

Consolidation Of Schools In County Virtually Complete

Gold Point Pupils Are Moving To Robersonville Next Monday Morning

The school consolidation program launched in this county a quarter of a century ago is now virtually complete. The board of education announcing this week that the planned removal of the approximately 43 pupils in the Gold Point School to the plant at Robersonville next Monday morning leaves only one white two-teacher school operating in the county. There is no action pending, and none is expected in the near future to merge the Hassell School, the authorities explaining that possibly a third teacher will be added there in the course of time.

A consolidation of the Gold Point School with the one at Robersonville has been pending for some time. The authorities hesitated in ordering the change, but when attendance figures continued to decline, some action was considered necessary. No decision was issued, but the removal of one of the two teachers in the school to the plant in Robersonville was considered necessary and the patrons were then reported to favor consolidation. Transportation for the Gold Point pupils has been arranged and they will be absorbed by the Robersonville school next Monday.

The small plant at Gold Point has been ordered sold, the action marking the virtual completion of a consolidation program that has during a period of about a quarter of a century reduced the number of white schools from fifty-one to nine in this county. Consolidation has been a long and tedious task, one that has created disturbances of a sort, yet, one that is recognized as being in step with progressive education.

The first direct consolidation step was taken just about twenty-five years ago when a consolidated plant was established at Sandy Ridge in Williams Township, the plant later bowing to a more concentrated consolidation program. A contract for the transportation of the children to the Sandy Ridge School was let to George Coltrane and he used a covered wagon to haul the pupils.

According to the records, the following schools were either abolished or consolidated with the nine remaining white plants down through the years:

Dardens, Poplar Run, Cooper, Smithwick, Riddick, Manning, Hardison, Poplar Point, Hurst, Burroughs, Turkey Swamp, Cross Roads, Leggett, Woodard, Biggs, Smith, Page, Gold Point, Goose Nest, Bowers, Whitchard, Jones, Ward, Ange, Keel, Roebuck, Corey, Sherrod, Wynne, Harris, Roanoke, Lilley, Gotsinger, Waldo, Whitley, Outerbridge, Eborn, Parmele, Mobley, Maple Swamp, Brooksville and Brown.

Daniel L. Pritchett Dies Near Hamilton

Daniel L. Pritchett, retired mechanic-farmer, died at the home of Johnnie Wynne near Hamilton last Tuesday morning at 2 o'clock following about five years of declining health.

The son of the late John T. Pritchett of Brunswick County, New Jersey, and the late Mrs. Mary Haislip Pritchett of Hamilton, he was born in this county on February 27, 1883. He worked in a blacksmith shop for a number of years, but he was engaged in farming and general work. He is survived by his widow, the former Miss Hettie Moore, and two brothers, I. B. Pritchett of Hamilton and Tom Pritchett of near Jamesville.

He was a member of the Baptist church. Funeral services were conducted at his late home Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. John Goff, pastor of the local Christian church, and interment was in the Hamilton cemetery.

Officers Raid Still And Arrest Couple

Raiding in Griffins Township last Sunday morning, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and assistants captured a 40-gallon capacity copper still, arrested John Manning, colored man, and poured out a gallon of white liquor and three barrels of beer. One of the operators escaped. Manning was placed under bond in the sum of \$100 and is scheduled for trial in the county court on October 8.

Jesse Matthews, operator of a park near Robersonville, was arrested this week for possession of illicit liquor. He is slated for trial in the county court on October 8. ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and others entered the place of business Wednesday and asked the man if he had anything to drink. Before he recognized the officers, he lifted a gallon of white liquor from under the counter and displayed it and reached for a glass with which he measured out 50-cent drinks.

The raid followed closely a big round-up of alleged bootleggers in the county a short time before.

Thirty Cases for Trial In the Superior Court



PROMOTED
Don E. Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Johnson of this county, was recently promoted to the rank of full lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve. After a long period of service in Africa, Lt. Johnson, former Martin County solicitor, is now stationed in Florida. He recently advised his father to oil the gun for some hunting at home this fall.

Aged Resident Of County Died Last Wednesday Evening

Father Migrated To the States From Scotland and Lost Life In Civil War

Mrs. Susan C. Taylor, one of the county's oldest and highly respected citizens, died at her home in Poplar Point Township last Wednesday evening at 9:10 o'clock, the victim of paralysis. Mrs. Taylor, widow of Rev. Robert Lanier Taylor, was despite her advanced age unusually active up until the first of this month when she suffered a stroke following a visit with relatives in Everettts. Her condition had been critical since that time.

