

Twenty Cases Are Slated For Trial In Superior Court

No Big Suits Involved; Court To Run Only One Week

With only twenty cases on the calendar, none of which is recognized as being of any great importance, the Martin County Superior Court has called off the second week of the term and will confine its activities to the first few days of next week, beginning next Monday. Jurymen, chosen to serve during the originally scheduled two-week term, have been notified not to report for work the second week.

Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn of Jackson has been assigned to preside over the few days of court which will handle divorces and civil cases only.

All cases, including claims for twenty-two divorces, have been scheduled for trial during the first three days of next week.

One of the most unusual cases on the calendar is the one brought by W. H. Roberson against L. T. Winberry in which the defendant is seeking to have a deed set aside and collect rent allegedly due in the sum of \$225. The plaintiff stated in the complaint that on and before December 20, 1945, his nephew, Bruce Johnson, and family lived with him in his eight-room house. Single and 64 years of age and in poor health, the plaintiff went on to say that the defendant and the defendant's wife and daughter moved into his home, that the defendant insisted on occupying all but three rooms in the home, but that he (plaintiff) would not resort to the courts to have his nephew ejected. Whereupon, the plaintiff alleges, the defendant volunteered to take action for ejectment. It is further alleged that the defendant instead of getting ejectment papers had a deed to the home prepared, and the plaintiff was, by false pretense, caused to sign the paper.

S. R. Biggs is suing A. C. Sparrow and others to recover an account in the sum of \$636.21.

Lazarus Rivers in his case against Augustus Forrest is appealing to the courts to set aside a deed to a lot in Gold Point.

W. A. Vanderford is suing Lee Carson for the possession of certain personal property used in the operation of the Gold Point.

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Robber Arrested In County Monday

Although three of the eight convicts who escaped from the prison camp near here on November 3 are still at large, it is open season in this section for taking fugitives and law violators. In addition to about eighteen arrests made last week, the man who broke into Dan Gardner's store and Silverthorne's garage here on the morning of October 11 was arrested late Monday afternoon by Cpl. W. S. Simpson of the highway patrol.

Raymond Carney, colored man who once lived in the Poplar Point section of this county, was found with a pistol stolen from the Gardner store on his person. He admitted breaking into the store and garage, but denies stealing Mr. Ernest Etheridge's car which disappeared that morning and which was found the next day in Wilson, Carney's home town.

Postal inspectors came here this week and Carney admitted breaking into the Pollockville post office and robbing a store there. He also admitted stealing the Chevrolet car recovered just off the Hamilton Road following the robbery of the two establishments on North Houghton Street here. He said he tied the wires together and later found the switch keys lying on the seat.

Carney has served several terms on the roads, four in this state and one in South Carolina. He is charged with robbery, carrying a concealed weapon and burglar tools, including a large spike hook. It is likely that he will be tried in this county next month and then be transferred to Jones County where he'll face robbery charges and later go into federal courts for robbing the post office.

Ask County To Give \$2,000 For The Eradication of TB

against tuberculosis in North Carolina is expected this season when an all-out drive will be made for sufficient funds to finance an extensive eradication program. The fight against tuberculosis, according to State Seal Sale Chairman D. Hiden Ramsey of Asheville, is already being stepped up. Five trucks, equipped with X-ray equipment, are visiting the schools and taking pictures of all children.

Charles H. Manning, succeeding Mrs. Joel Muse as chairman in Martin County, explained that \$2,000 is being asked to purchase the necessary film to take pictures of the thousands of school children in this county. Admitting that the quota was a fairly sizable one, the chairman declared that it will be needed to meet the film and other costs contemplated.

Native Of County Dies At Home Of Son In Virginia

Funeral Friday Afternoon Here For Mrs. Bettie Stalls Clifton

Mrs. Bettie Brown Stalls Clifton, native of this county, died at the home of her son, Cullen Stalls, 345 Victory Boulevard, Portsmouth, Virginia, Wednesday afternoon at 3:10 o'clock following a heart attack suffered just a few minutes previously. About three months ago Mrs. Clifton broke her hip in a fall and pneumonia developed. However, she had fully recovered from the pneumonia attack and was sitting in a rolling chair, apparently getting along very well when she was suddenly stricken.

