

Divorce Cases Will Be Aired Here Next Week

\$25,000 Damage Suit Scheduled For Trial During Second Week

Number of Divorce Cases Is Largest Ever Placed on Calendar at One Time

Scheduled to complete the trial of criminal cases during the first day of a two-weeks "mixed term," the Martin County Superior Court will crank up its divorce mill next Tuesday. There are twenty-six divorce cases on the calendar, the record of 24 established last November bowing to the earthly march of progress in family relations. Very few other civil cases have been placed on the calendar, and with the exception of the \$25,000 damage suit brought by Mrs. Ruth Vivian Whitaker against the Carolina Coach Company and the Carolina Delivery Service Company, the calendar carries few matters of public interest. The damage suit grew out of a bus-truck wreck in Bethel last April 16 when Mrs. Whitaker, Williamston young woman, was seriously and permanently injured. On her way home from Rocky Mount as a passenger on the defendant company's bus, she was removed to Brown's Community Hospital and was a patient there for months, and continues under the care of doctors. Much legal talent has been called into the case with B. A. Critcher representing the plaintiff and Thorpe and Horton, Smith, Leach and Anderson representing the defendants.

Twenty-four of the divorce cases on the docket are based on two years' separation, the plaintiffs in the others alleged adultery. Those based on the time element follow: Maggie Davis against Harry Davis, Daisy Thompson against Phillip Thompson, Alexander Hodges against Gladys Hodges, Adell James against David L. James, Burt Gorham against Martha Gorham, Annie Gray Beacham against Jim Beacham, James Everett against Elvora Everett, Rossanna Bennett against James E. Bennett, Chas. C. Ebron against Lottie Brown Ebron, Charlie D. Brown against Selvester Brown, Barthonia Bennett against Perry Lee Bennett, King David Rogers against Hazel Lee Rogers, Arthur Duggins against Eula Lee Duggins, Amanda Bess against James Bess, Alonza T. Spruill against Margaret Spruill, Albert J. Doucette, against Ethel Doucette, Margaret Grimes against Nathaniel Grimes, Joseph James against Ida James, Mary Williams against Jas. Edward Williams, Annie E. Williams against John Williams, Kader Brown against Catherine L. Brown, John D. Swimpson against Flossie Lanier Swimpson, Fannie Mae Edmondson against Lanier Edmondson, and Clemmons against Clemmons.

The cases alleging adultery were brought by Marshall Gray Moore, a serviceman, against Winnie Mae Moore, and L. E. Hyman against Ada Hyman. Very few of the divorces are likely to be contested; in fact, the defendants in some cases are waiting for the plaintiffs to finance the actions and free them to go their own way. In the Joseph-Ida James case, the defendant is contesting the action and asking the court for \$75 a month alimony and attorney's fees. Several cases involving boundary lines are on the calendar, including the following: William Little against William Riddick, Noah Roberson

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Chas. Hough Joins Bear Grass Faculty

Professor Chas. Hough yesterday entered upon his new duties as principal of the Bear Grass School. The position had been vacant since the school reopened following the Christmas holidays, all efforts to fill it having failed. The school had operated, more or less, under its own steam, the county superintendent spending as much time as possible there.

Professor Hough, a member of the Jamesville faculty for the past several months, is being succeeded there by Mrs. Lily Pigford of Williamston. Mr. Hough was principal of the Farm Life School for several terms, but quit the profession for farming. He returned to the schools to help relieve the acute teacher shortage.

Two Cars Figure In Minor Accident Near Oak City

Very little damage was done and no one was hurt when two cars, one owned by R. T. Chance and driven by Gus Hopkins, colored of Oak City, and the other owned and driven by Solomon Hyman, colored of Oak City, sideswiped each other near Oak City last Saturday night at 10:30 o'clock. Damage to each car was estimated at \$75 by Cpl. W. S. Hunt of the Highway Patrol.