The daughter of the late Isaac Goodtimes and Emily Edmondson Goodtimes, Mrs. Taylor was born in the Robersonville Community on November 27, 1856. Her father, a native of Germany, came to this country from Scotland when a youth. He traveled out of New York, dealing in special goods shipped to him by his father, a big merchant in Germany at the time. He met and married Miss Edmondson while on a business trip in this county and made his headquarters here until he answered the call of the Confederacy at the outbreak of the Civil war and was killed in action.

When quite young, she was married to Mr. Taylor and later located in Poplar Point where she spent most of her life. She was the last member of her immediate family, and is survived by four children, George Taylor of Norfolk, Mrs. Lizzie Owens of Williamston, Mrs. John Coker Anderson of Norfolk and Miami, and Mrs. Lester Keel of the home; twenty grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home.

Farmers In County Start Digging Nuts

A few Martin County farmers started harvesting the 1945 peanut crop this week, but the work will hardly get under way on any appreciable scale before week after next or in the early days of October.

Farmer Charlie Lloyd on the Wynne farm in Cross Roads Township started digging several acres of the goobers this week. No report on the quantity and quality could be had immediately.

Testing a field of early planted peanuts, Farmer Joe Winslow stated he was very much pleased with his findings. According to his survey, approximately twenty bags can be expected from each of a fairly large number of acres. Mr. Winslow is not so certain about his late crop. General reports point to a smaller crop this year than the one harvested last season. Heavy rains are believed to have prevented the peanuts from "pegging" down, and in some cases the early goobers have rotted off the vines.

Infant Dies At Home Of Parents In Bear Grass

Margaret Anne Whitaker, eight months old, died at the home of her parents, C. D. Whitaker and Irene Bailey Whitaker, in Bear Grass Township last Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Funeral services were conducted at the home yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, and interment was in the Bailey Cemetery near the home.

Manslaughter Cases And Murder Charge Feature The Docket

Fifteen Different Crimes Are Included In List For Trial Next Week

One of the largest criminal dockets prepared in this county in some time will be aired in the superior court opening a two weeks mixed term here next Monday. Around thirty cases have been booked for trial, four of them involving manslaughter and the others running the crime scale all the way down from first degree murder to the disposal of mortgaged property. Judge John J. Burney, returning from Wilmington for the first time in about five years, will preside over the sessions.

Crimes alleged in the warrants include assaults, manslaughter, disposal of mortgaged property, aiding and abetting an illegal operation, murder in the first degree, reckless and careless driving, hit-and-run driving, seduction under promise of marriage, bigamy, larceny and receiving, breaking and entering, robbery, false pretense and one peace warrant.

N. S. Godard is charged with an assault upon Manuel M. Schwartz on February 14. Henry Paul is charged with reckless driving resulting in the death of Jeremiah Brown near Everetts on last March 14.

Prince White stands charged with disposing of mortgaged property, namely, hogs and a cow.

The case charging Herman Manning and Joe Martin with aiding and abetting an illegal operation is scheduled for final disposition, action having been delayed since they were tried, adjudged guilty and sentenced in June of last year to serve two years in prison. Repost state that a petition for parole had been denied the two men.

Facing a first-degree murder charge, Lee Goss, young colored man, was jailed last July 1 for fatally attacking Perlie Coffield, colored woman, with a picket knife on Hill Street here. He was denied bond.

William E. James, Camden, N. J., man is at liberty under \$1,000 bond for his appearance in the court Monday to answer a manslaughter charge growing out of the hit-and-run killing of Jeff T. Matthews, aged county resident, near Oak City on September 2.

John Biggs, colored, is charged with reckless driving resulting in the death of Lewis Sheppard and William Godard, near Bear Grass, last April 20. He is at liberty under \$500 bond.

Charged with running down and fatally injuring Lindsley White, colored man, on East Main Street here last month, Sanford Gilliam is at liberty under bond in the sum of \$1,000. Gilliam is also charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes.

Kader Brown is at liberty under a \$500 bond in the case charging him with reckless driving resulting in serious injury to Elizabeth Holliday near Dardens last May 31.

