

Few Cases Placed On Civil Calendar In Superior Court

Two Main Cases Continued For Term; Few Divorce Actions For Wednesday

Although only a few cases were placed on the calendar, the trial of civil cases was scheduled to last several days during the current term of superior court, but sickness eliminated for the time being two of the most important cases, and now only a few divorces and a motion are up for consideration Wednesday.

A continuance in the criminal case brought against Kader Brown was granted on account of the illness of a defense attorney, and a civil action brought by Elizabeth Holliday by her next friend, W. E. Holliday, against the Williamston Lumber Company and Kader Brown, was also continued. The plaintiff, critically injured when run down by the defendant Brown near Darlens last May, is asking \$10,000 personal damages and \$875 for medical bills. The civil action, scheduled for trial last month, was continued at the request of an attorney representing an insurance company.

A hearing in the case of Smith against Smith was continued on account of the illness of E. S. Peel, attorney. The plaintiff is appealing to the courts to have a divorce decree set aside.

Divorces, based on two years separation, were scheduled for trial on Wednesday of this week, as follows:

Hubert Roberson against Mary Elizabeth Roberson, Ethel Woolard against Julius Woolard, Cora Roberson Barnes against Ernest Barnes, Clifton C. Andrews against Lorraine W. Andrews, Marshall Gray Moore against Wannie Mae Moore, J. E. Mizelle against Dorothy Mary Mizelle, and Adell James against David L. James. The divorce case brought by Ruth May Nichols against Ben Octavius Nichols is based on grounds of adultery.

The only other case on the calendar concerns a motion to remove the case of Joseph Saunders Leggett against Pearl Benton. The defense is asking that the case be removed to Mecklenburg County for trial. A similar request made to the clerk of court was denied some time ago. The plaintiff, asking \$5,000 damages, was shot by the defendant while visiting his sister in the home of the defendant in Charlotte in April of last year. Clerk of Court L. Bruce Wynne was advised later that an attorney for the defense was ill in Charlotte and could not be here for the hearing and the motion is being carried over until next March.

Judge Burney Tight On Jurymen Excuses

Judge John J. Burney, presiding over the one-week term of Martin County Superior Court for the trial of criminal and civil cases, is quite certain that all good men should serve as jurymen. Although he recognized several excuses, only three were able to "slip" off when the jurist announced in one case that he would consider no excuse of any kind. Jurymen Ernest Etheridge had just given almost a quart of blood for Little Miss Peggy Harrison at the hospital Monday morning, and although he was a bit peaked around the temples, he was holding up all right as the term progressed.

Jurymen Raymond Roberson got off with a doctor's excuse. C. H. Godwin, Jr., state employee, was excused, and Bill Spivey after pointing out that he had just completed a long tour of duty on the grand jury, explained that he had scheduled a hunt before he was drawn, and he was excused.

Citizens called for service on the petit jury: George D. Hardison, A. W. Hardison, John T. Heath, Simon D. Roberson, J. Arthur Corey, Julius M. Manning, R. Dewey Perry, John Edwin Manning, W. G. Hardison, W. R. Roebuck, E. C. Harrison, Jas. T. Phelps, Herman A. Bowen, Frank F. Carstarphen, Clyde Roberson, W. H. Williams, Jr., Hugh Leggett, J. M. Dixon, Claude E. Smith, G. C. Hope-well, K. B. Etheridge, J. R. Rawls, Ernest Etheridge.

Sale Of Seals Is Progressing Fairly Well In This County

The sale of Christmas TB seals is progressing fairly well, according to a report released yesterday for the county chapter by Mrs. Joel Muse, chairman. Sponsored by the Woman's Club, the sale got underway at Thanksgiving time and is scheduled to close Christmas.

Of the \$1,450 quota assigned the county in addition to the goal for Robersonville, approximately \$700 has been raised to carry on the fight against tuberculosis here at home and in the State and to promote greater research activities.

Approximately 625 letters with \$2 worth of the seals enclosed in each were mailed out the latter part of November. To date answers have been received from 229. Out of the 229 answers, 149 brought \$2 each, 67 others contributed \$1 and return-

County Farm Bureau Re-elects Its Officers

Organization Begins New Year With More Than 1,700 Members

Chas. L. Daniel Re-Elected For Sixth Term As President of County Bureau

While still far from an old-time epidemic stage, influenza is spreading possibly more rapidly this week than last in this section, according to reports coming from doctors' offices and the local hospital. Very few critical cases have been reported to date, but several victims have been "mighty" sick.