The daughter of the late James Brown and wife, Mrs. Clifton was born in this county on March 22, 1883, and spent her early life here. Following her marriage when she was quite young to J. G. Stalls she moved to Tarboro and made her home there for about twenty years. Her second marriage was to J. L. Clifton and she made her home in Benson for about ten years before returning to this county to live with her son. After making her home here for about five years she moved with her son and his family several years ago to make her home in the Virginia city.

Surviving are two sons, Messrs. W. E. Stalls of Sheridan, Oregon, and Cullen Stalls of Portsmouth; one daughter, Miss Delores Stalls of Charlotte; a brother, Rev. J. Thomas Brown of Mt. Olive, and a sister, Mrs. Ashley Bland of Greenville. A son, Pfc. John G. Stalls, was killed in action in Italy on October 10, 1943.

Funeral services will be conducted from the Biggs Funeral Home on West Main Street here Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Dr. Ira D. S. Knight, local Baptist minister. Interment will be in Woodland Cemetery here.

Superior Court Jurymen Drawn

Twenty-four Martin County citizens were drawn by the commissioners in their recent session for jury service during the December term of superior court. Convening on Monday, December 9, the court is to be presided over by Judge Henry Stevens.

Names of the jurors follow, by townships: Jamesville: George B. Ange, William W. Walters and B. L. Ange.

Griffins: Rufus A. Coltrain. Bear Grass: James (Jay) Lilley, Mc. D. Leggett, James Henry Wynn.

Williamston: William Lambert, Connie B. Clark, D. E. Darden, Fred L. Chesson, Raymond Cherry, J. Herman Biggs and Wheeler M. Manning. Cross Roads: J. W. Peeler. Robersonville: N. C. Everett, J. L. Edmondson, Bill Everett and W. L. Chesson.

Poplar Point: Slade Revels. Hamilton: L. R. Beach, Charles Raynor and Robert A. Edmondson, Jr. Goose Nest: Minton Beach.

program for the eradication of tuberculosis. Last year approximately \$1,200 was raised in this section. This year the county is to be canvassed as a single unit with the Robersonville area cooperating directly and not as a separate area as it did last fall.

Plans are being completed for the drive scheduled to get under way on Monday, November 25, the chairman announced. Appeals will be made through the schools and bonds of \$5, \$10 and \$25 denominations, will be offered to business houses. Several district chairmen, including Frosty Martin, Jamesville; Chas. Daniel, Williams; W. B. Harrington, Griffins; Mrs. A. P. Barnhill, Cross Roads; Craven Roebuck, Hamilton, and Nat Johnson, Goose Nest, have been named, and others will be announced shortly.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

The victim may have been negligent, but the driver who ran away from a dying child on the highway last week can hardly expect to escape his conscience until his own dying day. Hit-and-run driving, regarded as one of the yellowest crimes of them all, boosted the death toll on Martin County highways for the year to date to four, and should call for a greater effort on the part of all to rid the highways of killers and reckless operators.

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

| 45th Week | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----|---|--------|
| Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'g | | | | |
| 1946 | 3 | 1 | 1 | \$ 700 |
| 1945 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 810 |
| Comparisons To Date | | | | |
| 1946 | 103 | 82 | 4 | 25,990 |
| 1945 | 68 | 39 | 6 | 12,895 |

Veteran of World War I Speaks To Legion Post Here

Advocates Strong Army and Navy For Defense of This Country

Addressing a meeting of World War I and World War II veterans in the American Legion here on Watta Street last Monday night, Colonel Edgar H. Bain, World War I veteran and holder of the distinguished service cross, declared in no uncertain terms his stand in favor of a strong force for national defense. "I want you to know that I stand 100 percent for national defense. I want peace and any man who wants war is a fool," he told the veterans, adding that we should keep the muscles of Uncle Sam strong.

Imitating the late Will Rogers at times, Colonel Bain said that he had been asked for an advance release of his talk. "But I don't speak that way," he explained, adding that he did not know what he would talk about, "and to tell the truth I don't know right now what I am going to say," he added and then immediately stated his stand on national defense.

"After the last war, men of patriotic organizations talked for a strong army and a strong navy," the World War I veteran said. He continued, "Preachers condemned them. They were called war mongers, and some even went so far as to say that it was just as bad to kill in war as it was to kill on the outside," the speaker said, declaring that our disarmament at the end of World War I was a disgrace.

