



THE ENTERPRISE



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Thirty Civil Cases Awaiting Trial In The Superior Court

Calendar Carries Little Interest and Small Crowds Expected for Term

Thirty cases have been placed on the calendar for trial in the superior court during the two weeks term opening here next Monday. Judge Richard D. Dixon, of Edenton, is scheduled to preside over the term. The calendar, for the most part, carries cases of little interest to the general public, and no large crowds are expected to hear the proceedings. Several divorce cases are slated for trial, but in most instances the court actions are based on minor claims.

About one of the largest suits is the one brought by Geo. Jenkins against J. G. Staton. The plaintiff claims he rented a farm from the defendant for 1942, that before the terms of the contract were met the defendant sold the farm, causing him (the plaintiff) to lose about \$2,000. The damage suit brought by Jas. T. Spencer against W. S. Gurganus involves about the second largest claim scheduled for consideration in the court. The plaintiff alleges that as a result of the defendant's negligence he wrecked his truck, causing a resulting property loss of \$350 and personal damage in the sum of \$1,000. The accident took place near the county home on October 31, 1942.

In the suit of Jos. Wiggins against Sanford Roberson, the plaintiff is claiming possession of 2 1/4 acres of land.

Jake Ruffin in his case against Samuel Ruffin is asking the court to set aside a deed to a house and lot on the claim that he is half owner of the property.

Cary S. Jenkins is asking an accountability of the settlement of the estate of the late Geo. B. Steele in the case against Allie R. Steele.

Suing the Martin County Bottling Works, Howell House claims he is due \$720 under the terms of a contract entered into with the defendant.

Based on two years of separation, the following divorce cases are scheduled for trial: Garland Perry against Alice Hodges Perry; David Bowen against Ruby Mae Bowen; and Mrs. Perlie Stocks against Josh Stocks.

Three cases brought by Brown, Brown and Ellis against Sam Godard, the defendants are asking damages alleged to have resulted from the burning of their lands by the defendant's agents.

Grady James in his case against Aaron Biggs is suing for \$1,500 allegedly due him for caring for a child of the daughter of the defendant from 1937 to October, 1942.

Claiming he bought a farm from M. D. Wilson at a stipulated price, Ben Biggs is now suing the Wilson estate for a deed. A similar case is being brought against the estate by C. C. Whitfield. He is not suing for a deed, but is asking to be reimbursed for improvements made in the land.

(Continued on page six)

Receive Three Fire Calls In A Row Here

The town's fifteen-year-old fire-fighting apparatus was thoroughly aired yesterday and last night when the volunteers answered three alarms. The machine sputtered and balked one time, but the missions were executed without loss or sizable damage.

Yesterday afternoon, the firemen were called to a small grass and trash fire back of the old Greene Oil Station next to the Carolina Tobacco Warehouse on Washington Street. A few squirts of water brought the fire under control.

A few hours later the firemen were called to the humble home of Temple Biggs on South Pearl Street. Starting from a defective flue, the fire burned a small place in the attic. A few boards were ripped off and the fire was checked with a few well-aimed squirts of water.

Shortly after midnight, the automatic fire alarm sounded in the plant of the Williamston Peanut Company, and it was followed by a general alarm. Starting either from machinery friction or a stray spark, fire burned about sixteen square feet in the ceiling and roof of the fourth story. Catching between two automatic sprinkler outlets, the fire had not gained enough headway to trip the automatic system before it was discovered and brought under control with a small hose and extinguishers.

A general alarm was sounded here last Tuesday afternoon at 2:20 o'clock when fire threatened a slice of the business district in Robersonville. The company was preparing to make the run when the chief was advised that the fire was being brought under control. A filling station on the street burned there.

War Bond Sales Lag In This County During Past Month

All-Out Support Is Urged For \$328,800.00 Special War Bond Issue Opening in This County on Monday of Next Week

After running in excess of assigned quotas for the past few months, war bond purchases sagged considerably in this county last month. According to a fairly complete survey, the sales amounted to only \$34,587.50. With a record shorter to handle beginning next Monday, Martin County people apparently went light on the purchases last month, but whatever their motive might be for withdrawing from the bond market it will be reflected in the sales beginning next Monday.

