

Minor Civil Cases Slated For Trial In Superior Court

Only Two Days of Two-Week Term Allotted To Civil Calendar

Other than twenty-five divorce cases, the civil calendar prepared for the regular two-week term of Martin County Superior Court convening here next Monday for the trial of criminal and civil actions, carries very few suits. Only two days—Monday, September 23 and Tuesday, September 24—have been allotted for the trial of the fourteen civil cases on the calendar. Very few of the cases are recognized as being of any great importance, but quite a few thousand dollars are involved in one or two of them. A bar member was quoted as saying that the prospects for the court were the poorest in some time.

Alleging breach of contract, C. B. Saunders is suing H. A. Bowen for \$19,600 damages. The plaintiff alleges that he paid \$300 for an option on the defendant's farm with the understanding that the purchase price would be \$15,000 plus other considerations. It is also alleged by the plaintiff that the option, expiring May 11, 1946, was renewed for one month, that the defendant claimed to be "too busy" when asked for a deed before the expiration date of the option, and that on the day of the expiration, the defendant absented himself and did not return home until the morning of June 11. The plaintiff also alleges that the action on the part of the defendant was taken after a \$30,000 offer had been made for the property. The defendant denies the allegations and maintains that the plaintiff is entirely responsible for the lapse of the option. It was stated that the defendant was not interested in selling the property.

Hanging fire in the courts for some months, the case in which Universal Finance Company is suing Steve G. Clary for possession of an automobile, is again on the calendar.

R. S. Critcher is suing J. E. Williams and Ernest Winslow for the possession of personal property, two oxen, "Buck" and "Bill", an ox cart, cross cut saw and one pair of log grubs. It is admitted that the oxen and cart had been surrendered, leaving \$75 due on the lien.

A boundary line dispute is involved in the case of Edward L. Owens against J. H. Davenport and others, the plaintiff alleging that the defendants had removed timber valued at \$2,000 and that \$500 damage was done in removing the timber.

In the case of Elizabeth Pierce against Ben Biggs and wife, the plaintiff alleges the defendants wrongfully entered upon certain lands and removed timber and sand valued at \$550, that in their acts the defendants damaged other property to the extent of \$100.

In his case against Hattie Rivers, Sylvester Dancy is petitioning the court for the sale of certain lands in Robersonville, Township.

Charged with abandoning his crop, Louis Simpson, is being sued by V. G. Taylor for \$215, money advanced the defendant.

Growing out of the accidental death of her husband, Lloyd Roberson, back about 1930, the case

(Continued on page eight)

Ministers Plan Prayer Meetings

At a meeting of the Williams-ton Ministerial Association Tuesday morning in the study of the president, Rev. John W. Hardy, plans were made for the meetings to be held in local churches during the month of October.

Rev. John L. Goff was asked to arrange a series of cottage prayer services for the week of September 23-27 in preparation for the meetings that begin at the Methodist Church on Sept. 30-Oct. 6; Christian Church, Oct. 7-18; and the Baptist Church, Oct. 20-30.

The association urged that all Christians pray and make plans for attending the services.

The evening services at all churches will begin at 7:30 next Sunday and continue at that time through the winter.

Watts and Marco Theaters Independent Chain Leases

After operating theaters here for more than a quarter of a century, J. Wig Watts recently leased for ten years the Watts and Marco movie houses to Messrs. Worth Stewart and H. H. Everett, independent but very successful heads of a chain of theaters in North Carolina. The lessees, under the local management of Mr. C. W. Hamilton of Beaufort, will take over the properties on Sunday. Mr. Hamilton, a native of Beaufort and stationed in Farmville and Goldsboro with the Stewart-Everett theaters, will be assisted for a week or ten days by Mr. W. W. Cunningham, the firm's district supervisor.

The new firm, retaining all the old employees at the Watts, is employing several more personnel, including Messrs. J. D. Batts of Wilson and Elton VanWolven of Goldsboro as machine operators.

While the firm maintains, to a large extent, a local atmosphere in its operations, it is large enough to bargain with producers for pictures releases and contracts, Mr. Watts said. Mr. Stewart of

Dunn and Mr. Everett of Charlotte have been in the business for a number of years, working with distributors and operating theaters.