TRIBUTE

A fitting and beautiful tribute was paid to the memory of Jimmie Watts, local youth who made the supreme sacrifice for his country over Italy the 7th of last month, by the film and theater men of North and South Carolina when they met in Charlotte recently. Meeting there to plan the Red Cross drive in every theater in the two states, the film industry representatives "dedicated their March 15-21 Red Cross drive to the memory of James Wiggins Watts, Jr., son of J. W. Watts, Sr., exhibitor at Williamston, N. C.," according to a story appearing in the current issue of "Boxoffice," national film weekly.

Wreck Victims Able To Leave Hospital

The last of the victims of the bus wreck on the river bridge here last Tuesday afternoon were discharged by the local hospital Sunday afternoon. While several of them will nurse broken limbs for some weeks, all of the approximately thirty persons in the accident are apparently getting along all right now. Hardly before the wreck victims were discharged others were entering the institution. Mr. Willie Gurganus of Bear Grass and Mr. Dawse Coltraine of Williamston entered the hospital Sunday for treatment. Mr. Coltraine was reported quite ill late yesterday afternoon.

Wayne Pate, 9 years old, underwent an operation for appendicitis last Saturday night and is getting along all right.

Mrs. Emma Thompson continues in the hospital, and Mrs. Dorcas Williams, 89 years old of Jamesville, is showing some improvement. She has been in the hospital about two months. J. J. Paynter who broke his ankle a week ago last Sunday, was able to leave the hospital yesterday.

Goose Nest Is Over Its Red Cross Goal

The annual Red Cross War Fund call was liberally answered by Goose Nest Township school pupils, Principal H. M. Ainsley stating that the young people, including those in both the white and colored schools, had contributed a total of \$200.25, an amount 2 cents in excess of the quota allotted the entire district.

One grade, the ninth, taught by Mrs. Dolly Millinder, raised \$21.56 to lead the list in the Oak City white school, the Oak City Ruritan Club boosting the total with a \$26.50 donation.

Contributions were listed as follows: Oak City white school: First grade, \$9.72; second, \$6; third, \$5.65; fourth, \$2.35; fifth, \$6; sixth, \$5.27; seventh, \$4.31; eighth, \$13; ninth, \$21.56; tenth, \$7.30; (eleventh, not listed); twelfth, \$10; commercial department, \$5; Miss Idalia Oglesby, ex-senior, \$2.50, and H. M. Ainsley, \$3.20.

The Oak City colored school raised \$40.50, T. K. Slade, principal, announced, and Whichard-James raised \$31.39.

Former Local Boy Is Credited With Sinking Jap Battleship

Charles Hall Dickey, former Williamston boy, has been credited with sinking a big Japanese battleship in the battle for the Philippines, according to unofficial information received here last week-end. No particulars of the daring and powerful blow could be learned here immediately. The young man, just recently back from the Pacific Theater, wears among his many medals, the Navy Cross, and his fellow servicemen say it was awarded him for sinking the big enemy ship. The reserved youth is said to have admitted the great accomplishment, but that is all he has said about it. In Morristown, Tenn., where the Dickeyes have made their home most of the time since leaving Williamston, a civic club entertained the young aviator, but the members learned little about what had happened in the war as far as he

was concerned, one report reaching here stated.

The son of Mrs. C. H. Dickey and the late Rev. Mr. Dickey, he came here when a little fellow, spent his boyhood here and attended the local schools. On account of failing health, his father resigned as pastor of the Baptist Church and the family moved to Raleigh, and following Mr. Dickey's death they moved to Morristown, Tenn. It could not be learned when he entered the service, but he has been on two long missions in the Pacific, returning from his second by plane early this month after a stay of two years over there. He is a bit nervous and though his face shows he has gone through more than one can imagine, he is getting along very well, according to information received by friends here last week-end.