Robert Bunn is charged with hit-and-run driving resulting in painful injury to Jesse Bullock near Parmele last August 25. Bunn was placed under bond in the sum of \$1,000.

Charged with seduction under promise of marriage, William Lilley was released under \$200 bond.

R. Cornelius Kirkland, charged with bigamy, is at liberty under bond in the sum of \$1,000.

Tom Dew, charged with the theft of O. G. Woodard's Plymouth car in Robersonville on July 4, 1944, is under \$500 bond.

Frank Beach, Frank Harrell, Wool-

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Twenty Tons Of Elephants Coming

Twenty tons of elephant is considered a lot of elephant flesh to the circus going public but to the circus manager it means thousands of dollars, hours of worry and never rest, since the skeptical demanding public gauge the merits of a circus by the number of elephants that the circus brings to town.

Under the auspices of the Williamston Junior Chamber of Commerce the Famous Bailey Bros. Big Three Ring Circus which comes to Williamston Saturday, Sept. 15, on the Williamston Lumber Co., Show Grounds on Highway No. 17 for an afternoon and night performance, not only brings its thirty tons of elephants, but its 300 performers, a cavalcade of beautiful horses and a veritable city of canvas with its big top seating 5,000 people.

Three rings, two stages and a mammoth Hippodrome track are necessary to present this new streamlined circus performance with all its stellar features. The Bailey Bros., presents such acts as the Miller Troupe of world renowned aerialists, head to head balancers, tumblers and acrobats, who this season are presenting the smallest child acrobat, Margaret.

Schedule Fourteen Divorces For Trial In Superior Court

All But Two Are Based On Two Years of Separation; Divorce Ratio Given

Convening a two weeks' term next Monday, the Martin County Superior Court is scheduled to hear fourteen applications for divorce on Wednesday. Court officers are of the opinion that the trial of the criminal docket will last through Wednesday, that the divorce mill hardly can be cranked up until later in the week.

The number seeking divorce during the term is smaller than the count was at the last March and June terms. All but two of the divorce pleadings are based on two years of separation. A hurried review of the complaints reveals that some of the litigants were married more than a quarter of a century ago, while in other cases the parties lived together only a month or two before parting of the way resulted. Some of the litigants separated as long ago as 1923 but are just going into the courts asking that their matrimonial bonds be shattered.

Last year there were 45 divorces granted in the county as against 190 marriages, the ratio of absolute separations standing almost at one to every four marriages. A general compilation of divorces in various counties, according to the latest reports, gives the following figures: In France, one divorce to twenty-one marriages; Denmark, one to twenty-two marriages; Germany, one to twenty-four marriages; Norway, one to thirty-three marriages; Sweden, one to thirty-three marriages; Great Britain, one to ninety-six marriages; Canada, one to 161 marriages; Japan, one to eight marriages; United States, one to seven marriages—putting the United States at the bottom of the list.

The following cases are based on two years of separation: Annie E. Williams against John Williams, Mary Eliza Pippens against Cecil Pippens, James Arthur Adams, of the U. S. Navy, against Sylvia Rosa Adams of the Canal Zone; Mary B. Sellick against Jack Wilbur Sellick, Gary Bunting against Reba Pridgen Bunting, George Taylor against Merle Little Taylor, Viola Mooring Chance against Walter Raleigh Archie, David Archie against Allie Archie, T. F. Dawson against Mary L. Dawson, Christine Gale against John L. Gale, Bettie Gorman James against Essie James, Pete Marshall Williams against Annie Lee Williams.

In the case of Lee Manuel Rawlings against Lottie Lee Page Rawlings, the plaintiff charges the defendant with adultery and names Leroy Perkins as correspondent, alleging further that a child was born and that Perkins was the father.

The case of W. E. Williams against Lue Villie Williams is also based on adultery, the plaintiff naming no correspondent.

Pastor Returns To His Local Charge

Returned to his charge here following a recent conference of the Holiness Church, Rev. H. M. Pope will hold his first service in the new church year Saturday evening at 8 o'clock when his congregation will extend him a renewed welcome. The pastor will be glad to see all his members and friends at the service.

The Sunday school will convene at the usual hour, 9:45 o'clock Sunday morning, and the election of officers will follow the preaching service that morning. Young people will meet Sunday evening at 8:30 o'clock and preaching services will be held at 8:00 o'clock P. M.

