

Record Issuance Of Marriage Licenses Reported In County

Thirty-Five Weddings In The County During Month Of January

The January issuance of marriage licenses in this county is the largest on record for that month, Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger stating that thirty-five marriage contracts were issued by his office during the period. Not since 1934 has the January issuance even approached the record figures reported last month. Twelve years ago, after the nation started pulling itself out of the depression, thirty-four weddings were reported in the county. In January, 1933, there were only thirteen licenses issued in this county. During the war years, the issuance for January dropped to an even dozen in 1942, but gradually climbed to 27 in January, 1945. The return of servicemen in greater numbers boosted the size of the issuance last month.

The thirty-five licenses were issued, sixteen to white and nineteen to colored couples, last month, as follows:

- White**
- James D. Bowen and Mrs. Carrie Peaks, both of Williamston.
 - Church E. Modlin, of Williamston, and Doris L. Barber, of Jamesville.
 - Vance E. Bennett, of Williamston, and Katherine Thompson, RFD 1, Bethel.
 - Raymond Ferris, of Novelty, Ohio, and Lucille Faye Gurganus, of Williamston.
 - Charlie Morton Hurst, Jr., and Christine Roberson, both of Robersonville.
 - Felton Wilson and Christine Roberson, both of Edgecombe County.
 - Thurston F. Davenport, Jr., and Mary Elizabeth Keel, both of Williamston.
 - John D. Langdale, Jr., of Windsor, and Pauline Buckner, of Williamston and Weaverville.
 - Stevenson Speller and Virginia Corey, both of Williamston.
 - William Ingalls, RFD 5, Greenville, and Doris Stalls, RFD 1, Robersonville.
 - Willard O. Abbott, of Williamston, and Ella Mae Gaylord, of Jamesville.
 - Millard Edward Ange and Leah Frances Mizelle, both of Jamesville.
 - Joseph Warren, of Williamston, and Mandie Ingalls, RFD 3, Williamston.
 - Clayton Roberson and Anna Rose O'Merry, both of Robersonville.
 - Walter J. Burden, Jr., of Windsor, and Lenora Melson, of Williamston.
 - Lloyd J. Hall, of Newport News, and Nancy Ruth Cannon, of Oak City.

- Colored**
- James Grimes and Betty Saunders, both of Robersonville.
 - John David Barnes and Sadie Mae Spruill, both of Robersonville.
 - Joe Williams and Clara Williams, both of Robersonville.
 - Lee Rollins and Melvina Armstrong, both of Robersonville.
 - Willie Manson, of Williamston, and Eva Mae Baker, of Washington.
 - Willie Moore, of Williamston, and Jaunita Jones, of Robersonville.
 - James Henry Wilson and Emma Brown, both of Washington.
 - William Arthur Davis and Emma Mae Wilson, both of Williamston.
 - Willie L. Gosham and Viola Goss, both of Williamston.
 - Charlie Coffield and Essie Peale, both of Williamston.
 - Nathaniel Ebron, of Robersonville, and Louise Biggs, of Williamston.
 - Arrie D. Wallace, of Everettts, and Christine Woodard, of Williamston.
 - James Slade, of Williamston, and Mary Lee Lloyd, of Robersonville.
 - Irvin Ross, of Martin County, and (Continued on page six)

Justice Hears Five Cases In Court Here

Justice John L. Hassell handled five cases in his court here this week, but final disposition in three of them will come in the county court next Monday.

Drunk and down, F. E. Leggett was fined \$1.50 and taxed with \$8.50 costs.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle with no rear light, Julian "Top" Crandall was fined \$10 and required to pay \$6 costs.

William Brown, facing the court on two counts, was required to furnish bond in the sum of \$100 in each case. Herbert Brown, a second defendant in the case charging the two with assaulting George Shaw with deadly weapons, had not been apprehended, according to last reports coming from the police department. In the second case, William Brown was charged with forcible trespass and damaging property.

Charged with gambling, Carswell Spivey, William Riddick and Guilford Brown were bound over to the county court for trial under bonds.

Committee Approves Fund For Buggs Island Project

Washington.—The House Appropriations committee has approved a fund of \$3,000,000 for beginning of work on the \$50,000,000 Roanoke River flood control project at Buggs Island.