Local Youth Killed In Parachute Jump From Failing Plane

Body of Jimmie Watts Lies at Rest in Millers Chapel Writes

Jimmie Watts, young son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Watts, Sr., of Williamston, was killed in a parachute jump from a falling plane over Austria on last February 7th, according to information offered in a personal letter just received from William McNeil, Chaplain, United States Army. The letter followed a telegraphic message received from the War Department on February 22nd, announcing the young man's death. Chaplain McNeil, a Methodist minister, said in his letter to Mr. and Mrs. Watts:

"Jim was flying as an engineer-gunner on a Liberator. The plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire over the target, Engine No. 3 was partially disabled, forcing the plane to leave the formation. It began to lose altitude rapidly. The order was given to bail out, but at the time Jim jumped there was no longer time to complete a successful parachute jump. He was pronounced dead upon arriving at a nearby station hospital. I accompanied the body to our beautiful well-cared for military cemetery in Southern Italy. I had a service, giving your son full military honors. While we stood at attention beside the flag-covered casket, taps were blown and we said a prayer for our departed comrade and for those he loved. Each grave is marked by a Cross or a Star of David."

Chaplain McNeil continued, "... Being a Methodist, I was well acquainted with your son. He was often at church and I always shook hands with him at the door, following the services. It is with deep concern I write this letter about his death on February 7, 1945, over Austria."

"It is beyond human understanding to express sympathy to one who has lost a loved one. We understand a little of the grief, if we have experienced a like loss. The Good Book says that when all others forsake us, yet will not the Lord. This spiritual assurance is our only support at these times of grief. Your son gave his life; let us pray that it was not given in vain, but will buy for this world the much-needed Peace and Justice. You have my deepest sympathy and the respect of the whole organization..."

Seriously Wounded, Local Youth Returns

Seriously wounded in the invasion of Leyte in the Philippines last October 28, Pvt. James E. Moore was recently returned to this county and is undergoing further treatment in an Army hospital. In a letter to his mother, Mrs. H. L. Gardner, the young man stated that he hoped to be able to come home for a leave real soon.

The 32-year-old soldier, brother of Miss Helen Moore of Williamston, was so badly hurt that he was unable to write for some time, and a message from his chaplain was not very encouraging at one time. He had been overseas about two and one-half years.

Freight Train Strikes Horse Sunday Afternoon

Breaking out of the lot on the Wheeler Martin farm, a pretty 4-year-old horse valued at \$250 was struck and badly crippled by a freight train near the railroad trestle on West Main Street here last Sunday afternoon. The animal, its back legs broken, was knocked into the highway right under the trestle, and was later killed.

A mule, breaking out of the pasture with the horse, was running down the track ahead of the train, but he chose to jump and roll down the track embankment rather than be trapped on the trestle where the horse was overtaken and struck.

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WOUNDED



Pvt. Winford Mobley was slightly wounded in Germany on February 23, his wife, the former Miss Catherine Wynne, RFD 3, Williamston, was notified last week. In a letter to his wife, Pvt. Mobley stated he was hit in the right shoulder and suffered a broken collarbone, that his shoulder was in a cast. He is getting along all right in a hospital in England, and added that he considered himself very lucky to get by with only a shoulder wound.

Hodges' Men Break Out of Bridgehead For Drive on Ruhr

Russians Clear Last Barrier In Direct March On German Capital

Breaking out of their bridgehead established on the east bank of the Rhine in a daring move less than a week ago, General Courtney Hodges' First Army men are now driving in strength toward Germany's great industrial Ruhr. Late reports state that the First Army started another major drive this morning about one hour before day, that it was making good progress despite stiffening resistance. It is estimated that between 65,000 and 75,000 Americans are across the Rhine in the Remagen area and that tanks and big guns have been moved over the stream in large numbers.

In addition to the use of the Ludendorff bridge at Remagen, the Americans have built pontoon bridges across the Rhine a few miles north of the town and men and equipment are moving across the stream in volume.

Berlin said that the American assault threatened the great Cologne-Frankfurt military highway, transport keystone of the enemy's entire Remagen defenses, which lay only four miles beyond advanced American spearheads.

The massed American artillery, brought into the bridgehead for the first time to support Hodges' assault upon German hill positions dominating the bridgehead, already was shelling the road.