Sales were reported last month as follows: Robersonville: Guaranty Bank, \$5,156.25 and post office, \$2,268.75; Williamston, Guaranty Bank, \$10,293.75; post office, \$3,000; Martin County Building and Loan Association, \$1,518.75, and Branch Banking and Trust Company, \$12,350.00.

Request Ninth School Month For The County

Name Committees In Six Districts For Coming Year

J. C. Manning Re-elected Head of County Schools for Next Two Years

Meeting in regular session this week, the Martin County Board of Education prepared a formal request calling for a nine months school throughout the county during the 1943-44 term. The request was supported by the various district committees, it was learned, and is in keeping with similar action taken throughout the State. Commenting on the request, Superintendent J. C. Manning pointed out that the teacher shortage problem is very likely to be far more serious this coming year than it was last, that in those counties where the authorities request only an eight months school it will be even more difficult to get teachers. It is true that the general labor shortage will be felt in the schools next term, but by shortening the usual holidays, it will be possible to end the term about the middle of May. Some of the schools in the county are not closing this year until about May 5.

Strange as it may seem, the strongest support for the longer term was said to have come from those districts where farming is the main business of the patrons.

While several schools in the county once operated for nine months under special tax supplements, it is the first time that the long term has been scheduled for most of them.

J. C. Manning was re-elected superintendent of the county system for the coming two years.

(Continued on page six)

Trucks Demolished In Crash Near Here

Two trucks, a big Mack loaded with logs and a ton and one-half Chevrolet operating empty, were demolished when they crashed on Highway 125 in front of the J. S. Whitley home at the edge of town Wednesday afternoon at 3:15 o'clock. The vehicle drivers and a passenger miraculously escaped unhurt, but the property damage will exceed \$1,000, it was estimated.

Goldie Ormond, operating the Chevrolet, was driving out of the Whitley driveway when Sam Roberson, colored man known as "Crying Sam", rounded the curve with the big log truck and plowed into the side of the light truck, the big Mack picked it up and carried it down the highway for a distance of about 150 feet, both machines coming to a stop in a ditch with their horns locked. The occupants crawled out under their own power and without a scratch or bruise.

Two salvage crews worked for nearly two hours clearing the wreck. The Williamston Supply Company, owners of the light truck, are finding it difficult to replace the wrecked machine. Critcher Brothers, owners of the big truck, are understood to have replaced their loss with a second-hand machine.

Number of New Car Tires Are Allotted By Ration Board

Liberal Quotas Being Made Available to County for Month of April

The county fell considerably below its quota for March. As far as it could be learned no "E" Bond quota was assigned the county for April, but it is thought that the demand can well be supplied by the \$328,800 special bond quota.

Beginning April 12, the people of this nation are to enter upon an all-out bond purchasing task. Thirteen billion dollars are to be raised. North Carolina has a \$112,000,000 quota, and Martin County people are being asked to buy bonds to the tune of \$328,800. It is a sizable sum all right, but one must remember that this is a sizable war the world has on its hands.

D. V. Clayton, chairman of the drive in this county, and his assistants are looking to all the people for an all-out support in the urgent business.

On the basis of the liberalized quotas, the rationing board this week rationed an increased number of new car tires and tubes, and quite a few other types for both cars and trucks. New automobile tires and tubes were rationed to the following:

State Highway and Public Works Commission, Tarboro, three tires. C. S. Vanlandingham, RFD 1, Williamston, two tires and two tubes. A. Corey, Jamesville, two tires and one tube for minister.

W. J. Beach, Hamilton, two tires for farm. P. M. Holliday, Jamesville, three tires and three tubes. W. O. White, Williamston, one tire for transporting labor.