PLANT BEDS

Prevailing bad weather for weeks has interrupted the farm program considerably in this county, and while the delay is not serious in the off-season, quite a few farmers are beginning to worry because they have

plant their tobacco beds. Reports indicate that hardly more than 15 percent of the farmers have sowed their tobacco seed. However, in some sections, sixty percent of the beds have been prepared and planted, it has been estimated.

With a break in the weather, many beds are certain to be sown during the next few days.

Draw Citizens For Service As Petit And Grand Jurymen

Judge Walter Bone to Preside Over March Term of The Superior Court

Fifty-seven citizens from all parts of the county were drawn by the Martin commissioners in their regular February session for jury duty in the superior court. Nine of the number will be drawn for grand jury service during the twelve months beginning next month. Thirty are being called for petit jury duty during the first week of the March term convening the third Monday, and eighteen are being summoned for duty during the second week of the regular two weeks mixed term.

Judge Walter Bone of Nashville is scheduled to preside over the term.

Names of the citizens drawn for service and their respective townships follow:

- First Week**
- Williams: Asa L. Moore.
 - Griffins: J. Leonard Coltrain, Claudius Hardison, D. Clarence Gurkin, Leslie E. Hardison, Robert Edwin Peel, James B. Harrington, and B. Frank Lilley.
 - Bear Grass: J. D. Price, Archie Wynne, W. O. Peel, Joseph S. Griffin and Redden L. Leggett.
 - Williamston: M. S. Moore, G. B. Modlin, H. B. Allen, W. K. Parker, H. J. Hardison, J. Walter Gurganus, Marvin Peed, Henry D. Mizelle, R. J. Allen, W. C. Bailey, Johnnie Raymond Roberson, George Jasper Moore and S. A. Perry.
 - Cross Roads: James D. Riddick and Alton Keel.
 - Robersonville: B. A. Rogers and Hugh Roberson.
 - Poplar Point: E. H. Roberson.
 - Hamilton: A. B. Bullock, W. F. Thomas and D. G. Adams.
 - Goose Nest: B. J. Whitfield, Harry E. Daniel, J. W. Bellflower, H. J. Haislip and R. N. Turner.
- Second Week**
- Jamesville: J. C. Kirkman.
 - Williams: Jimmie Tyre.
 - Griffins: Jesse H. Peel, Thomas L. Lilley, Mack D. Coltrain, Ben Ira Hardison.
 - Bear Grass: Henry Lee and W. M. Harrison.
 - Williamston: Larry J. Bullock, J. D. Holliday and M. C. Smith.
 - Hamilton: J. D. Etheridge, D. R. Edmondson, Jesse Edmondson, Geo. A. Ogleby and William Ramsey.
 - Goose Nest: J. H. Bland and E. R. Turner.

Reenlistment Time Has Been Extended

A new opportunity for Army veterans to reenlist and retain their former grades is offered by important changes in regulations announced by the War Department, Lt. James B. Pagett, recruiting and induction officer, stated today.

Previously, veterans had only twenty days from date of discharge to reenlist in the grade held at the time of discharge. However, new regulations allow ninety days after the discharge date to reenlist in grade, provided enlistment is effected prior to July 1, 1946.

The change in reenlistment regulations was made after it became apparent that veterans desired more than twenty days to make up their minds about continuing their Army careers. Ample time is now given to weigh the opportunities for education, travel, recreation, and security, with retirement pay at the completion of twenty years' service, offered by the Peace-time Army.

Men reenlisting in the Army within ninety days after their discharge will receive the same reenlistment allowances as heretofore, but in order to be eligible for a reenlistment furlough, the veteran must reenlist within twenty days, as under the old regulation.

Family and dependency allotments are continued for the duration of their enlistments for all the veterans reenlisting before June 30, whether they reenlist for eighteen months.

Men have their choice of the branch of service and over the next few months must enlist for the three years period.

Elaborating on the general success of the recruiting program, Lt. Pagett stated that the majority of veterans are reenlisting for a three year period in order to have their choice of assignment.

Local Scouts Begin Observance Of 36th Year Of Movement

Program Gets Under Way As Kiwanis Club Entertains Members Of Troop 27

Beginning Thursday, February 7, and lasting through February 14, the Boy Scouts of America will observe their 36th anniversary.