The attack from the bridgehead carried more than a mile and a half through Ginsterhahn and Hergarten and rolled on to Noll in a swift plunge that extended the American foothold to more than five miles in depth and more than twelve miles along the bank of the Rhine.

While Hodges' men are advancing toward the Ruhr, General Patton's Third Army is mopping up enemy remnants on the west bank of the stream. No late reports have come from other Allied armies along the Western Front, but they can be expected to strike if Hitler shifts his men in strength in an attempt to block the American First.

In the East, the Russians have captured Kustrin, the strongly fortified center in the path of the Russian advance on Berlin. The Red Armies have crossed the Oder at several points in that area, and the march to the German capital is momentarily awaited while the Russians continue to mop up pockets of resistance along the Baltic coast.

Over in the Pacific, Tokyo and Nagoya are still smoldering. An area fifteen miles square was burned out in Tokyo following a raid by 300 Superforts Sunday, and Nagoya, Japan's fourth largest city, was burned and scorched even worse.

The Marines are nearing final victory in their bitter and heroic fight for Iwo Jima, and the Japs are moving.

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LITTLE ROUND-UP

After rounding up almost a dozen a week before, local and county officers had a fairly quiet period last week-end when they arrested and detained in the county jail three alleged violators of law and order.

Two of them were booked for public drunkenness and one for being drunk and disorderly. Two arrests were made, but the defendants arranged bond before the jail doors were banged shut.

Hamilton Business District Swept By Costly Fire Sunday

Two Stores, Warehouses and Sales Stables Burnt; Loss Placed at \$50,000

Two stores, two warehouses, sales stables and other buildings were burned and other property was threatened by fire that swept through a portion of Hamilton's business district early last Sunday morning. It was only by the determined effort on the part of the town population and the Robersonville Fire Department that the fire was confined to a small area. At one time it looked as if the fire would spread to several homes in the same block and spread across the street to other business property. One or two other buildings were fired but the fire was extinguished in those places before much damage resulted.

Believed to have started in or near the office in the Johnson-Matthews store, the fire was burning rapidly when it was discovered by a colored man named Purvis about 4:30 o'clock. He gave the alarm and by the time Mr. Henry Johnson, Sr., could reach the store, the fire was burning through the windows and there was so much smoke he went only a few feet inside before he was forced out. A few articles were saved from the show windows, but just about all of the \$25,000 stock of goods was lost. Several pieces of machinery around the building were moved ahead of the fire which spread rapidly to an empty store building nearby, sales stables, two warehouses and a shed storage, burning out just before reaching the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson, Jr.

The loss was unofficially but reliably estimated at \$50,000. Mr. Matthews, owner of the store along with his son and D. G. Matthews, stating that about one-third of the property was covered by insurance.

Light and power service was interrupted for several hours, and telephone lines were damaged. In addition to the one at Robersonville, fire departments here and in Scotland Neck received calls. Fire Chief G. P. Hall of the local department stated yesterday that Mr. Matthews called him and explained that one store had just about burned. The chief was quoted as saying that the local company would be glad to go if it could render any aid. Mr. Matthews was reported to have said that they were looking for the truck

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Soil Conservation Group Will Meet

Meeting in the county courthouse here this evening at 8 o'clock, Martin County farmers and agricultural workers will discuss a general soil conservation program and especially swamp drainage, County Conservationist H. F. McKnight, announced.

Father Of Mrs. W. E. Dunn Dies At Home In Wilson

Mr. Roscoe B. Barnes, 60 years of age, died at his home in Wilson last Wednesday afternoon following a heart attack. While he had been in declining health for some time, the end came suddenly and unexpectedly.

A descendant of one of Wilson County's oldest families, Mr. Barnes was a retired farmer. He married Miss Eliza Overman who is now making her home here with her daughter, Mrs. W. E. Dunn. He also leaves two sons, D. A. Barnes of Wilson, and J. W. Barnes of Florence, Alabama.

