

## Children Victims Of Sordid Affair Aired In Courts

### Fate Of Six Little Tots To Be Decided In The Juvenile Court

One of the most pathetic and possibly the most sordid cases ever scheduled in the courts of this county was aired before Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn and a goodly number of spectators here last Tuesday afternoon. After hearing all the sordid charges, some of them almost certain to have been advanced without foundation, Judge Burgwyn looked upon six little children, expressed a deep sympathy for them and declared that they were the real victims.

Literally chased from her home a few weeks ago, Mrs. Lloyd Mizelle Harrison appealed to the courts for alimony without divorce. Officers and others stated that all the sordid facts were not brought out in the hearing, but enough shocking charges were made to cause one to wonder how long society can advance with its very foundation crumbling beneath it.

Among other things, the defendant alleged he was not the father of the 11-month-old baby held by the mother in her arms during the hearing. Other charges were made by him, but they did not seem to impress the court.

It was alleged that the defendant had taken company with another woman, a Mrs. Oliver, and one report even maintained that the father carried her into the home as a highly trained nurse to officiate at the birth of the sixth child. Serious charges were intimated at that time, but nothing was done about them.

It was also charged that the defendant had attempted to prepare, after a sneaking, common and low-down fashion, a trap whereby he could enter the courts and seek a divorce on the grounds of adultery. The trap apparently was not perfected, and then it was charged that the defendant hired a taxi, and, in the company of his new friend, literally drove his wife from their home not far from Williamston. Mrs. Harrison and the baby are now at home with her mother.

For more than two hours the charges were advanced by the litigants, Judge Burgwyn, his eyes turning often to the bright little victims, deciding that the wife was to receive one-third of the net income from the 1946 crops. The six children, their ages ranging from 11 months to 6 years,

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## Copper Returning From War Service

Out of reach of illicit distilleries and many others, too, during the war years and for months after the fighting was over, copper is returning for use in various channels.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Officer J. H. Roebuck and his assistant, Deputy Roy Peel, recently captured three illicit copper kettles in the county. Unable to get sheet copper, the illicit distillers in the county used oil drums for kettles and the wooden still increased in number.

Last month the officers picked up five stills, two of them copper ones. Nearly 500 gallons of beer were found and poured out, but apparently the owners were just starting operations, the officers stating they found no liquor at any of the plants.

So far this month the officers have wrecked five plants, including three equipped with copper stills. The first of the plants, including a 50-gallon capacity copper kettle, six 50-gallon capacity fermenters and 150 gallons of sugar beer, was wrecked in Robersonville Township early in the period. The second plant, equipped with a 50-gallon tin kettle and three fermenters, was wrecked in Bear Grass. Returning to the same section on Tuesday of last week the officers wrecked an oil drum and four fermenters and poured out 100 gallons of molasses beer.

In Free Union last Thursday two copper stills, one of 100 gallon capacity and the other of 50 gallon capacity, were captured, the officers pouring out 300 gallons of molasses beer.

## Large Number Autos Here Without 1946 Town Tags

Advised that the sale of town vehicle license tags is running approximately 150 behind the number of motor cars and trucks listed for taxation, the local town commissioners in special session last Tuesday evening directed the clerk to turn over the list of "delinquents" to the police with instructions to have the owners to purchase and display the tags on their vehicles at once. "If most of the vehicle owners purchase the \$1 tags, all should purchase them," the board reasoned. Should the sale strike a snag, the mayor was directed to institute court proceedings.

The list could not be had for publication, but the clerk stated that it included a least one member of the town's official family and quite a few prominent figures.

## Damaged Leaf Holds Price To Low Figure

### Market Gradually Working Out From Under Great Glut

#### Over Half Of Current Crop In This Section Has Been Marketed

Prices, possibly influenced by damaged leaf and a general market weakening, held to a fairly low level Wednesday when 214,788 pounds of tobacco were sold for \$102,134.80, a resulting average of \$47.50 or one of the lowest reported on the local market this season. Apparently the sprinkling of damaged leaf had a tendency to pull prices down on many grades. However, the top grades were still selling for around 60 cents. The medium quality and nondescript types were carrying the burden, some farmers advancing the opinion that the price had dropped several cents below those received earlier in the week.

Through Wednesday the market had sold 5,107,860 pounds of the leaf for an average right at 49 cents. Sales Thursday held right to the maximum allowed, and it was reported that the price average was hardly as strong as it was the day before.

The sale last Monday—197,614 pounds—averaged \$50.24. It was the highest average since Monday of last week when 316,300 pounds were sold for an average of \$51.12. Even though farmers were placing tobacco on the floors Thursday for sale next week, the market is gradually working out from under one of the greatest blocks in its history. Smoother operations and strengthening prices are expected to follow just as soon as crowded conditions are relieved.