Under the leadership of Wheeler Martin, District Chairman, the Scouts of Martin District with the assistance of their leaders will join two million scouts and scouters in the United States in the observance of this occasion. Chairman Martin is asking all scouts and leaders to take an active part in the week's activities.

The program for the week began last night when the Kiwanis Club entertained the scouts of Troop 27, Williamston, at their weekly meeting. The occasion was highlighted by an address by N. M. Schaum of Wilson, president of the East Carolina Council. A short Court of Honor was held at which time John B. Hackney, Scout Executive, awarded certificates to all scouts who have made advancements since September 1. The Kiwanis Club sponsors Troop 27 and has taken an active interest in its work.

Sam Bundy, member of the Martin District Committee will have charge of arrangements for window displays by the troops in local store windows.

All scouts of Williamston will attend church services in uniform on Sunday, February 10, Scout Sunday, at the local Episcopal Church at which time Rev. J. S. Huske, Jr., will deliver a special message to scouts. Scouts and their leaders are attending Rev. Huske's church in special recognition of his work as scoutmaster of Troop 27. Rev. Huske has recently resigned as scoutmaster and has been succeeded by Horace Ray who was scoutmaster before entering the service several years ago.

Troop 29 will be entertained by the Lion's Club on Thursday night, February 14 at which time H. B. Mayo, field executive for the Martin District, will speak and will award certificates to scouts who have made advancements in a special Court of Honor. The Lion's Club sponsors Troop 29 and has furnished excellent leadership for the activities of the scouts in this troop. Carroll Jones, member of the Lion's Club, is scoutmaster.

In connection with the week's activities scouts throughout the nation will join hands in a "Shirts Off Our Backs" campaign which will enlist the contributions by scouts of old equipment and clothing to be sent to scouts in the devastated war areas where scouts have lost their entire scouting equipment to the German and Japanese invaders. In Martin District, G. G. Woodard, camping and activities chairman, will lead the drive. He will be assisted by D. R. Davis, district commissioner.

Colored Men Leave For Pre-Induction

Ten Martin County colored youths were called this week to report to the reception center at Fort Bragg for pre-induction examinations. All of the ten called are just eighteen years of age except one and he is 23. Seven listed farming as their occupation, while two of the three non-farmers were listed as students.

Names and addresses of the men called to report Wednesday are, as follows:

- Lonza Lee Rogers, Williamston and Norfolk.
- Forest Sanders, RFD 1, Oak City.
- Julius Lee Edson, Robersonville.
- Albert Lloyd Williams, RFD 1, Palmyra.
- Albert Powell, RFD 1, Oak City.
- James Ernest Slade, RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Elijah Crandall, Jr., RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Jesse Mayo Andrews, RFD 3, Williamston.
- George Mack Spruill, RFD 3, Williamston and RFD 2, Robersonville.
- George Lester Land, RFD 3, Williamston.

Suit For Divorce Filed In The Superior Court

Based on two years of separation, a suit for absolute divorce was filed by Edward Lee Gainer against Janie Gainer in the superior court here this week.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Maintaining their present pace, motorists on Martin County highways will set a whale of an accident record this year. Already the count is nearly three times greater than it was in the first five weeks of 1945, and the property loss is six times greater, not to mention the fact that six times as many persons have been injured. Last year, the motorists managed to stay out of the death column. They have already scored there this year.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident record in 1945 and 1946 for each year to the present time.

Accidents In'd Killed Dam'ge				
Year	Killed	Injured	Property Damaged	Damage
1946	3	3	0	5,675
1945	1	0	0	75
Comparisons To Date				
1946	11	6	1	2,450
1945	4	1	0	400

Detained for questioning in the Marco robbery case here last Saturday evening, Jack Grant, 26-year-old Washington colored man, was released late Tuesday, officers explaining had identification was not possible. His right arm cut by glass, Grant was arrested by Washington police early Tuesday morning, and the explanation he offered did not correspond with that offered by his girl friend. Grant maintained that he was cut on the arm Saturday night in the Marco robbery case. Washington Street with his sleeve rolled up. His girl was quoted as saying she cut him with a glass at her home that night. Grant, a parolee, did not report to a doctor until Sunday night and a lead in the case was picked up there, according to information received here.