No radical change in operations will be made other than in the show schedules. At the Watts continuous shows will run from 11 a. m. to 11 p. m. each week day. On Sundays there'll be three shows in the afternoon, beginning at 1 o'clock and an evening show beginning at 9 o'clock. Continuous shows will run at the Marco from 1 to 11 p. m. on Monday through Friday and from 11 a. m. to 11 p. m. on Saturdays. The Sunday schedule there will be the same as the one at the Watts—three shows in the afternoon beginning at 1 o'clock and one in the evening beginning at 9 o'clock.

Asked about his future plans, Mr. Watts said that he had no right at the present, that he like Dr. Biggs would be available to go on any trip upon invitation at any time from any one. After hewing to the line for over 25 years, he plans to rest a while, he said.

Manslaughter Trial Scheduled In Court

Judge Stevens To Be Here for Term Of Superior Court

Only Fifteen Cases Are Placed On Docket For Trial

The trial of a man charged with manslaughter, is expected to feature the criminal proceedings in the Martin County Superior Court opening a two-week term here next Monday to hear a mixed docket. Judge Henry Stevens, a potential candidate for governor, is to preside, Clerk L. B. Wynne announced.

With few major cases on the criminal docket and only one or two important actions on the civil calendar, the court is likely to be in session no more than two or three days in each of the two weeks allotted for handling its quarterly work.

Nine men are to replace that number on the "permanent" grand jury, and Judge Stevens is expected to make a timely charge to the group.

Pending in the courts since last March, the case against Belcher is considered the most serious one to come before Judge Stevens next Monday. Belcher, charged in addition to the manslaughter count, with drunken and reckless driving, ran into a car at Sweet Water Creek, near here, last February 17, murdering Lloyd Cowan, Hertford County white man, and critically injuring Marcellus Newsome, aged man, also of Hertford County. Mr. Newsome, about 65 years of age, suffered a broken hip and after about five months in a Durham hospital was recently released. The case was continued for the State, pending the outcome of his condition. Denied his freedom for a while, Belcher was later released under bond in the sum of \$2,000.

Comparatively few cases have been placed on the docket since June and several of the others have been continued from term to term as far back as last December. Up until Thursday only fifteen cases had been placed on the criminal docket, but one or two others were pending at that time.

John E. Williams, charged with obtaining \$527 under false pretense from R. S. Critcher on July 13, 1945, is scheduled to appear after his case had been continued four times. He is said to have given a mortgage on property he did not own.

A drunken driving charge pending against him since last November 13, Henry L. Harvey in the county court asked for a jury trial but on two occasions he wasn't in court for trial.

Early May Boston is charged with assaulting Leaman James with a knife and a bottle, doing

(Continued on page seven)

New Pastor Takes Up Duties Here

Rev. Floyd Williams, a native of Greenville, entered upon his new duties as pastor of the local Pentecostal Holiness Church last Sunday, succeeding Rev. H. M. Pope who resigned to enter evangelistic work. Williams, who moved into the parsonage on North Haughton Street last Friday.

After attending college at Franklin Springs, Ga., Rev. Williams was graduated from the Home and Bible Institute in Greenville, S. C., and held a pastorate in Bethel before locating here.

Water Flowing to Area After Wait Of Twenty Years

Several Customers Hook On To Town System The First Day

After a wait of about twenty years, town property owners in the North Haughton Street area this week finally got fire protection and an available source of water when the town water mains were extended there. Three customers were said to have hooked on to the system the first day and others are anxious for connections, it was learned.

With greater fire protection now available, property owners in that area, it is believed, should be eligible for lower insurance rates.

Within the incorporated limits and subjected to town taxation, the late Mr. George Moore appealed to the town authorities for consideration. His pleas were heard, but the number of potential customers was limited and the project was not considered feasible at the time. The area experienced sort of a boom and plans were advanced just before the war to lay water and sewer lines there. The money was appropriated, but the project was interrupted. Anxious to get water to the area, the authorities picked up pipe here and there and finally extended the water line there last Tuesday. The sewer line project is being held in abeyance, pending a drop in costs.

It is planned to carry the water main beyond the town limits almost to the highway department depot, but just now the pipe is not available. The authorities are also agreeable to the extension of water lines down Pine, Plum and Oak and other streets.

Citizen in the area were very much disturbed when water lines were extended into the West End

(Continued on page seven)

Judge J. C. Smith Has Fifteen Cases In County's Court

Several Road Sentences Are Imposed; Collect \$170 In Fines Monday

Handling fifteen cases in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday, Judge J. Calvin Smith developed a liberal trend when it came to meting out road sentences and imposing fines. Several long road terms were imposed and fines amounting to \$170 were collected during the session lasting well into the noon-hour period. No large crowd was present for the proceedings.