Funeral services were conducted at a Wilson funeral home last Thursday morning, and interment followed in Maplewood Cemetery there.

Local Girl To Christen Ship Honoring Her Late Brother

Charleston, S. C., March 9—Mrs. W. J. Roth, Jr., wife of the Assistant Supervisor of Shipbuilding, USN, Charleston Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, will christen the new fleet tug USS Luiseno (AFT 156) on Saturday morning, March 17th, at the building ways of the shipbuilding company.

In christening the fleet tug, which will tow battle-damaged and disabled vessels of the Navy, Mrs. Roth will honor her only brother, Ensign William E. Ballard, of the Naval Air Corps, who was killed in a crash when he was instructing a student aviator at Corpus Christi, Texas, on May 27, 1944.

The ship's sponsor, the former Miss Edna Ballard, daughter of Mr.

Chapter Nearing Goal In Red Cross Canvass

PICTURES

Mrs. Eva Grimes, home service director for the Martin County Chapter of the American Red Cross, is planning a Red Cross window display of the organization's War Prisoner aid program in a local store within the next few days. The display will briefly review what the organization is doing and trying to do in behalf of American boys in prisoner-of-war camps.

The home service director is anxious to borrow pictures of Martin County young men who have been in and those who are still being held prisoners of war. Relatives are asked to send the pictures to Mrs. Eva Grimes, Home Service Director, Williamston, N. C. They will be kept a few days and returned.

Quantity Of Liquor Found Buried In Pit

Working in the Free Union section of Jamesville Township a few days ago, Officer J. H. Roebuck found an empty pit deep in the woods. The owner had carefully dug the hole in the ground, throwing the dirt at the roots of an over-turned tree and covered the pit with a lid and leaves. The officer noticed some of the dirt around the uprooted tree was fresh and started looking for a hole and found the pit. Dealers in the illicit business learned a long time ago that it was costly business to keep liquor in or near their homes, that too much liquor either disappeared or was found in stump holes. Since the pit was empty, the officer withdrew and planned another visit last Saturday afternoon. Accompanied by Deputy Roy Peel, he found about thirteen gallons of white "lightning" in the pit. While on their way to the hiding place, the officers saw Jesse Adkins carrying a package in his over-all bosom. He was temporarily detained and appearing in court Monday he was fined \$35 and taxed with the cost for possessing illegal liquor.

Saturday night the two officers, accompanied by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Cpl. Bill Hunt, raided Perkins' beer joint at Parmele where they seized 43 quarts of beer. Arthur Perkins and his wife, Lizzie, were selling beer without a license. In the county court, the two were fined \$100, and taxed with the cost.

Another raid was made in the Robersonville-Parmele section, but the details of the raid could not be learned immediately.

Tires Are Allotted By Ration Board

Approximately 65 tires were allotted in this county last Friday night. Grade I tires were issued to the following:

Polly Williams, W. A. Brown, T. B. Slade, Arthur Johnson, J. W. Perkins, Lt. Marvin T. Roberson, A. P. Hyman, Kelly Rawls, J. A. James, J. H. Smith, J. J. Williams, James Robert Wynne, Annie C. Glasgow, Alphonza Little, Ernest D. Edmondson, John E. Mobley, W. H. Britton, Nallen Yarell, Jesse Clark, M. S. Cowan, W. H. Gurganus, Edward Bullock, G. R. Taylor, S. J. Lilley, Guilford Brown, Julius Daniel, Hugh B. Ward, Cortez Green, Mamie G. Griffin, C. O. Price, Charlie Lloyd, Therman Griffin, Benjamin E. Griffin, R. O. Purvis, Claude Simmons, Thomas O. Clay, J. Frank Margolis, Russell Knox, Norman Bowen, Adele H. Tetterton, George A. Harris, J. S. Crandell, Garland Whitley, Herbert T. Taylor, Johnnie Bland, Robert Jones, Annie L. Roberson, Dewey George Adams, Mack Cherry, Mrs. Ella Taylor, D. Andrew Griffin, C. O. Edwards, Arthur Brown, John A. Griffin.