Jas. S. Whitehurst Reviews Record Of Carrier Shangri-La

Martin County Young Man Was On Famous Ship During Pacific Campaign

(Recent raids on Jap strongholds having run into considerable enemy opposition, bad weather appeared to complicate the next raids on Japan described in this installment of Seaman Whitehurst's story of the Shangri-La. However, whether they knew it or not, the men on the famous carrier were entering the last days of the war with Japan.—Ed.)

By July 30 we were back in the Tokyo Bay Area once again but the weather was so bad over our assigned targets, our pilots were told to search for "Targets of opportunity." Usually this doesn't provide very lucrative results, but on this day it was just the opposite. Our pilots found a nest of submarines, sinking three midget subs and three larger ones plus damaging four midgets. Besides this they plastered small freighters, a cruiser, a large transport, small merchant ships and locomotives plus the Japan Imperial Aircraft Plant which was bombed and rocketed and left burning. We were bothered by the usual Jap "Snoopers" but none attacked our group, although the British nearby "Splasher" one that ventured too far from his bowl of rice.

Then for over a week, we cruised around a short distance from Japan. First we were dodging a typhoon, then we were replenishing ship, then we were just waiting, and waiting and waiting. The crew began to get restless. "Let's get on with the war," they said. Still we cruised, holding a couple of half-day holiday routines while we sailed about 500 miles from Japan. The crew lolled in the sun on the flight deck without a care in the world and little thought of the Jap who was only a couple of hours' flight time from us. Still we wanted to get on with the war so we could go home. . . . Then came the news. Japan had been blasted by the new Atomic bomb. We had laid a safe distance off shore until the big "Blast" was over.

When the first news of the Atomic Bomb was released, many of the crew would not believe it. . . . It was too fantastic to be true. Still as more and more information trickled through, and the facts came out we pushed the end of the war up on our calendars to two weeks more or at the most two months. . . . Our spirits were high on August 8 when at last we were ready to start our strikes once more, this time in the Hakkaido area once again, but the weather still was against us. Fog over our force kept our planes on the deck except for our air patrol that flew no matter what the weather was. Though we couldn't attack, still the Japs kept heckling us all day long. They would duck in and out of the fog at us and our air patrol would chase them away or shoot them down.

With foggy weather still holding around Hakkaido, we dropped south a bit the next day to blast aircraft and airfields on Northern Honshu. Generally strike day started off rather quietly but August 9 was an exception. The first thing in the morning we learned the news that Russia had entered the war. The ship fairly buzzed with the news and prognostication as to what effect this would have on the war.

Excitement was to be the order for the day, it seemed, for as our first planes roared off the flight deck a plane from our sister carrier had to make a forced landing in the water just off our port side and we watched as the pilot was rescued by a destroyer. A short time later the same thing again was repeated.

Then about noon our little slant— (Continued on page six)

Construction Priority Given Road Projects

Road To Farm Life Gets First Rating In Federal Program

Palmyra and Hassell Roads Are Given Same Status By County Board

Holding their second meeting of the month, the Martin County commissioners last Tuesday assigned construction priority ratings to several farm-to-market roads included in a proposed State-Federal Aid and a strictly state highway building program. The authorities, remembering the earnest pleas made the day before by a delegation from Hamilton and Goose Nest Townships, studied the map several hours before reaching a final decision, the chairman, R. Lee Perry, expressing the wish that all of the project could be handled simultaneously.

The first decision came when the authorities reasoned that a thickly populated community in the Farm Life section of the county was possibly farther removed from an all-weather road than any other group, and the road from John A. Griffin's filling station to Route 171, near the Farm Life School, was given first priority in the construction program proposed under the State-Federal governments.

The Griffins Township road, of which about five miles are yet to be paved, is one of six proposed projects to be financed jointly by the State and Federal governments. A joint priority rating was given the Hamilton-Palmyra road and along with the one from Butler's Bridge to the Edgecombe County line, via Hassell, it is proposed to surface about 8.1 miles of the Hamilton-Palmyra road to a point near Smith Brothers' store at the same time that the Butler's Bridge-Edgecombe County line road is built. It is estimated that about seven miles of the Butler's Bridge-Edgecombe road is to be surfaced exclusive of the stretch from Hassell to No. 11. The approximately 2.6 miles of road from Smith Brothers' store to the Halifax County line, via Palmyra, were assigned a No. 4 rating, the commissioners expressing the hope that no delay will be experienced in completing the project in its entirety.