No session of the court will be held during the next two weeks, Judge Smith and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson yielding to Judge Henry Stevens who opens a two-week term of superior court next Monday.

Proceedings last Monday: The case having been heard at a previous session, the court suspended judgment upon the payment of the costs by Nemi Moore who was charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes.

Going into court for the third time for alleged drunken driving, John A. Eberhart, Raleigh white man, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for twelve months. Explaining that he and his father had imbibed freely of beer and wine the evening they were arrested, Eberhart maintained that he wasn't driving fast. The arresting officer stated that the defendant was very polite and caused no trouble. The defendant, pleading for a fine instead of a road term, appealed to the higher court and Judge Smith required bond in the sum of \$350.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving, Charles H. Bagley was fined \$50, and his driver's license revoked for one year.

John H. Doyle and Smith Wilson, charged with attempting to obtain money by trick, did not answer when called in open court and their cash bonds were forfeited. The case charging Raymond Williams with aiding and abetting in the film-flam attempt, was continued for the State until the first Monday in December.

Charged with assaulting a female and an officer in one case and assaulting a female in a second instance, Dave Purvis, Jr., was sentenced to the roads for nine months in the first and three months in the second which is to begin at the expiration of the first. The defendant asked for a stay of judgment execution until he harvested his crop. The plea was granted but bond was required in the sum of \$350 for his appearance in court on November 15 when he is to start serving the term.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Jobe E. Parker was found not guilty.

Ollie Page was fined \$25 and required to pay the cost for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the court costs in the case charging Will Bell with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Charged with operating a transfer without a chauffeur's license, Redmond D. Keeter pleaded guilty and was fined \$10 with court costs attached.

Henderson Moore was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Elmer "Tank" Bennett, charged with being drunk and disorderly and carrying a concealed weapon, was sentenced to the roads for three months. He pleaded guilty

(Continued on page five)

Sentence Likely To Be Invoked In Theft Case

Alleged to have violated his parole, Vernon Gray Weathersbee, young white man, was being held in the county jail. Convicted at the June term of superior court, Weathersbee was sentenced to the roads for eighteen months for the alleged theft of an automobile. The sentence was suspended and the defendant was placed on parole.

His arrest came at the direction of the parole officer and details could not be learned here immediately.

Colonial Frozen Foods, Inc. To Open New Plant Here Monday

\$50,000 Plant On Corner Grace and Haughton Streets

Ninety Percent Of Stock In New Venture Owned By Local People

Recently completed at an approximate cost of \$50,000 the freezer locker plant of the Colonial Frozen Foods of Williamston, Inc., will be placed in operation next Monday, it was announced this week by Manager Claude J. Goodman. The opening, planned months ago, was first delayed by building material shortages and more recently the project was held up when part of the freezing equipment was lost for weeks in shipment. Installations of all equipment has been completed and tests are being made today, Manager Goodman stating that the preliminary runs have proved very satisfactory.

Recognizing the need of a freezer locker plant in this section, local and county citizens interested themselves in the project more than a year ago. Authorities were invited here to discuss the frozen food business, and a corporation was created later with G. H. Harrison as president, D. V. Clayton, treasurer, and Ben D. Courtney, secretary. Twelve citizens here and in the county subscribed to the stock, Dr. E. T. Walker transferring his when he moved to Atlanta. The present stockholders are, D. V. Clayton, B. S. Courtney, Johnny Gurkin, J. S. Whitley, Ben D. Courtney, William Everett, Noah Rogerson, C. J. Goodman, N. C. Green, G. H. Harrison, and Harry Phillips of Raleigh.

The plant, located on the corner of North Haughton and Grace

(Continued on page eight)

Woolard To Open New Store Here

Completing an extensive renovation program of the interior and unpacking large shipments, the Woolard Furniture Company is rapidly advancing preparations for the opening of its second store here next Wednesday.

Located in the Tar Heel Apartment building diagonally across the main street from the first store, the new extension offers a realistic setting for the display of an exquisite line of furniture and home furnishings.

On opening day the store will offer several valuable prizes, including an electric washing machine, iron and radio, the drawing to take place that evening at 9:30 o'clock.

Miss Elizabeth Daniel, recently added to the company's personnel, will be assigned to the new store along with several of the old employees, it was announced. Miss Daniel recently returned to her home in the county after a stay of about five years in Baltimore where she was in the sales department of a large furniture establishment.