No official report could be had, but attendance figures, while still unusually low, are possibly somewhat improved in the local schools today, it was learned from some of the pupils, and there are no plans to suspend classes before the holidays beginning Wednesday of next week.

Returning Vets Are Now Available To Many Employers

Those Still Suffering From Manpower Shortage Asked To Call The USES

Are you still suffering from the manpower shortage, and do you need more help? Then call the United States Employment Service.

The accelerated pace at which veterans are moving into civilian life and entering the labor market makes it more important today than ever before that employers place their job orders with the local office of the United States Employment Service, Mrs. Alvis R. Jordan, local office manager, announced today.

"The placement of veterans and other workers in jobs for which they are qualified and where they can make maximum use of their skills and abilities depends upon the number and diversity of the openings listed by employers with the local office," Mrs. Jordan said. With veterans returning to this county in search of jobs in constantly increasing numbers, the local office will be in a far better position to give these men and women the maximum job opportunity to which they are entitled by law if the local office has the full cooperation of all employers.

"At the present time our records indicate approximately 40 veterans are returning to this county each week. When these men and women leave the military separation centers they are instructed to go to the local employment office nearest their home if they are in search of new employment. Many of these veterans have acquired new skills during their military service which will be of value not only to them but to employers in Martin County. Large numbers of veterans and war workers have received valuable training during the war. Job applicants at the local office are anxious to make use of these newly acquired skills and we are doing everything we can to help them.

"The greater the number and diversity of openings listed by employers with the local USES offices the quicker unemployed workers can be absorbed in jobs. Orderly and prompt absorption of returning veterans, as well as all available job applicants in this community and county is vital to Martin County's future. To this end, it is necessary to have the wholehearted cooperation of industry and labor in developing job opportunities and in placing these job opportunities before unemployed workers."

Mrs. Jordan called attention to the fact that the local employment office not only aids in placing workers in jobs but also serves as an information and counseling center for veterans and displaced war workers as well as other job applicants. In addition, Mrs. Jordan said, the local office collects labor market information and places this at the disposal of both employers and workers.

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Alaska Is Described As Place Of Strange Weather By Veteran

Sam Woolford Tells Fellow Kiwanians About What Territory Is Like

Coming home from the Army convinced that the bad weather of the nation is born in Alaska and goes out to Oklahoma to die, Sam Woolford told fellow Kiwanians last Thursday night that the birthplace of these unpleasant atmospheric disturbances is a place of strange contrasts where there is breathtaking beauty and austere wastelands, warmth that is similar to that of the eastern seaboard of the States and cold that reaches down to 70 below.

Returning to his job with the Virginia Electric and Power Company just three weeks ago, Woolford found, among other things, that his favorite city of Williamston would compare quite favorably with the largest metropolis in the territory of Alaska. Anchorage, for instance, has but one paved street and sidewalks made of boards, he said. It seemed to him that there was a saloon every other door. "It reminded me of the wild west scenes in the picture theaters where the 'shoot 'em up' hero barges into a saloon every now and then to take a drink and engage in a fight," he said.

There were many other things that he found interesting. For one, there is the banana belt where vegetation is lush and vegetables and flowers grow unbelievably fast and large. There is ample moisture here, he says, and plenty of sunshine for long hours each day. During the summer months temperatures get up to 85. The variety of vegetables grown in this banana belt was described as considerable. There are beautiful flowers growing wild in this section of Alaska, he said, which would do justice to flower gardens of any section of the United States.

While on the subject of flowers Woolford told of watching great fields of fireweed swept by the wind so that the sunlight reflected from its leaves made it appear as though a fire were sweeping through a field of tall grass. This fireweed, he said, sometimes grows to a height of eight feet and earns its name from its flame-colored leaves. He said that he has in transit, subject to the vagaries of long-distance transport, some kodo-chrome pictures of the flowers and so-called weeds of the banana belt of Alaska and offered to show them to anyone wishing to see them in the event that he and his family accomplish the non-too-small task of locating a place to live.

From the beautiful and fertile coastal section which he called the banana belt, the speaker said he went some distance into the interior and found it bitterly cold and, over toward Nome, rather a desolate and unhappy over the fact that he spent very little time in the interior and did not go too far in at that.