The old Greenville road, leading off U. S. Highway No. 64, near the Martin County home, via Cross Roads, to the Edgecombe County line, via Hassell, was given a No. 3 rating in the State-Federal program. The route is about 10.7 miles long.

A No. 5 rating was assigned to the 7.7 miles of road exclusive of a short stretch already paved, to the route leading off U. S. Highway No. 17, near the Staton farm, and running via Bear Grass to the Beaufort County line and in the general direction of Greenville.

The Bear Grass-Everetts road of about 5.6 miles was listed sixth in the State-Federal program. There is only one strictly state-financed road proposed in the county at the present time, and under that program the route from Highway No. 64 at Holly Springs to a point on Highway No. 171 in Griffins Township, gets No. 1 rating.

It is not known whether the state project or the state-federal projects will receive first attention. It is possible that much of the state-federal system will be handled first, and then it may be possible that the State will be able to squeeze in the Holly Springs road ahead of the others.

The commissioners have been given no assurance when construction work will get under way, but they are hopeful something will be done during the next several months to improve the bad plight of the roads in this county.

During the meantime, work is expected to get under way on the project in Goose Nest Township, pointing toward Greenville.

While much attention has been given the secondary roads, connecting roads have not been forgotten. (Continued on page six)

War Veterans Get \$8,330 In County For Readjustment

Nearly Two Million Dollars Paid 95,732 Jobless Veterans In North Carolina

Raleigh.—Veterans in Martin County received \$8,330.44 in readjustment allowance payments during 1945, according to a report just issued by the Unemployment Compensation Commission. This amount was paid to job-hunting veterans covering 467 weeks they were without employment last year.

Throughout the state, the total of 1945 readjustment allowances paid was \$1,707,698.00 covering 95,732 jobless weeks for North Carolina veterans.

The program of readjustment allowances was set up by the G. I. Bill to help veterans get established or become reestablished in employment. In North Carolina, the Unemployment Compensation Commission handles these payments for the Veterans Administration. Veterans make application to the unemployment compensation claims agents located in the U. S. Employment Service offices.

While a veteran is looking for a job, or if he is going to get his old job back but has to wait a few weeks to get on the payroll and can't find temporary employment meanwhile, or if he finds a job and loses it, he is entitled to an allowance of \$20 a week.

He can apply for this any time within two years after his discharge or two years after the end of the war, whichever is the later date (but not more than five years after the war has been declared over).

The number of weeks for which a veteran may claim an allowance depends on the length of his active service. If he saw service for more than nine and a half months he would be eligible for allowances for the maximum number of 52 weeks.

The important differences between readjustment allowances and unemployment insurance are (1) that it doesn't matter in the least whether the veteran ever worked before or not, his eligibility is based on his military service; and (2) allowances are paid at the uniform rate of \$20 a week, whereas the amount of an unemployment benefit, depending on a worker's past earnings, will be something between \$4.00 and \$20.00.

In applying for an allowance, many veterans want to know if they have to take a job regardless. If employment is offered and refused by a veteran, then the U. S. C. has to look into the situation and decide whether he had a good reason for refusing to take that job, as if it wasn't a suitable one for him. There is no fixed standard as to what is or is not regarded as suitable work. Such things as health, safety, physical-fitness, prior training, past experience, previous income, travel distance, and many others, must be taken into account as to whether an applicant is justified in turning down a job offered by the Employment Service.

Another feature of G. I. allowances is that they are available to veterans who want to go into business for themselves. Last year \$329,750.00 was paid to veterans in self-employment. Most of the veterans who have been drawing these in North Carolina are those who want to get started as independent farmers.

Any veteran who is fully engaged in a business of his own may draw a self-employment allowance covering the difference between his net income and \$100 for the previous calendar month. Many farmer-veterans, during the time their crops and livestock bring no returns, receive the whole \$100.