Farmers in this section are making ready to harvest the peanut crop, and attention given that crop is expected to help relieve the congestion on the tobacco markets.

It is estimated that approximately sixty percent of the tobacco crop in this section has been marketed. Quite a few farmers have already sold their entire crops, and with few exceptions all others have disposed of their tips and first primings.

## Louise Hines To Lead The Seniors

New class officers were elected at the initial meeting of the senior class of Williamston High School for the school year on August 29.

Louise Griffin, class president of last year, presided during the election of president, Louise Hines was selected as president. Other officers are as follows: Vice president, Elizabeth Parker; secretary, Elizabeth Manning; treasurer, Roddy Everett.

Senior privileges, room improvements and the class play were among some of the topics discussed. Wine and green were chosen as class colors and the Talsman rose was voted upon as the official flower.

Lucy Andrews, treasurer of last year, made a report on finances.

## Ten Divorees Are Granted In Court Tuesday Morning

### Two Cases Non-Suited And Mistrial Ordered In Another One

Clearing the criminal docket last Tuesday, the Martin County Superior Court, working in the first week of a two-week term cranked up the old divorce mill and ground out ten separation decrees in short order. Divorce pleas failed in three other cases, and a dozen others were continued, several for trial next week.

Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn presided. Called into special session to discuss the 1946-47 budget, the commissioners were advised that the North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau had strongly recommended that at least one full-time fireman be stationed at the fire department at all times. The board ordered that \$1,800 be added to the budget to care for the salary.

All but one of the ten cases was based on two years' separation. Simon Daniel Moore, alleging adultery, was granted a divorce from Alma Mae Moore. The other divorce cases clearing the court hurdles follow: Nancy Clemmons against Jonah Clemmons, Elaine J. Barber against Macon D. Barber, Hattie Bond against H. D. Bond, Mary E. Summerlin against James F. Summerlin, Ella R. Taylor against Thurston Taylor, Jr., Calvin Best against Rachel Best, Willie Briley against Velma Briley, Sara Ebron against Buck Ebron, Libby Pencil Station against Lenward P. Station.

A voluntary non-suit was taken in the divorce action brought by Goler Ormond against Carrie Ormond. The plaintiff alleged that he was made to sleep on the floor, that he left and spent the nights in his mother's home since 1943, but admitted that he returned home to work his garden, and that his wife prepared meals for him. They were married in 1921.

In the divorce case brought by Luther C. Modlin against Mary Modlin a mistrial resulted when a juror was withdrawn. The young man, in court on crutches with an injured foot, married in Pennsylvania and the two separated about two weeks after the ceremony. They were separated more than two years, but Judge Burgwyn maintained that the time he was separated from his wife by service in the military forces did not count as a part of the two-year separation grounds.

When the plaintiff in the case of Maggie Davis against Harry Davis failed to appear and prosecute her divorce claim, the action was non-suited.

Reconvening next Monday morning at 10:00 o'clock, the court will call a few civil cases. Small crowds were in the court during the first two sessions, and the cases next week are likely to attract very little attention other than the one of Saunders against Bowen which is slated for trial on Tuesday and which will likely require more than a day for trial.

## Eleven Cases In Justice Hassell's Court This Week

### Several Defendants Drunk And Down But They Were Not Out

Justice John L. Hassell handled eleven cases in his court during the past few days. Defendants in several of the cases were charged with being drunk and down, but they were said not to be out until they reached the court where they were out about \$13.50 each when a final accounting was taken.

Proceedings: Harry Lee Wiggins, drunk and down, was fined \$5 and taxed with \$8.50 costs.

Roy Pritchard, drunk and disorderly, was fined \$5 and required to pay \$8.50 court costs and a \$10 medical fee.

Charged with drunken driving, Norman Foster James was bound over to the county court for trial on September 30. Bond in the sum of \$100 was required.

Drunk and disorderly, William Lanier was fined \$10 and required to pay \$7.50 costs.

Leonard Walston was fined \$5 and required to pay \$9.50 costs for being drunk and down.

Buck Wilson, drunk and down, paid a \$5 fine and \$9.50 costs.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Andrew Lyons, Jr., was bound over to the county court for trial on September 30. Bond in the sum of \$50 was required.

Fred Lanier and Sam Habitt, both charged with assaults with deadly weapons, were booked for trial in the county court at the same time.

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## Takes Attorney's Oath Before Judge Burgwyn

Carter Wallace Jones, Hertford County young man, accepted the attorney's oath before Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn in the Martin County Superior Court here last Tuesday afternoon. A few spectators and relatives of the young man heard the oath administered. Attorney Jones plans to practice in Winton, it was reported.

