes a front seat when it comes to pointing out the big reduction in the delinquent list and the amount of taxes unpaid on real estate.

Appearing for the first time in accordance with the law which provides for a sheriff's sale of the delinquents' property on the first Monday in November, the tax list carries 491 names against 696 and unpaid taxes in the sum of \$8,683.25 as compared with \$13,497.74 a year ago. It has been an unusually good year for tax collections, the office of the sheriff stating that several thousands of dollars in back taxes had been collected during the past few months. There are two reasons for the splendid collection of back taxes. The improved financial situation was an important factor, but court action, suggested by Commissioner Carstarphen and other members of the board, really brought in the bacon.

Improved conditions in all the townships are reflected in the delinquent list. For the first time on record, a township, Poplar Point, had no delinquents in the advertising list. Only two townships, Williamston and Robersonville, had more than 100 delinquents among their real estate owners. Bear Grass dropped to a low of five, and Griffin's seven owed only \$39.99 when the deadline for collections was reached.

While it may be fair, it is certainly hard on some who owed as little as seven cents and who because they could not or did not pay the small amount had to have their accounts advertised for sale along with those owing several hundred dollars. A comparative study of the delinquent list while showing a marked improvement in the financial situation, reveals that the accounts, for the most part, are against the same properties that were advertised last year and the year before. Seen in the public print year after year for several years, the accounts are finally cleared by the property owners or the property changes hands and the new owners settle the accounts. It is a long drawn-out procedure, but so far this county has acquired very little property through the default route.

It is quite likely that many of the delinquent accounts appearing for the first time today will be paid and cleared from the list before the sheriff's sale on the first Monday in November. While the delay will add some cost to the accounts, the property owners can hold the cost to a minimum by paying before the sheriff's sale is handled.

A late report on personal property collections for the year 1940 is not available, but it is understood that those accounts have been whittled to a low point, if not to a record figure.

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Malarial Survey By Health Department

In a very general report to the board of county commissioners this week, Health Officer John W. Williams briefly told about a malarial survey now underway in the county, and mentioned a few other activities in the county health department.

According to the officer, 2,500 malarial tests have been made among children in the first six grades. All white children in the grades with the exception of those in the Gold Point school had been tested prior to the time the report was prepared. Tests in the several colored schools in the upper part of the county had been delayed when the schools were closed by farm activities. The State department is to cooperate in the survey, it was pointed out.

Although the Works Progress Administration is no longer connected with the program, the sanitation project continues in the county through private construction, the report stating that additional objects are dotting the landscape from time to time.

Pre-natal clinics are being well attended over the county with one exception, but it is understood that the drive against syphilis is dragging.

CANDIDATE

Appointed all-time tax collector for Martin County this week, M. Luther Peel is not certain of his status as a member of the board of town commissioners, some saying that he can hold an elective office along with an appointive office and others saying that his recent appointment would disqualify him as a member of the board. While it is generally believed that he can legally hold both posts, a ruling has been asked of the attorney general.

During the meantime, the shake-up in the county system is having its reverberations in the town's governmental system. Mrs. Fannie Grist Stator in an informal announcement yesterday declared she would be a candidate for the position made vacant by Mr. Peel's resignation, if he does resign. The position made vacant by resignation is filled by board appointment.

Name Committees For Another Year In Martin County

Few Changes Made in County Agricultural Conservation Personnel

Holding their annual farm elections this week, Martin County farmers placed a stamp of approval on the old set-up when they re-elected with only two or three exceptions the old community members of the county agricultural conservation association. While much interest was shown in some of the districts, there were hardly enough farmers present in other communities to carry on the elections. In Williamston last evening, only three farmers reported voluntarily, and only after calling seven other farmers was it possible to go ahead with the election.

Several of the old committeemen resigned, and a few changes were made within one or two of the community committees.

On Wednesday, October 29th, delegates to the county convention will meet and elect a county committee which will head up the farm program in the county for the next year.

The results of the elections as announced by the office of the county agent, follow with the chairman named first, vice chairman, second, regular member, third, first alternate, fourth, second alternate, fifth, delegate to county convention, sixth, and alternate delegate to the county convention, seventh, some serving in two places:

Jamesville: C. C. Martin, C. G. Gurkin, A. L. Modlin, J. Carl Griffin, W. W. Walters, C. C. Martin and C. G. Gurkin.

Williams: R. J. Hardison, O. S. Green, Joe Perry, Joe L. Coltraine, W. D. Gurganus, R. J. Hardison and O. S. Green.

Griffin: George C. Griffin, Asa J. Hardison, J. C. Gurkin, N. R. Peel, B. F. Lilley, George C. Griffin and Asa J. Hardison.

Bear Grass: T. L. Robertson, H. G. Harrison, Joseph S. Griffin, W. S. Rogers, Dalmus Rogerson, T. L. Robertson and W. M. Harrison.