President Clarence Griffin presided over the meeting, which was opened with the singing of "America," led by A. J. Manning Wheeler Manning gave the invocation.

JayCees To Sponsor School Essay Contest

Meeting Tuesday evening at the Woman's Club building, the Williamston Junior Chamber of Commerce decided to sponsor an essay contest in the high school. The topic of the essay will be, "What a Civic Club Might Do To Improve the Community."

The contest is to be conducted with the support of the faculty of the school and the winner is to be given a Victory bond.

A report was made on the hotel project, noting that there is a great deal of interest in town in the matter and that progress is being made.

The club also voted to select a member of the organization who has done the most for the welfare of the community during the year, and appoint him the man of the year.

Two representatives from the high school, Dorothy Leggett and Rodney Everett, appeared before the club to ask its cooperation in an effort to acquire the Legion hut for the youth's recreational center, when the USO releases it. The members pledged their support.

Convict Flees From Durham Penal Camp

Jesse Griffin, 36-year-old Beaufort County man who was sentenced by Judge Leo Carr in this county back in December, 1944, for running down and murdering two young girls, Minnie Pearl and Mary Alice Mendenhall, and badly injuring their mother, Mrs. S. Walter Mendenhall, escaped from a state prison camp in Durham County late last Sunday night.

Office Hours For Veterans' Service

County Commissioners of Martin County Have Appropriated Funds For A Veterans Service Office In The County And Have Employed Mrs. Joanna C. Martin To Act As Service Officer

Offices are maintained in Mrs. Martin's home, opposite the Martin County agricultural building. Mrs. Martin is on duty from nine a. m. to one and from two to five p. m. each week day except on Saturdays when her office will close at one o'clock. She is qualified to help exservicemen and women of Martin County in all problems pertaining to the Veterans Administration and acts in advisory capacity when certain phases of entitlements are not handled directly by the Veterans Administration.

In addition to rendering service to exservicemen of the county, her office will also render varied assistance to the dependents of men who have served in the armed forces. This office is designed to take care of veterans of this county and their dependents. The commissioners are anxious that the citizens of Martin County use this office and will appreciate veterans calling on Mrs. Martin if there is any service she can render in handling any problems the veteran may have.

The office is under the N. C. Veterans Commission which maintains a large staff at the Veterans Administration in Fayetteville, to prosecute claims at the administration.

Signing Dates Listed For 1946 Farm Plans

Dates and places for signing the 1946 farm program, including soil conservation methods and payments for the coming year, were announced today by county farm officials.

Landlords who do not sign these plans will not participate in the 1946 farm payments, it was stated.

The place of signing, the dates and section represented are listed below.

Roger's Store, Feb. 16 and 16 for Bear Grass; Cross Roads, Feb. 15 for Cross Roads; Everettts, Feb. 16 for Everettts; Ayers Store, Feb. 8 and 9, for Goose Nest; Manning's Store, Feb. 15 and 16, for Griffins; Slade Rhodes Store, Feb. 8, for Hamilton; Edmondson's Store, Feb. 9, for Hassell; Sexton's Store, Feb. 15 and 16, for Jamesville; Masonic Hall, Feb. 8 and 9, for Robersonville; County Home, Feb. 15 and 16, for Williams; Agricultural Building, Feb. 15 and 16, for Williamston and Poplar Point.

Approximately \$52,000 is estimated to be available for farmers in Martin County this year as compensation for soil building practices.

Assistant Is Assigned To Soil Conservation District

Joseph N. Honeycutt, of Fuquay Springs, has been assigned as assistant to Mr. H. F. McKnight, soil conservationist for this county. A first lieutenant in the Army Air Corps, Mr. Honeycutt just recently returned from overseas.

Test Equipment Is Moved For Bridge

The Bowers Construction Company, successful bidders on the half-million dollar Roanoke River Bridge project here, moved in some equipment this week and is making arrangements to make certain tests. A pile driver was unloaded here earlier in the week and a bulldozer was brought here later for use in making the tests.

The contractors plan to drive test piles to the size needed. After the tests are completed, it is expected that the actual work will be done on the project before the latter part of next month.

Contractor Bowers and Construction Superintendent Dixon were here this week looking over the project site.