## Set Attendance Records In The County Schools

### Over 3,300 Are Attending Regularly In The Nine White Schools

According to a report released this week by the superintendent and covering the first few days of the current term, the average daily attendance upon the nine white schools in this county exceeded all percentage ratios on record. Out of 3,316 children enrolled in the white schools, 3,241 were in attendance upon the several schools each day on an average. The report was declared to be one of the most encouraging to come from the school system in this county in quite some years.

While the record is not perfect, it reflects a greater interest on the part of parents and the children themselves in education and of taking every possible advantage of educational opportunities. Possibly too many children are still remaining out of school, but any time all but 75 out of 3,316 report for school work each day, the record isn't at all bad.

Hamilton led the list with the highest daily attendance figure, the school there missing a perfect score by only five-tenths of one percent. Principal George Haislip reported that 171.5 of the 172 pupils enrolled there were present each day, on an average.

Hassell had 66 of its pupils in school each day, Mrs. Viola P. Leggett, principal, reported. Principal Jesse Rhue reported that 429 of the 435 pupils enrolled in the Jamesville School were present each day during the early part of the term.

Only four out of 198 were absent on an average in the Farm Life School, Mrs. Ethel G. Roberson, principal, reported. Principal C. A. Hough said 335 of the 341 enrolled in the Bear Grass School attended regularly.

Of the 879 pupils enrolled in the Williamston School, 862 were in attendance regularly, Principal B. G. Stewart reported. Everetts had 210 of its 218 pupils present each day during the period, Principal Manly Fulcher reported.

Only four of the 593 enrolled in (Continued from page five)

## Call Additional Jurymen For The Court Next Week

### Names of Forty-five County Citizens Are Now On The Jury List

Explaining that fewer than fifteen citizens are expected to report for jury duty during the second week of the Martin County Superior Court, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn Tuesday morning called for an additional eighteen men and directed the court officers to instruct them to report Monday morning.

The county commissioners in their regular meeting last month drew the names of twenty-seven persons for duty as jurymen during the second week of the current term. As far as it could be learned, only one, R. W. Salsbury, of Hamilton, had been definitely excused when the additional list was ordered by the court. Apparently other excuses will receive consideration. The combined lists as they stand at the present time include the names of forty-four citizens who are subject to jury duty next week. Cases have been scheduled for trial only on two days of the second week, and the tribunal completed its work scheduled for the first week Tuesday afternoon.

Names of the additional jurymen called and instructed to report next Monday: Jamesville: C. B. Fagan and Arthur D. Gardner. Griffins: S. E. Manning, N. R. Peel, B. R. Manning and Howard Coltrane.

Williamston: B. F. Baldree, Asa W. Corey, J. Paul Lilley, Charlie B. Bowen, Harry G. Jones. Cross Roads: J. R. Bullock. Bear Grass: G. A. Peel. Robersonville: Milton Evans and Claude D. Wilson. Poplar Point: W. M. Hardison. Hamilton: Harvey Williams. Goose Nest: T. T. Christenbury.

## Accepts Position In District OPA Office

Jesse G. Terry of Bear Grass this week accepted a job as clerk in the district office of the Office of Price Administration here. The present office, serving the counties of Tyrrell, Washington, Bertie, Hertford and Martin, now has four employees.

## Local Board Adopts \$2.00 Rate for Town

### Budget Calls For Expenditures Of Nearly \$112,000

#### Slight Decrease In Property Valuation, But Rate Is Unchanged

Meeting in special session last Tuesday evening, the local town commissioners studied and tentatively adopted the town's 1946-47 budget and announced that a \$2 tax rate on the \$100 property valuation would be fixed for the period. The rate remains unchanged despite a decrease of approximately \$67,000 in assessed property values.

## New Enrollment Record Reported In Local School

### New Teacher Added; Sixth Grade Moving To Little Wooden Building

Nearing the 900 mark for the first time in history, enrollment figures in the local schools are calling for more teachers and more classrooms. Principal Burton G. Stewart stating this week that arrangements are being made to house an extra grade section in the little manual arts building just back of the high school gymnasium. Jumping from 879 reported during the first few days of the current term, the enrollment figures now stand at 888 in the local schools, 724 in the elementary and 164 in the high school departments.

With the enrollment in the fifth grade climbing to 97 during recent days, local school authorities explained that an additional teacher had been earned, that one is being employed to handle a third section of the crowded grade.

The marked increase in the number of pupils attending the local schools is rapidly developing into a difficult problem. It was pointed out that no room is available in either the primary, the elementary or the high school buildings, that the manual arts building is being partitioned to care for a section of the sixth grade. Desired material for altering the building interior is not available, but school officials said this week that rough lumber would be used for ceiling off a room, that sheet rock would be placed there as soon as it is available, possible not later than November. Workmen will start making the alterations at once and one of the sixth grade sections now housed in the elementary building will be transferred to the high school grounds along with Miss Ross, the teacher. The other (Continued on page six)

## Defendant Agrees To Pay \$500 Fine

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with nearly cutting Josh Rascoe to death here several months ago, James Bannerman was sentenced to the roads for eighteen months, the court mentioning Monday that a \$500 fine would be considered. Going into court, downcast and down-hearted, Bannerman asked that the fine be imposed. For the next fifty weeks, the defendant is to pay \$10 to the clerk each Saturday, the costs to be added.