Truck tires were released: Russell Williamson, H. T. Highsmith, J. C. Norris, W. G. Peele, V. L. Roberson.

Total of \$5,555.06 Is Raised and Reported Up Until Last Night

Chairman Believes Drive Can Be Completed Latter Part Of Current Week

With \$5,555.06 already raised and reported, the annual Red Cross War Fund drive is on its last lap and will likely reach and pass the \$6,000.00 quota in this, the Martin County Chapter before the end of this week.

The canvass is recognized as complete in two townships, Bear Grass and Griffins, and is almost complete in Williamston. According to the latest report coming from Jamesville the drive is nearing its goal there, but only \$300 has been reported to date. No report has been received from Williams, but it is understood that the canvass is progressing there, one or two communities in the district having already exceeded their assigned quotas. Only one report has been submitted by the leaders handling the canvass among the colored citizens. Woolard's School, with a quota of \$60, yesterday reported \$66.68. A few colored citizens made their donations to white canvassers, boosting the total to \$75.03 for credit on the \$1,000 quota accepted by the colored citizens in the chapter's five townships.

Reports from the local school are not complete, but advance information indicates that the grammar grade pupils will establish an all-time record with their response to the current call. Up until yesterday, the grammar school had raised and reported approximately \$382.00, one grade, Miss Elliott's fourth, accounting for more than \$60 of the amount.

According to Chairman V. J. Spivey, the drive stands as follows:

District	Quota	Amount Raised
Jamesville	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00
Williams	150.00	
Griffins	450.00	578.80
Macedonia		10.00
Bear Grass	450.00	535.75
Williamston	3,950.00	4,055.48
Woolard's School	60.00	66.68
Others	940.00	8.35
	\$6,000.00	\$5,555.06

From the above figures it is seen that Griffins exceeded its quota by \$128.80, Bear Grass by \$85.75, Williamston by \$105.48 with five canvassers, including the high school, yet to report, and Woolard's by \$6.68.

The names below are those of contributors in Bear Grass Township, the first district in the chapter to submit a complete report. Other contributions will be acknowledged just as soon as they can be put in type. Part of the Bear Grass list was published last week.

Mrs. Bill Harrison, Mrs. Henry White, Jr., and Sam H. Mobley, canvassers; Bill Leary, \$1; Alonza Revels, \$1; Jay Price, \$2; J. R. Cherry, \$2; W. M. Harrison, \$5; S. H. Mobley, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Harris, \$4; Dancy Taylor, \$1; Lewis Taylor, \$1; W. L. Mobley, \$1; E. B. Peele, \$1; J. S. Price, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Henry White, Jr., \$2; A. L. Hardy, \$5; Mrs. Mack Leggett, \$2; Chesley Jones, \$2; Eli Bowen, \$1; Sidney Beacham, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rawls, \$5; Mrs. Edna Rawls

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Says He Is Happy To Go To School

Writing from somewhere in Holland a short time ago, Bruce Whitely stated that he certainly did regret leaving Belgium where he had a fairly good home "as homes go in the Army."

"When we arrived in Holland there just wasn't any place to be found large enough for us to move in. We had to stay in tents with snow for a floor in nearly zero weather. And was that rough. I had a sleeping bag and six blankets and then I was cold, not enough to freeze, but enough to be miserable. I just could not get my feet warm except when I got up and walked around. Now, we are in a building. It is a school-house and pretty nice at that. I was never so glad to go to school before in my life. It looked like a palace to me, and last night I slept like a king, compared to the two nights before." The censor got hold of the letter at that point and ripped it almost to pieces.

Calf Killed On Highway Near Jamesville Friday

A small calf owned by Wm. Hopkins, Jamesville Township farmer, was killed last Friday evening about 8 o'clock when he strayed into the path of Ronald Nichols' car about three miles below Jamesville on Route 64. No one was hurt and damage to the car was estimated at about \$100 by Patrolman W. E. Saunders who investigated the accident.