Williamston-Poplar Point: M. L. Peel, R. T. Griffin, W. M. Hardison, Johnny Gurkin, E. L. White, R. T. Griffin and H. A. Bowen.

Cross Roads: W. L. Ausbon, J. F. Bailey, G. H. Forbes, H. L. Roebuck, Jesse Keel, W. L. Ausbon and J. F. Bailey.

Robersonville: J. R. Winslow, R. S. Everett, H. H. Robertson, S. T. Everett, A. R. Osborn, J. R. Winslow, and S. T. Everett.

Hamilton: D. R. Edmondson, Woodrow Purvis, W. J. Beach, J. H. Lillard, George A. Oglesby, D. R. Edmondson and Woodrow Purvis.

Goose Nest: H. A. Early, J. F. Crisp, L. L. Harrell, Jack Smith, Julian Mizelle, J. B. Whitfield and Julian Mizelle.

Opening River Fill Early Wednesday

The Roanoke River fill will be opened in its entirety to two-way traffic early next Wednesday morning, Engineer Franks said yesterday. During the meantime, parts of the road are being opened to double traffic almost daily. By tomorrow, all but about three-fifths of a mile of the road will be opened, leaving only that portion of the route between the river and the first new bridge closed to dual travel.

Workers are rapidly rounding up the shoulders, and material has been unloaded and made ready for setting the guard rails which will be constructed at the bridge approaches. It is understood that grass will be planted on the dirt fill to keep it from washing, but there is some doubt if honeysuckles will be transplanted again.

Titanic Battle For Moscow Is Nearing A Serious Climax

Russians, Fighting Desperately, Claim Invaders Check- ed in Vyazma Region

The titanic battle for Moscow with the future fate of the whole world snugly huddled up in it, is believed rapidly nearing a serious climax today as Hitler's hordes continue their push toward the Russian capital.

The great offensive, into which Adolf Hitler hurled 200 divisions—3,000,000 men—including tremendous mechanized forces, raged along a 2,000 mile battle front, but the Germans made their supreme effort in the region of Vyazma, once a rambling country town of two-story wood and stucco buildings that now is in shambles.

Front dispatches said the Germans had been beaten back in several rushes at Vyazma.

The desperate nature of the fighting there was indicated in reports of the encirclement of Soviet detachments commanded by General Ivan Boldin who, early in July, was encircled with his division near Minsk and remained for 45 days behind the German lines before he fought through them to join the main Soviet forces near Smolensk.

Soviet spokesmen compared the situation now to that of the spring of 1918 in the West, when General Erich Ludendorff launched four great offensives in attempt to destroy the Allies before the United States could land effective aid in France. It was believed that Hitler is trying now to break up the Red Army before large-scale supplies of planes, guns and tanks, promised the Soviets under the tri-power agreement, can reach the battlefields.

Accompanying the main thrust, the Germans apparently were trying to strike east from the Novgorod sector, and by way of Orel, 210 miles south of Moscow. The three drives were aimed at the encirclement of Moscow, it was believed, since this would follow the usual German tactics of double or triple breakthroughs, with long pincers eventually closing in on the objective.

While aged men, women and even children are being called into actual combat service to help stem Hitler's supreme effort, the situation in Britain is packed with serious trouble, according to commentaries in their late reports. The British people, little-versed in actual conditions, are even suggesting a shake-up in the Churchill government and calling for more direct aid for the embattled Russians with the possibility of an invasion attempt somewhere in the West.

The only bright spot in the war was painted by members of the special commission sent to Russia by this country and Britain, Member Hariman stating that Russia will fight to the last, that even the fall of Moscow does not mean the defeat of the Soviets.

The serious situation in which the Russians are now in is recognized in this country, and there is a definite trend toward a greater war prepara-

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Extensive Aircraft Maneuvers Planned

During the next several days extensive air maneuvers along the Atlantic Seaboard from Massachusetts to North Carolina will be underway, it was announced yesterday by the office of the Interceptor Command, Mitchell Field, New York. While a number of aircraft will likely be seen in this area, local observation posts will not participate in the tests, and station observers in this county are advised not to report flights.

One report, released earlier in the week, stated that much activity could be expected over this area this afternoon and next Tuesday. The later report indicates that limited operations are to be expected in this vicinity. Ten or more planes were seen over here yesterday, one of them performing a diving stunt near the river.

John C. McDonnell, Brigadier General, U. S. Army, announced that additional exercises are being planned and that observation posts in this county would be asked to participate. Observation stations were created by Mack Wynn in this county several months ago.

Squirrel Hunter Kills Two Bears

Taking his single barrel gun and a few No. 7 shells, Colon Perry, young white man, went out to kill a few squirrels over in Williams Township this morning. Instead of seeing squirrels, the young man saw two bears up an oak tree. The mamma bear started coming down, and Perry fired on her. The first shot only angered the animal, and while the hunter had only a single barrel gun, he operated it as one would an automatic and fired again, the second shot dropping the bear dead to the ground. Three shots were required to knock the cub out of the tree.