Farmers Sign Up For Soil Money

Martin County farmers are filing on Friday and Saturday of this week claims with their respective community committees for soil building payments under the 1946 program. They are being asked to list the practices already handled and those they plan to advance this fall. The county has been allotted \$51,000 for soil building practices this year, but only a part of the allotment has been taken.

Those farmers who find it impossible to report to their community committees, are asked to file their claims in the county agent's office before Saturday of next week.

Soil building payments may be earned by planting either Austrian winter peas, vetch or clover. Rye, planted this fall, will earn credits under the 1947 program, it was explained.

County White Men Answer Induction Call This Week

Exhausting its current supply, the Martin County Draft Board last Wednesday sent only seven of fifteen white men called for final induction by the armed forces. Eight were instructed to report, but one, Maryland Annie Hadley, RFD 2, Williamston, did not report. It was unofficially reported that the young man had enlisted for service in the armed forces.

The call for final induction was the first to be answered or partly answered in this county since June. A pre-induction examination call for white men is expected the early part of week after next, but the number could not be learned.

The names and addresses of the white men answering the call for

final induction Wednesday follow:

Rodney Harvey Roberson, Robersonville.

Herbert Leslie Manning, RFD 1, Williamston and Rocky Mount.

Alton Fay Peel, RFD 1, Williamston.

James Elbert Ayers, RFD 2, Williamston.

Ottis Hope Peel, RFD 3, Washington.

Milton Bennett Wynne, RFD 3, Williamston.

Mack Hyman Warren, RFD 1, Robersonville.

Four of the eight men in the current call come from the farm. No teen-age youths were included in the group, the ages of the seven reporting ranging from 20 to 24 years.

Twenty-five Divorce Cases Set For Trial

Man Steals Both Coming and Going

Willie A. Norman, young colored man of Plymouth, was arrested Wednesday for allegedly breaking into the home of Cocal Hill in Jamesville on Monday and stealing a radio. Thumbing his way to Plymouth, Norman sold the radio. A short time later Norman stole a radio from the mouth, thumbed his way through Jamesville to Williamston and sold the "hot" radio set to a dealer.

Following the man's arrest in Plymouth, the Hill radio was recovered and officers are tracing the radio stolen in Plymouth and sold here.

Norman admitted he removed the screen at the Hill home and pulled the radio through the window.

4,182,830 Pounds Tobacco Sold On The Market Here

Leaf Being Placed On Sale Now For Auction Early Next Week

Marked by fairly wide price fluctuations from day to day, tobacco sales continue to go forward in leaps and bounds on the local market. Through Thursday of this week, 4,182,830 pounds of tobacco had been sold for an average just under \$50 per hundred pounds.

The price trend is causing concern in some quarters, and it is believed that congestion is having its influence. However, after showing weakness for two days, prices regained much of the loss Thursday, but they have not yet recovered the high level reported on opening day, August 19.

With 2,885,190 pounds already sold, the local market handled 316,300 pounds last Monday for an official average of \$51.12. On the following day, 333,678 pounds—the largest sale to date—sold for \$157,678.86, an average of \$47.26. The 322,774 pounds sold Wednesday averaged \$45.93 for a new low figure. On Thursday the 322,774 pounds offered for sale brought an average right at 49 cents.

Possibly the quality of the leaf is having much to do with the price average fluctuation, but it is apparent that the inferior grades are battling to hold their price figures.

Next Monday's sale was being placed on local warehouse floors Thursday morning, and farmers were calling for space for Tuesday's sale. The glut is really on in a big way and some relief must come, observers declare. It is now the prevailing opinion that the selling hours will be re-

(Continued on page five)

Several Parties Appeal To Court For Subsistence

Four Plaintiffs Seeking Divorces On Grounds Of Adultery

Scheduled to complete the trial of the two dozen divorces cases on the calendar, next Monday, the Martin County Superior Court plans to crank up its divorce mill and grind out approximately twenty-four separation cases.

Of the two dozen divorces cases on the calendar, not including one where the defendant "passed over the river" a short time ago, four of them are based on grounds of adultery. Marital relations are also at a breaking point in several other cases in which the plaintiffs are appealing to the court for subsistence.

In most of the cases no answers to the complaints have been filed, and where there are children they are in the care of the mothers. Some of the litigants were married as many as thirty years ago, and are coming into court at this late hour to tear asunder the bonds of matrimony.