Pointing out our unpreparedness, Colonel Bain said had it not been for our allies and their noble fight against the enemy while we were preparing for war, it would have been disaster for us. "The other fought the enemy until he was tired, and we moved in to deliver the knockout blow," he declared. "And we don't want to be found with our pants down when the enemy comes back." (Continued on page eight)

Ragland Declares He Was Not Alone In Postal Attack

Fugitive Warrant Placed In FBI Hands For Chester Marsh, Escapee

While no major developments have followed since the arrest of Otis Ragland for attacking Mrs. Floyd Moore in Williams Township last Friday afternoon, officers are gradually building up what is reported to be a strong case against the escaped convict. During the meantime Mrs. Moore continues in the care of her family physician and in deference to her condition she has not been asked to help with the direct identification of her attacker.

Ragland, now in the State's Central Prison, Raleigh, was said to have talked this week, one report stating that he had signed a sworn statement, but there was apparently some doubt about his having signed a confession. Officers, explaining that they thought it best to keep the statement secret for the present, admitted that they had made some progress in developing the case. However, it is fairly apparent that they are not yet satisfied with the evidence in hand at the present time, because they are exhausting every possible lead that will place the man near or at the scene of the crime.

The jumper stolen by Ragland in the community and other wearing apparel have been sent to FBI laboratories for inspection. Finger prints, made near the scene of the crime, have been obtained and are being developed.

Just before the attack, a man, bareheaded and answering Ragland's description, was seen walking out of the Griffin road in the direction of the Moore home. Ragland has been questioned at length on at least two occasions, and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck is planning to question him again in Raleigh within the next few days.

When arrested, Ragland said that a fellow convict, Chester Marsh, was with him. Questioned later, Ragland shifted the blame to Marsh. While officers firmly believe Ragland is deliberately lying, they made arrangements to have the search for Marsh extended to every part of the country. A fugitive warrant was placed in the hands of FBI Agent Pettit this week, and a picture and description of Marsh are being circulated in law enforcement circles by the hundreds.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, when questioned yesterday, said that many of the statements made by Ragland following the arrest with the aid of bloodhounds, highway patrolmen, prison guards and a large number of citizens, had been proved unfounded. It has been fairly definitely determined that Ragland never went to the Pulp Mill in search of a job. He did not sleep in a Jamesville church last Thursday night as he first stated he did. He has been caught in one lie after another, and officers hardly know what to believe and what not to believe. "That's the reason we are doing everything humanly possible to weave every thread of evidence we can into the case," Sheriff (Continued from page five)

Record Will In County Records

Written in long hand and bearing date of August 27, 1909, the will of the late James Grist Station was recorded in the clerk of court's office here last Tuesday. There were no subscribing witnesses, and the handwriting was verified by parties acquainted with his pen style.

The will, listing no items or requests, reads as follows: "In consideration of the love and affection I have for my beloved wife, Fannie Chase Station, I hereby give and bequeath unto her and her heirs and assigns forever all my estate, both real and personal and mixed, wheresoever and whatever found. "I hereby nominate and appoint my said wife executrix of my estate without bond." When the will was probated and recorded, an arbitrary value of \$100,000 was placed on the estate, \$99,000 personal and \$1,000 real property.

Fifth Convict Is Arrested Monday In Bertie County

Walter Louis Pulley Back In Martin County Prison Camp

Walter Louis Pulley, one of eight Negro convicts who sawed their way out of the Martin County prison camp on the night of November 3, was recaptured in the Colerain area of Bertie County last Monday by Deputy Sheriff Harry Smith. He was returned to the camp here late that night by W. T. Simpson and W. E. Saunders of the highway patrol and Capt. J. E. Delbridge, prison superintendent.

A native of Alton, Pa., Pulley was sentenced in Durham County two years ago to serve seven years for an assault with intent to kill.

Deputy Smith and five other officers made the arrest at the home of Davie Harrell without resistance. Harrell was placed under bond in the sum of \$1,200 for harboring an escaped prisoner. The bond was fixed at the direction of Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn who was presiding over a term of the Bertie Superior Court earlier this week.

Breaking out of the prison near here, Pulley traveled the dirt road leading off Highway 64 to Skewarke, stopping at the home of Whit Moore along the way.