G. C. Godard, Williamston, one tire and one tube for hauling labor. Joseph Mizelle, RFD 1, Jamesville, three tubes. Mary Louise Taylor, one tire and one tube.

New truck tires were issued to the following:

Edgar Harrell, Oak City, one tire. Edgar Davis, Hamilton, one tire. Holt Evans, Williamston, one tire and one tube. Williamston Supply Co., one tube. M. W. Bissell, RFD 1, Jamesville, one tire and one tube.

N. C. Green, Agent, Williamston, two tires and two tubes. Five recapped truck tires were allowed the Williamston Peanut Company for trucks.

Grade II tires and new tubes were allotted the following:

O. S. Green, RFD 3, Williamston, two tires. J. R. Smith, Robersonville, four tires and two tubes. Daniel G. Griffin, RFD 2, Williamston, four tires. Horton Modlin, RFD 1, Jamesville, two tires.

Simon J. Barber, RFD 1, Jamesville, two tires. T. H. Brown, RFD 1, Jamesville, two tires. Fenner Respass, Williamston, four tires.

Grade III tires were rationed as (Continued on page six)

Larger Catches Are Expected by Fishery

Reduced almost to a bare minimum during the past few days, fish catches in the Roanoke are expected to undergo a marked increase with a return of warm weather.

Freezing temperatures all but wiped out the herring catches earlier in the week, and only small catches are being made today, according to a report direct from the fishery at Jamesville today. Between 300 and 1,200 herring were being taken at a "haul" this morning with the number of rock ranging from four to twelve.

The annual trek to the Roanoke Smokehouse hasn't started as yet, but visitors are expected to start moving in on the fishery and at other points along the stream in great numbers within the next week or ten days. There's a big demand for Roanoke chickens this season, and it is fairly apparent that the supply will not be sufficient to go 'round.

Mayor J. L. Hassell Urges General Clean-Up Drive For Health And Control Of Mosquitoes

By J. L. HASSELL, Mayor of Williamston

An outstanding opportunity for patriotic and public service which will be an active aid to the war effort from the home front, and at the same time definitely promote public welfare, health and safety in our town is to inaugurate a clean up campaign.

Conservation of existing property and critical materials contained in that property, salvage, promotion of the public health and safety, fire prevention and inspiration of the public morale is the goal set in our clean up campaign this spring.

Let us put our property into safe and sanitary condition, remove insect breeding menaces, cut pollen bearing weeds, destroy disease bearing germs and

increase human efficiency. All yards, back lots, vacant lots and vacant store lots must be cleared of trash and rubbish which, if not attended to, is likely to menace health and result in accidents and make a fine breeding place for mosquitoes and other insects.

The Town Commissioners have again this year put on a Mosquito Control Drive which proved very effective last year and special attention should be directed to open cesspools and pools of stagnant water in lots, ditches, cans, barrels, tubs and junk piles.

Without the cooperation of our citizens we cannot make this campaign a success. We are again making war on rats as we find the last campaign proved most successful.

Price Increases Allowed For Several Essential War Crops

Seven-Cent Floor Ordered Placed Under Peanuts with \$8.40 Per Hundred As a Maximum According to The Various Grades and Types

Price boosts have been announced for several farm crops by Food Administrator Chester C. Davis, the out-and-out increases substituting for the \$100,000,000 incentive payments proposed by the Department of Agriculture a short time ago. In other instances, incentive payments will be allowed according to previous announcements, the special list to include potatoes, carrots, snap beans, lima beans, beets, tomatoes, cabbage, onions and green peas.

Efforts to boost production the direct price increase affects peanuts, dry beans, peas, soybeans and flaxseeds. A seven-cent floor has been placed under peanuts with \$8.40 per hundred as a maximum price according to grades and types.

Previously the government had guaranteed a price of \$132 a ton for the Virginia type and \$122 for the runners, the increase being \$8 per ton in each case. These figures are only government guarantees, meaning that the open market is free to boost prices to the maximum of \$8.40 per hundred, the ceiling price. Under the incentive plan, the peanut grower would have received a bonus of \$30 an acre for a portion of his crop.