In the course of going from vegetables to weather, Woolford said that the idea that all people in Alaska lived in igloos was a mistaken one. The average native of Alaska lives in a run-down shack that is reminiscent of the neglected tenement houses of this section of the country.

Some of them are made of boards picked up here and there, largely on the sides of hills where only a roof and one or two walls are necessary to form a place to keep out, after a fashion, the elements.

And speaking of the elements, Woolford intimated that anyone who is so naive as to believe that a woman can change her mind just has escaped making the acquaintance of a Williwaw. Not to cast any aspersions on the versatility of the Williwaw, but it might be added that all Alaskan weather is entirely unpredictable. A ceiling of thousands of feet may drop to zero in minutes instead of hours and fliers never know when they leave a field or mooring ramp what they will find when they return there an hour or so.

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DELAYED

Date of commitment in the case against Herman Manning and Joe Martin, charged with aiding and abetting in an illegal operation, was ordered delayed until January 1, 1946, by Judge John J. Burney in superior court Monday. Pleading for their clients, defense attorneys all but spilled tears on the judge's bench when they explained that the defendants had not been able to pick their peanuts. Solicitor George Fountain recommended the delay.

The case, well over a year old, was brought after Health Brown, young white woman, died following an illegal operation allegedly performed by a Goldsboro doctor who, in some way, was found not guilty. The two men in this county were sentenced to serve a term of two years. In accordance with the court order handed down this week, the defendants are to report to the sheriff of this county on January 1 to start their sentences.

Superior Court Work Interrupted By Illness

Hit-And-Run Driver Gets Three To Four Years On The Roads

Defendant Sentenced To The Roads For 18 Months For Resisting Arrest

Scheduled to run a full week with a fairly crowded docket, the one week-term of Martin County Superior Court convened yesterday by Judge John J. Burney of Wilmington for trial of criminal and civil cases is likely to fold its tent and withdraw tomorrow morning. Sickness among counsel, defendants and witnesses has interrupted the proceedings and all the big civil cases along with at least six criminal cases were continued. Judge Burney, a victim of influenza at each of the past two Christmases, explained that he wasn't feeling well himself.

The fairly large court group started thinning out soon after the term was opened when it was learned that many cases on the docket had been continued. Several witnesses, one or two coming all the way from Florida, registered disappointment and started the trip back home.

Even after several cases were continued, the proceedings attracted right much interest, and most of the spectators held to their seats. Few cases reached the jury Monday, the court just before recessing for the day granted a motion of not guilty in the manslaughter case against Lester Gray Ward. Only two principal witnesses were called by the State. B. K. Taylor, father of Bonnie K. Taylor, Jr., who was accidentally killed when the defendant's lumber truck struck a wagon and ran over and killed the young man, quoted young Ward as saying that he (Ward) saw the wagon coming out of the yard and would have sounded his horn but the horn was not working. Young Ward was further quoted as saying that he stopped the truck as quickly as anyone could have under the circumstances. No mention was made of the allegation in the warrant that the defendant was operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes.

Ralph Eugene Andrews, charged with speeding, and Austin Everett, charged with assaulting a female, decided to accept the judgments imposed upon them in the county court and withdrew their appeals in time to get their cases off the superior court docket.

Proceedings: Pleading guilty in the case charging him with resisting arrest and assaulting an officer, Edward "Ted" Scott was sentenced to the roads for eighteen months. It was expressed in court that the defendant would have drawn a much longer term had he not proven good character. In pronouncing sentence, Judge Burney said that too little respect was being shown for the law, and that he had learned that such a condition particularly existed in this county.

Judge Burney during the first day of the term also took a firm stand against hit-and-run driving. Adjudged guilty by the jury, Robert Bunn was sentenced to State's Prison for not less than three and not more than four years. A special plea was made in Bunn's behalf and Judge Burney placed the defendant on probation for five years on condition that he (Bunn) pay Jesse Bullock, prosecuting witness, \$600 and pay the costs. The defendant is to pay \$200 and one-third of the costs at this term, and like amounts next December and in December, 1947.

The case charging N. S. Godard with an assault was continued on account of the illness of the defendant.

The following cases were continued on account of illness of counsel: Charles Fuller, breaking and entering and larceny and receiving; Kader Brown, reckless driving; John E. Williams, false pretense; Ben Long Stevenson, drunkenness and assault with a dangerous weapon.