Vandals Knock Out Jamesville Lights

Going on a wild rampage in the early hours of last Sunday morning, vandals tore down several street and highway signs and knocked out about half a dozen street lights in Jamesville. Four of the young white men were seen, and bricks used in knocking out the street lights were recovered and turned over to the authorities in an effort to establish finger prints.

No report has been received from the prints, it was learned from Mr. Garland Anderson, and action against the group is being delayed.

LEGION FAIR

Announcing the 1945 Martin County fair, the management this week addressed a special notice to farmers and other exhibitors to save their best products for display at the show during the week of October 8-13. Several thousand dollars are being offered in prizes, the management stating that premium lists would be made available within the next few days.

Sponsored by the American Legion, the fair will bring the Central Amusement Company's greater rides and shows to the midway.

Tobacco Sales Nearing Four And One-Half Million Figure

With an estimated million pounds of tobacco on the floors waiting to be sold, possibly a quarter a million pounds on all types of vehicles parked in the streets waiting to be unloaded, there possibly never was a time when the local market experienced a greater glut. Despite the record-breaking deliveries, warehousemen are doing all in their power to handle the task in the most advantageous way possible, and considering all factors, they are doing a pretty good job. Growers are having long waits, to be sure, but the tobacco is being placed on the floors in orderly fashion.

Iverson Skinner, his factory packed to the ceiling and bulging the doors, said late yesterday that he had never seen such a glut before. At that time his company had been unable to clear their purchases from the warehouse floors, and several big trucks were waiting at the factory to be unloaded. The plant is running tobacco in dry and good condition.

Alleged Bootleggers In Big "Convention"

Thirty People Are Called In County's Court Last Monday

Fines And Cost Exceed \$1,000 Following Wholesale Arrests Recently

Thirty alleged bootleggers, rounded up in a series of undercover raids conducted by State and county ABC Enforcement officers during recent weeks, had their day in court last Monday when the regular session of the Martin County Recorder's Court took on the appearance of a regular bootleggers' convention. The meeting lasted until almost 6 o'clock and court officials were worn almost to a frazzle when adjournment was ordered.

There were few cases on the docket other than those involving alleged violations of the liquor laws, but main attention was centered on the trial of the alleged bootleggers.

The liquor cases netted fines in the sum of \$875, the costs boosting the total income of the court to \$1,250 exclusive of revenue derived in a few other cases heard during the day-long session.

Charlie Brown, one-armed colored man who worked under cover in rounding up most of the alleged liquor law violators, attracted the attention of the defendants and their friends when he walked into the courtroom. Some breathed contempt while others were heard to say that sometimes it is necessary to fight fire with fire, that those who deal in the illicit business and draw down exorbitant profits need little or no consideration.

Proceedings: Leonard Mobley, colored, called for further judgment in the case charging him with bastardy, was directed to pay \$7.50 a month for the benefit of his child and \$10 medical bill. He is to reappear on the first Monday in March, 1946, for further judgment.

The case charging Berry Wynne with assaulting a female, was continued until the first Monday in November.

William F. Warren was fined \$15 and taxed with the cost in the case charging him with speeding.

Charged with drunken driving, Coy Rogerson was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for one year.

Facing two charges of violating the liquor laws, Ed Briley was sentenced to the roads for four months and fined \$30 in each case. All but the first thirty days in each case was suspended.

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John R. Williams Died At Oak City

John Robert Williams, better known as John Link Williams, 71, died at his home near Oak City Friday afternoon at 6:30 after several months' illness. He had been a semi-invalid for the past five or six years.

Funeral services were held at the home Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The Rev. D. W. Alexander, Free Will Baptist minister of Bethel cemetery, officiated. Burial was in the Bethel cemetery. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Lou Williams; seven sons, Eddie, Clyde and Lester Williams of the home; David Williams of Hobgood; John D. Williams of Williamston, Lorenz Williams of Tarboro, and Braxton Williams of the U. S. Navy; three daughters, Misses Nellie, Irene, Ruth and Jennie Williams of the home; seven grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. Hattie Whitehurst of Winterville.

Mr. Williams was born and reared in Pitt County. He lived in the Stokes community until about six years ago, when he moved to the Oak City section.

Twenty - Four Cases On Civil Calendar In Superior Court

Suits Include Two To Get \$5,000 Wreck Damage And Recover Hound Dog

Yielding most of the time during the first two weeks' term for the trial of criminal and divorce cases, the Martin County Superior Court will start working on a 24-case civil calendar on Monday, September 24. Clerk L. B. Wynne said today.