Pulley said that he knocked on Moore's door about 11:30 that Sunday night, told him he had "just gone over the fence" at the prison camp and wanted clothes. Moore was said by Pulley to have donated a pair of shoes, trousers and shirt. When questioned by Simpson and Saunders, Moore denied having seen Pulley. When confronted by Pulley, Moore still still denied having aided the man. The officers searched the home and found a pair of prison shoes in the room, but Moore said he had found them near a pine tree early Monday, and had not had time to turn them in. Pulley told the officers in the presence of Moore that he visited the Moore home, exchanged clothes and continued on his way. When arrested Pulley was wearing Moore's shirt and shoes, but he had exchanged Moore's army trousers for another pair.

The arrest of Pulley leaves only three of the convicts who escaped on November 3 at large. Those still at large are: Albert Bowers, originally of Enfield, who was sentenced in Halifax County in August, 1939, to serve fifteen years for an assault with intent to commit rape. Chester Marsh who was sentenced in Guilford County in May, 1940, to serve 14 years for an assault with intent to commit rape. Marsh escaped in November of last year while working on the roads in Dare County. He was recaptured and placed in the camp here less than two months ago. Horace Platts who was sentenced in Cumberland County in January, 1945, to serve 7 to 10 years for breaking and entering.

Arthur Nicholson, one of the eight in the prison break, was arrested in Trenton, New Jersey, on November 6, reports reaching here that he is being held there on a serious charge, the nature of which was not disclosed. There is some doubt if North Carolina can claim him until he faces the courts in New Jersey.

Making his report, Finance Chairman John Henry Edwards explained that the treasury needed funds and that the association was sponsoring a stage revue in the high school on Friday, November 22. Quite a few tickets were sold that evening.

Finding that the Tuesday night meetings will conflict with other events, President Hugh G. Horton named Mrs. J. W. Watts, Mrs. Iverson Skinner and Mrs. Gene Kimball as a committee to determine a schedule for the meetings which, it was agreed, are to be held in the grammar school auditorium.

Miss Lissie Pearce, elementary school supervisor for the county system, addressed the meeting and reviewed her work. Pointing out that only fourteen counties in the State had supervisors, Miss Pearce said, "We are concerned with all phases of school life, but (Continued on page eight)

Peanut Market Takes Over At Close Of Tobacco Season

Without the slightest interruption, farm marketing here shifted from tobacco to peanuts last Wednesday when the leaf warehouses held their final sales and peanuts started moving in in sizable quantity.

The closing of the market just before noon Wednesday was without ceremony. The auctioneer chanted his last jargon, and there was a whoop or two, but buyers soon turned homeward and employees scooted for other jobs, the operators turning to other tasks or making ready to report to the Burley markets.

While falling 404,216 pounds below its record sales of 11,278,890 pounds handled last year, the local market broke all money records when it paid out \$5,515,721.11 or \$537,307.83 more than the 1945 income.

It was predicted during the growing season that heavy rains had damaged the crop in this marketing area, and while the loss did not prove to be as great

as it was first predicted, it is borne out in the figures, both for poundage and price average. The market sold 10,874,674 pounds for \$5,515,721.11, an average of \$50.72 per hundred pounds. Given a good crop year, the market would have handled possibly thirteen million pounds for an average nearer \$53.00 per hundred. It is generally agreed that poor quality tobacco and large quantities of damaged leaf played havoc with the price average. While some farmers averaged \$800 and \$900 per acre for their tobacco, others sold their entire crop of three or four acres for less than \$100.

With tobacco out of the way, farmers in this section turned to the peanut market, and the goobers are now moving to this point at the rate of several thousand bags daily with the price ranging from around \$10.50 to \$11.50 per hundred pounds and with the average holding right at \$11.25 per hundred.

RED CROSS AID

The Martin County Chapter of the American Red Cross aided sixty veterans and active servicemen in solving various problems last month, the home service director, Mrs. Edna Laughinghouse, announced this week.

The office is prepared to assist veterans in filing claims for insurance benefits, pensions, vocational training, financial assistance, hospitalization, medical and dental care and in solving other allied problems the veteran or active serviceman may have. Located on the third floor of the town hall, the office is open from 9 a. m. until 3 p. m.