(Continued on page six)

Recovering From Accident Injury

Badly but believed not seriously hurt in an accident at a local garage last Saturday afternoon, Milbon Donaldson, 19-year-old man, is recovering in a Washington hospital, according to recent reports reaching here. It could not be learned when he would be able to return home.

Mechanics were working on a car in the Dixie Motor Company garage, and not knowing Donaldson was under it working, the other mechanic, having repaired and replaced a tire, released the jack and the frame caught Donaldson who was on a "creep" on the forehead. It is possible that the young man suffered a slight skull fracture. Other mechanics rushed to the car and soon jacked it off him.

The victim, after receiving first aid treatment in the offices of Drs. Rhodes and Rhodes, was removed to the hospital in a Biggs ambulance.

Nine Districts In County Pass Goals In War Bond Drive

Black Spot Is Found Directly In Williamston; Poplar Point Still Short

Despite an apparent indifference in Williamston where sales are lagging and lagging badly, the current and last war bond drive is pushing on toward its goal in this county, according to figures released this week by Drive Chairman D. V. Clayton. Selling \$234,190.00 to date, the county is within 96.3 percent of its \$243,000 "E" bond goal.

Since the last report was made, two more townships or districts, Bear Grass and Hamilton, went over the top and did so with some to spare. At the present time only two townships, Williamston and Poplar Point, are lagging behind. Poplar Point has its quota in sight, and even though Township Chairman H. A. Bowen is still hopeful, the drive in Williamston is not at all promising. The township is \$65,735.75 short of its goal, and that gives the drive in the county one big black mark.

While two townships were going over the top, others were adding to their "E" bond purchases with Robersonville pushing decidedly ahead to hold the spotlight in the drive during recent days. Robersonville, with a quota of \$73,000 in "E" bonds, is within less than \$200 of raising as much as Williamston was asked to raise. Possibly the quotas were mismatched, but if that were true then Williamston would still be short. Poplar Point is just a little over \$2,000 short of its goal, but Chairman Mayo Hardison says he has it in sight, but it is hard to get.

Since the last report, Griffins added to the total, \$150; Bear Grass, \$7,125.00; Williamston, \$3,637.50; Cross Roads, \$37.50; Robersonville, \$19,446.25; Poplar Point, \$393.75; Hamilton, \$7,500; and Goose Nest, \$1,668.75, making a total boost for the drive of \$39,958.50 since the last report.

The drive has been extended, and another appeal is being directed to the people of Williamston Township, urging them to come to the rescue of this, the final bond drive.

A review of the "E" bond sales, by districts, follows as of December 10:

District	Quota	Sales
Jamesville	\$ 7,300	\$ 14,175.00
Williams	4,700	5,362.50
Griffins	12,250	14,456.52
Bear Grass	8,500	9,187.50
Williamston	103,000	37,296.25
Cross Roads	7,300	8,568.75
Robersonville	73,000	102,881.25
Poplar Point	4,350	2,343.75
Hamilton	5,000	18,862.50
Hassel	5,000	18,862.50
Goose Nest	7,300	10,968.75

\$243,000 \$234,190.00

No official report has been made public, the sale of negotiable bonds is understood to be far in excess of the goal.

Little Formality In Opening Court

Other than the "O, Yez, O, Yez" muttering by the high sheriff, there was little formality in opening the regular one-week term of the Martin County Superior Court Monday.

Judge John J. Burney, presiding, said he was pleased to return to Martin County, and immediately advised the grand jury members that he would not take up any of their time with a formal charge. He instructed the jurymen to pass on the bills of indictment, explaining one or two details in connection with their work.

While some of the attorneys and several defendants and witnesses were reported absent on account of sickness all the grand jurymen were present except Frank E. Weston who was held at home by illness. Members of the permanent jury reporting for service: G. G. Bailey, foreman; Robert Rogers, John H. Wynn, Albert Tyre, J. B. Harrington, A. W. Boyd, Clyde Modlin, Noah R. Peel, Asa J. Hardison, Norman Turner, J. F. Council, H. A. Sexton, Carroll Coltrain, Marion Griffin, W. W. Roberson, Linton Roebuck and N. P. Roberson.