Married in August, 1916, and separated in June, 1941, Maggie Davis is seeking a divorce from Harry Davis. While there is apparent cause for divorce on the grounds of separation, the complaint charges adultery. No respondents were named in the complaint, however, and the action is not contested.

In his case against Velma Briley, the plaintiff, Willie Briley, claims separation of two years the grounds for a divorce. He states that they were married in November, 1937, and separated in March, 1939. He admits that their child is with the mother, but maintains he has been giving it support. The action is being contested.

The case of Wilson Staton against Lena Staton before the courts for two or more years, is scheduled for another airing. The plaintiff is asking a divorce on the grounds of two-year separation. Contesting the case, the defendant admits they were married March 23, 1930, and that they lived together until August, 1944. About three months following the separation, the court ordered the husband to pay \$15 a month to his wife. According to the wife, the husband did not support her, that when his mother came to live with them he would bring food home for his mother and himself and hide it from her. She is asking a reasonable subsistence.

Asking for subsistence without divorce, Frances Whitley in her case against Jesse Whitley, states that they were married in February, 1932 and separated in 1944, and alleges mistreatment at the hands of her husband, and further

Asked for subsistence without divorce, Frances Whitley in her case against Jesse Whitley, states that they were married in February, 1932 and separated in 1944, and alleges mistreatment at the hands of her husband, and further

(Continued on page six)

Plant Certain To Boost Market For Farmers' Produce

Manager C. J. Goodman Outlines Service Of Locker Plant

Announcing the opening of the new freezer locker plant by Colonial Frozen Foods of Williamston, Inc., on the corner of Haughton and Grace Streets here next Monday, Manager Claude J. Goodman this week briefly outlined a few of the services offered.

Most of 511 lockers in the plant have already been rented to individuals. Mr. Goodman stated, and applications are being taken for others. Just now there are few garden products available for storage, but several locker owners are looking around for beef cattle, chickens, hogs and a few vegetables, such as butter beans. It will take some time to build up a supply, but once the system runs partly through a cycle of a few months, the lockers can really pay off for the owners, it was declared.

Plans for building up a food supply and instructions for preparing foods to be placed in the lockers may be had either at the plant or from the county home demonstration agents.

After commenting on the various cooling, freezing and storage rooms, Mr. Goodman explained that considerable attention will also be given to the pork curing room. With a temperature of 38 degrees, the pork curing room can handle 200,000 pounds of meat at one time. The plant, adequately equipped with modern machines, can take a dressed hog, cut it up and pack the meat in a matter of minutes. Farmers, wishing to have their meat cured, may deliver the dressed hog, or they may cut the meat themselves and deliver it to the plant.

The plant will not guarantee any meat where it is packed by the owner. However, when the meat is packed by the plant it is guaranteed. Even when the farmer packs his own meat and delivers it to the plant for storage, the plant will repack it. The plant offers three types of curing meat, either with plain, sugar or smoke salt. The plant will grind sausage and lard but it is not yet equipped to render the lard.

Mr. D. M. Roberson of Roberson's Slaughter House, has agreed to cooperate with the plant and owners of the individual lockers. He will custom slaughter beef, but arrangements are to be made before hand for such slaughtering.

The chicken picking room with a capacity of 1,000 chickens a day, is certain to prove popular. When broilers are the right size they can be delivered to the plant on any Thursday for slaughter and picking and packing. Instead of buying one or two chickens each week, the individual locker owner may place an order for a dozen or two dozen, have them prepared and packed on any Thursday for use as he needs them.

No direct sales are provided just yet at the plant, but the service will be extended from time to time.

The plant, Mr. Goodman continued, is well equipped to do custom cutting for meat whole-

(Continued on page eight)

Three Cases In Justice's Court

Before leaving last Tuesday afternoon for a few days stay in Asheville, Justice John L. Hassell handled three cases in his court.

James Purvis, charged with disorderly conduct, was fined \$5 and taxed with \$8.50 costs.

Drunken and in court again, Clyde Silverthorne was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending sentence upon the payment of \$9.50 costs. "We are letting the suspended sentences accumulate with the possibility of having the defendant serve them all at one time," the justice was quoted as saying.

Charged with forcible trespass and a simple assault on William Midgett a few days ago, Harvey Bryant was bound over to the county court under bond in the sum of \$50. The case is booked for trial on September 30.