Soybean prices were boosted from \$1.70 to \$1.80 per bushel, the guarantee being based on 14 per cent moisture content.

On potatoes the incentive payments will be 50 cents per bushel on the normal yield of that part of the farmer's production between 30 and 110 per cent of his goal.

Col. Roosevelt Writes Of County Boy's Death

SIX WAACS

According to an unofficial report, six Martin County young women volunteered their services in the Woman's Auxiliary Army Corps during a one-day recruiting stand here yesterday. The names of the volunteers could not be learned. Lt. Olga B. Taylor and her two assistants interviewed a large number of prospects during the day. It is understood that the recruiters plan to return here the latter part of this month to interview other prospective recruits.

Opening the first WAAC recruiting station here, the party yesterday attracted much attention, especially from the male species. One man is said to have visited the post office a dozen times presumably for his mail but morn'ly likely to learn more about the WAACS. The recruits were guests of the Lions at a special dinner last evening.

Judge J. C. Smith Calls Eight Cases In County's Court

Long Road Term and Substantial Fine Feature Judgments Last Monday

Calling eight cases, Judge J. C. Smith held the county court in session the better part of two hours last Monday with only a fair-sized crowd present for the proceedings. A long road sentence and a substantial fine featured the judgments handed down by his honor. Solicitor Paul D. Roberson prosecuted the docket.

Proceedings: Charged with bastardy, Charlie Staton pleaded not guilty. The evidence did not support the plea and the defendant was sentenced to the roads for six months, Judge Smith suspending the road term on condition that he pay the costs of the case and \$1 a week to Emma Blanche Williams for the support of their child during the next six months. He is to reappear at the end of that time for further judgment.

Charged with drunken driving, John T. Hadley was found not guilty.

(Continued on page six)

Personal Letter To Mr. Whit Moore Was Received This Week

Marine Roland Moore, RFD 3, Williamston, Was Friend Of President's Son

Following a brief message announcing the death of his son, Roland Moore, by drowning, Mr. Whit Moore, of RFD 3, Williamston, this week received a personal letter from the youth's commanding officer, Colonel James Roosevelt. Expressing the great esteem in which the lad was held by the son of President Roosevelt, the letter appears through the courtesy of Mr. Moore, as follows:

In the Field, March 22, 1943.

Dear Mr. Moore: It is my sad duty to inform you of the death, by drowning, in the line of duty, of your son Pfc. Roland Moore, U.S.M.C. I'm writing you this personal note for I feel you would want to know the circumstances and because I wanted to tell you personally how deep a regard I had for him.

Roland has been my orderly and friend ever since the formation of the battalion. He had exhibited a high degree of devotion to duty, an intelligent application of initiative, and a good humor and cheerfulness in all he did which endeared him to all of us. He did so many little things for me, and I felt secure in knowing he would always have us prepared for the job to be done.

His drowning occurred while I was away from camp on a reconnaissance mission. Roland had been assigned to the range for firing practice and he and his group were returning to camp with their full equipment. Just before reaching camp it was necessary to cross a deep swift stream. Roland evidently slipped and hit his head on his rifle. The blow evidently stunned him sufficiently to make him unable to float or swim with the weight of his equipment. His call

(Continued on page six)

Local Lions Observe Sixth Anniversary

The Williamston Lions Club celebrated its 6th anniversary here last night entertaining the wives and friends of the local members in addition to several visiting Lions from the Plymouth and Washington clubs. Approximately 125 members and visitors were on hand for the meeting and celebration, said to be the largest event ever held by the local civic organization.

"It was the finest and the most inspirational meeting ever held by our club," Dr. Walker, president of the club, stated this morning. "Our responsibilities as individuals and as a nation in making every effort to win the war was emphasized and called to the attention of the members and visitors many times throughout the meeting," Dr. Walker said.