Little Illicit Liquor Is Being Made In County For Holiday

While legal liquor sales are bidding to surpass all sales records, it is fairly certain that there'll be comparatively little "white lightning" available on the local markets for the holiday trade this year. It is possible that the "drought" will be relieved to some extent by imports from swamps and wooded areas in other counties, but officers are watching those outlets.

Commenting on the illicit manufacturing business in this county, ABC Enforcement Officer Joe H. Roebuck said yesterday that "there is less activity on that front this Christmas season than at any other time" in all his years' experience as an officer. It was explained that materials, including copper and tin and sugar, are so scarce that the business is handicapped from the start. He would not say so, but it is an actual fact that when a manufacturer sets up in the illicit business, he soon has the props knocked from under him by well executed raids. Between enforcement and material shortages, the illicit business is hard pressed just now. Then, too, hunters are said to be aiding the enforcement work.

Apparently placed in use just recently, a 50-gallon capacity copper still, complete, was wrecked in the Poplar Point section of Hamilton Township last Friday by the officer and his assistant, Roy Peel. The two barrels of beer, just about ready for the fire, were poured out. On the following day, the officers wrecked a 100-gallon capacity tin still in the Flat Swamp section of Robersonville Township and poured out four barrels of beer.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Meeting with success in their drive for used toys, the local Junior Chamber of Commerce members are going ahead with their plans for a Christmas party for underprivileged children in the community. It was pointed out, however, that more toys are needed. Anyone who has an extra toy is asked to leave it at the welfare department office in the courthouse. The party will be held on Tuesday night of next week.

The Jaycees express their appreciation for the support given the toy collection.

Eighty-Four Tires Allotted By Board

Eighty-four tires were released by Martin County War Price and Rationing Board last Friday afternoon, \$2 to car and two to truck operators. Truck tires were issued to Leslie J. Griffin and J. F. Crisp.

Car tires were rationed, as follows: B. W. Taylor, Claude Rawls, J. E. Johnson, Mrs. Lucy Bailey, A. Corey, Pete Brown, William C. Fagan, Dorsey Jenkins, Leo Roberson, Leslie E. Hardison, Raleigh Harrington, L. L. Harrell, H. J. Brown, S. C. Griffin, V. J. Spivey, W. O. Abbitt, Ernest Spruill, Ben Whitehurst, Saunders Revels, Charlie Bryant, Martha O. Harris, James Ben Rogers, L. W. Bullock, Anoxles Peel, Mamie Clyde Taylor, Javan D. Leggett, Joe T. Bullock, Mrs. Emma Powell, Harvey Leggett, I. F. Keel, Thurman Roberson, J. T. Powell, H. A. Johnson, Daniel Gardner, Raymond Williams, W. J. Hollis, Mrs. Rosa Elizabeth Williams, E. E. Brown, Cleo Daniels, G. H. Martin, Jim Davis, Mack Lewis, Herbert Spruill, Collin Smith, George James, Charlie B. Spruill, Willie Svott, J. R. Nelson, C. S. Thompson, Thomas Pilgreen, W. B. Svott, Gilbert H. Ward, A. B. Bullock, Thad L. Hodges, Theodore Rogerson, Mrs. Edmond Harris, Charlie G. Forbes, T. H. Evans, B. W. Staton, Stephen Harris, Jasper Whitfield, Johnnie Brown, M. D. Beach, D. E. Bunting, and W. C. House.

Court Enjoys Big Dinner In Prison

With the exception of a few defendants who were to enjoy the hospitality later, the superior court, including the judge, jurors, officers, members of the bar and a few special guests, recessed yesterday noon to enjoy a big barbecue and brass band stew dinner in the prison camp near here. Several of the court officials who earlier that morning had complained of not feeling any too well, displayed healthy appetites at the table, and there is doubt as to whether some of the group are suffering today from influenza or over eating.

It was a sumptuous meal that Superintendent Sessoms and Steward Bryant served, and one or two of the guests openly hinted that the court would be in session again next March, not to mention the weekly sessions of the recorder's court.

ROUND-UP

There was only a minor flare-up in crime circles here and in other parts of the county over the week-end, according to a review of jail records established for the period. Only two persons were arrested and jailed, one for assault and one for public drunkenness. One of the two was white, one was 23 and the other was 39 years of age.

Andrew Stille, colored man, was assaulted allegedly by Hazel Knight with a bottle, but the defendant was cited to the courts.

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