Parents-Teachers In Meeting Here Tuesday Evening

State Workers Address Group; Chairmen Make First Reports

Holding their first meeting since the organization of a parent-teacher unit in the local schools, patrons and teachers heard some encouraging reports and timely talks by school leaders and representatives of the state association in the grammar school auditorium last Tuesday evening.

Hugh G. Horton, elected during his absence at the organizational meeting some weeks ago, presided and declared that he was gratified with the cooperation he had received, adding that the several committees were active in the promotion of the association's program.

The association, signing 100 members at its organizational meeting, has added 307 members to the roll, Mrs. Irving Margolis, chairman, reported. It was pointed out that the children in Mrs. Gorham's eighth grade room had enrolled every one of their parents, that Miss Ross's sixth grade had 73 percent of the children's parents already lined up, and that the record was 90 percent in Miss Pivott's eleventh grade. "Our goal is a membership in every home in the district," Mrs. Margolis said.

Much interest was shown in the organizational meeting of the AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II) held Wednesday night in the local high school auditorium at which time George Corey was elected commander. Tommy Owens was named adjutant and Mrs. Effie Sparow was selected as finance officer.

Hack Gaylor opened the meeting by explaining in detail the principles of the AMVETS. He stressed what the AMVETS have done since the group was organized at Kansas City in December 1944. The meeting was then opened for discussion and several expressed very definitely the need for some organization that would reach more of the veterans in Martin County. Interest in organizing the colored veterans of World War II was expressed by two representatives. The time and place of the next meeting will be announced later.

Judge Smith Calls Fifteen Cases In The County Court

Fines Collected in the Sum of \$290 In Session Last Monday

Calling fifteen cases, Judge J. C. Smith and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson worked well into the lunch hour clearing the docket in the regular session of the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday. Few white citizens were present, but colored spectators were numerous during the early part of the session. Fines were collected in the sum of \$290 and several road sentences were imposed. A few cases were continued until early December.

No session of the county tribunal will be held next Monday because the superior tribunal will be sitting for the trial of civil cases.

Proceedings last Monday: Making their appearance in court for the first time and going there with good reputations as law-abiding citizens, Arthur Cotton and Porter Cotten were booked for assaults with deadly weapons. Arthur pleaded guilty and offered no detailed explanation of the trouble. He was fined \$25 and taxed with one-half the costs. Pleading not guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Porter was adjudged guilty of simple assault and he was fined \$10 and taxed with one-half the costs.

Pleading not guilty, Paul Harrell was adjudged guilty of non-support and prayer for judgment was continued until the first Monday in next March. The defendant is to pay \$7.50 a week into the office of the county welfare department for the support of his smaller children.

Charged with temporary larceny, C. S. VanLandingham pleaded guilty of simple trespass and judgment was suspended upon the payment of the court costs.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Annie V. Brown was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs. Cornelius Jenkins, charged with allowing an unlicensed operator to drive a motor vehicle, pleaded guilty and he was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs. His license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for ten days.

Charged with reckless and careless driving and operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes, George Clemmons pleaded guilty and was fined \$40 and required to pay the court costs. His license to operate a motor vehicle was (Continued on page eight)

Good Fishing In Artificial Pond

Mrs. Noah Daniel Griffin, while voicing no objection, was not greatly impressed when Mr. Griffin was spending much time and cash on an artificial fish pond at her home near here some over a year ago. But after a diplomatic fashion, Mr. Griffin carried the project to completion and now has one of the best and largest fish ponds in this section of the state.

Last Tuesday we were finding the corn mighty tough to break, but I had no other thought but to continue at the task when my wife suggested that we stop and go fishing," Mr. Griffin said. Leaving an ear of corn half broken Mr. Griffin hurried to the house for fishing poles and worms and he and Mrs. Griffin started out to fish in the pond for the first time.

They had such large catches that they decided to return that afternoon. The day's catch totaled 53 sizable bream and bass, the bream measuring about seven inches and the bass going as high as 10 1-2 inches by the rule.

The bream, weighing at the rate of 50 to the ounce, were placed in the pond ten months ago. The bass were placed in the pond last May 15 and measured hardly an inch at that time.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Griffin were surprised to find fish of such proportions, and the discovery marks the beginning of a heavy fishing schedule from now on. Mr. Griffin has dumped a ton of special fertilizer into the pond to boost plant growth upon which the fish feed.

Veterans Perfect Organization Here

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