The fine is one of the largest imposed in the courts of this county in years. Roberta Baker, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was released when Judge Burgwyn directed a verdict of not guilty when court was resumed Tuesday.

In the case of C. H. Godwin, Jr., against Arnevia Slade, the court appointed Paul D. Roberson as referee. The case involves a boundary line.

## Furniture Store Has Big Opening

Opening a new store in the Tar Heel Apartment building, G. G. Woolard, manager of the Woolard Furniture Company, stated that 1,175 persons registered and that possibly 1,400 or 1,500 visited the store the first day last Wednesday.

Handling an exclusive line of furniture, furnishings and other items, the store had a very successful opening, Mr. Woolard said. The washing machine, offered free to the holder of the first lucky number, went to Mrs. J. R. White of Merry Hill. Pete Ford drew the table set radio, and S. R. Taylor held the lucky number for a free iron.

## School Busses To Be Stopped Until Repairs are Made

### Grand Jury Submits Report To County Tuesday Morning

Advised by the grand jury that two county school busses were operating with back doors blocked, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, presiding over the regular term of superior court, Tuesday ordered that the busses be stopped until proper repairs are made. The jurist made no mention of other recommendations in the report, but it is assumed that every effort will be made to carry them out.

The report, submitted over the signature of Foreman James Harrington, reads: We the Grand Jury of Martin County for the above mentioned term of Superior Court submit to you our report as follows:

1. We have passed on all bills of indictment presented to us.

2. We visited the Clerk of Court's Office and found it to be in excellent condition with all Guardian Accounts filed.

3. We found the Register of Deeds' Office in excellent condition and all bonds in order.

4. The Sheriff's Office and Tax Collector's Office were visited and found to be in good condition with all records up to date.

5. We visited the office of the superintendent of Schools and found it in excellent condition.

6. We checked all Justices of Peace reports and found them all filed with the Clerk of Court and fines submitted to the Treasurer.

7. We visited the county jail and found it to be clean and well kept. We found 1 Negro male inmate and 1 white male inmate.

8. We visited the County Home and Prison Farm and found everything in good condition.

9. We visited all the County schools and checked all school busses and found the busses as follows, to wit: Williamston white school, bus no. 21, rear door would not open. Williamston colored school, bus no. 38, rear door would not open. Robersonville school, bus no. 24, short circuit in horn; no. 10, horn out of order and no lights; no. 8, steering gear hangs when turned short to left; windshield wiper doesn't work; no. 33, Chevrolet windshield wiper doesn't work very well. Accelerator sticks and radiator leaks.

Parmelee colored school, bus no. 1, windshield wiper doesn't work very well; no. 39 needs larger windshield blade; and we recommend a special effort be made in obtaining a water tank in Parmelee. (Continued on page six)

## Planning Cottage Prayer Services

Preparatory to holding a series of religious meetings in several of the local churches the latter part of this month and during October, the Williamston Ministerial Association is sponsoring a series of cottage prayer meetings, beginning next Monday evening. The meetings will be interdenominational and all are invited to attend.

The schedule for the meetings and the leaders: Monday, September 23—Mrs. W. H. Everett, Dr. I. D. S. Knight, leader; Mrs. W. H. Harrison, Rev. John L. Goff, leader; and Mrs. Frank Weaver, Rev. B. T. Hurley, leader.

Tuesday, September 24—Mrs. M. D. Wilson, Rev. B. T. Hurley, leader; Mrs. F. M. Manning, Dr. I. D. S. Knight, leader; Mrs. C. B. Roebuck, Rev. John L. Goff, leader. Wednesday, September 25—Mrs. F. G. Thomas, Dr. I. D. S. Knight, leader; Mrs. N. C. Green, Rev. B. T. Hurley, leader; Mrs. J. M. Ward, Rev. John W. Hardy, leader. Thursday, September 26—Mrs. N. R. Griffin, Rev. John L. Goff, leader; Mrs. Frank U. Barnes, Rev. B. T. Hurley, leader, and Rev. Hugh G. Horton, Rev. John W. Hardy, leader. Friday, September 27—Mrs. D. E. Darden, Rev. John W. Hardy, leader; Mrs. H. D. Harrison, Dr. I. D. S. Knight, leader; and Mrs. J. L. Rogerson, Rev. John L. Goff, leader. The meetings will be held at 7:30 p. m.