Mayor John L. Hassell, speaking as a representative of the town, welcomed the visitors. He was followed by Neil Hester, reporter for the News and Observer, and past district governor, who acted as toastmaster. The main address of the evening was made by Tom Payne, district governor, of Washington, N. C.

The Kiwanis club was represented by John Goff, president, and among the visitors were several WAACS who are here this week asking for recruits.

Nazis Are Believed To Be Making Their Last Move In Africa

British Lose 21 Planes in Carrying Fight to the Ruhr Last Night

Battered and in slow but relentless retreat, the Nazi hordes in North Africa are believed now to be on their way out, either by extermination, surrender or by an attempted Dunkirk. More heavy fighting is likely to follow, but the German forces are now trapped along a narrow strip in Tunisia, with no place for Rommel to hide his gang.

Americans, fighting a stubborn resistance, are believed to have branched out from Kasserine to effect a second union with the British Eighth Army and to join in the case on Rommel's retreating forces up the coastal road. Between twenty and twenty-five thousand of the enemy have been taken prisoners since the fall of the Mareth line to the British, and large amounts of equipment have been abandoned by the fleeing German columns. Back in Germany, the people are being prepared for the shocking news of a complete defeat of the Axis armies or what is left of 250,000 men.

Squeezing in on the enemy on three fronts, the Allies are now moving to block any evacuation plans Rommel may have for his men. British battleships and a large British carrier have joined with other flotilla off Tunis and Bizerte to challenge an evacuation attempt. There is some talk about the Italian fleet making ready for an engagement, and it is possible that Mussolini at the bidding of Hitler will run his battle fleet into action to cover the retreat across the Mediterranean.

The situation in Africa looks good today, but military authorities cast a shadow over the report with the admission that Allied losses have been heavy.

It is now thought that Marshal Rommel, commander of the Afrika Korps, and Marshal von Arnim, commander of the German Tunisian Army, have already deserted or are planning to desert the hot spot in Tunisia and leave an Italian general to fight a delaying action. The two German generals are converging on Italy to make ready a defense against invasion there.

After a three-day rest, the British bomber forces went back into action last night. Four hundred planes attacked the industrial Ruhr Valley and laid waste factories. The attackers lost 21 of their planes.

Large forces of Canadians and Fighting French landed this week in England, and it is understood that more Americans have landed on foreign soil during the past few weeks, indicating that a continued offensive is to be expected after the mopping up operations are completed in Tunisia.

There is a lull on the eastern front with fighting limited to patrol action. The Russians are biding their chance to continue their drive on (Continued on page six)

Twenty-Seven Men Enter The Service

An official audit just released by the draft board shows that twenty-seven Martin County white men were recently accepted for service in the armed forces. Approximately 55 men reported to the induction center last week, the twenty-seven men who passed the examinations returning last Tuesday for active service.

James Nicholas Hardison, Joseph Elbert Ward and Ollis Lilley were accepted by the Marine Corps, and James Dawson Rogerson and Chas. Thomas Mizelle entered the Navy. The following men were accepted by the Army: John Edward Pope, Jr., William Dixon Jones, Edgar Jarvis Gurganus, Benjamin Franklin Holland, James Wiggins Watts, Jr., Henry Thomas Daniel, Alva Rudolph Roberson, Arthur Anderson, William Clayton Wynne, Hugh Millard Martin, Walter Ellis Everett, Orlander Shepherd Green, Garland Benjamin Wynne, Wallace Reid Bullock, Johnny Mallon Whitaker, Henry Willis Hoel, James Mannon Varelift, Staton Roberson Williams, Sidney Ray Lewis, Marvin Brint Manning, Jas. Samuel Roebuck.

It was first reported that only 20 of the group had been accepted by the Army, but it was later learned that one, Benjamin Franklin Holland, waived his seven-day furlough, and that another James Samuel Roebuck, was transferred from another board.

James Ernest Keel, scheduled to report for induction with the group, joined the merchant marine, it was learned.

An unofficial report heard from one of the rejectees stated that 24 of his number were ruled out on account of physical disabilities, and three on account of low literacy standards.