The civil calendar, while carrying no record number of cases, carries several unusual ones. Action is being taken in one case to recover a hound dog. In another case, a bereaved widow is appealing to the court for permission to remove her husband's body from a county cemetery. In still another, a plaintiff is asking \$5,000 damages as a result of an auto accident.

A brief review of the civil calendar which will be placed before Judge John J. Burney, follows:

Ed Spruill is suing Edgar Harrell for \$257.78 under a laborer's contract.

Dandy Chemical Company is asking \$239.68 of the Farnville-Woodward Lumber Company.

Deward Smith is bringing action to recover \$150 from Henry Corey allegedly due on an automobile.

Standard Fertilizer Company is suing Paul T. Sparrow for \$500.

Universal Credit Company is suing Steve W. Clary to recover an automobile valued at \$1,250.

A claim and delivery is being brought by the Guaranty Bank against Willie Modlin to recover an automobile.

O. W. Jones is suing Ed Jones for a right-of-way.

Mrs. John W. Smith is suing the executor of the estate of John W. Smith to have a divorce set aside.

In the case of Annie Jenkins against William Lea, the plaintiff is petitioning for the sale of certain lands.

W. W. Griffin is asking \$100 damage of Rome Lee as a result of the alleged wrongful cutting of timber.

J. B. Whitfield is suing Norman Harrell for the possession of certain lands.

Lloyd Newbern is suing Allen Long for the possession of a hound dog.

G. G. Woolard is suing C. Z. Runk for \$496.87.

One of the largest suits on the calendar is being brought by Jesse Delmar Beach to recover \$5,000 damages of H. U. Peel as a result of an automobile accident in Bear Grass last February 19. The plaintiff alleged in his complaint that his knee pan was split open, that he is unable to walk. In addition to the \$5,000 action, Charlie Beach, owner of the car, is asking \$500 property damage. The plaintiffs alleged the defendant was negligent in the operation of his car. The defendant claims that the plaintiff, Jesse Beach, was operating his car with improper lights and at a fast rate of speed.

K. B. Crawford is suing Redden Tyro to recover \$20 on account.

While visiting his sister, Anne Leggett, in the home of Mrs. Pearl Benton in Charlotte in April, 1944, Joseph Saunders Leggett was shot in the shoulder by Mrs. Benton. The plaintiff, through his next friend, is suing for \$3,500 compensatory and \$1,500 punitive damages. The defendant petitioned for the case to be moved to Mecklenburg County. The petition was denied by Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne and the defendant appealed to the superior court.

M. C. Cordan is asking \$260 damages of C. M. Barber as a result of a motor vehicle wreck on U. S. No. 64 last May 18.

Dennis Holliday is suing G. A. Oglesby for \$1,198.45 under a farm contract.

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Church Leaders To Speak Next Week

Dr. R. B. Lemmon, director of the Colegio Internacional of the Paragon Mission of Disciples of Christ, and Miss Jessie M. Trout, returned missionary from Japan, will speak in the local Christian church on Wednesday, September 19, it was announced today. These two speakers will feature the one-day fellowship meeting here.

Dr. Lemmon has established a splendid record as a missionary in South America, and is returning to that field shortly.

Miss Trout is a former missionary in Japan, having served there from 1921 until 1940 when she returned on furlough. The threat of war and cancellation of sailings made her return to Japan in 1941 impossible. While she did various types of work on the mission field, her latest assignment was secretary to Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, world-known Christian leader and social worker. She translated many of Kagawa's writings including the two books, "Brotherhood Economics" and "Behold the Man," and his oft quoted poem, "To Tears." She is also the author of "Forward in Missions and Education," a book which tells the story of the world work of Disciples of Christ. Miss Trout has visited widely in the United States and Canada and is a popular speaker among Christian groups.

THE RECORD SPEAKS...

After killing two week before last, motorists slowed down a bit and went through last week without a serious accident. Only one minor wreck was reported in the county, but several were reported in adjoining counties.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

Thirty-Six Week Accidents In'd Killed Dam'ge				
1945	1	0	0	\$ 10
1944	2	2	0	200
Comparisons To Date				
1945	44	20	5	9360
1944	47	25	1	8250