

## Peanut Research Offers Relief In Harvesting Costs

### Agricultural Station Making Extensive Experiments With Peanuts

Extensive experiments in peanut culture and disease are being made in this State, according to Dr. R. W. Cummings, assistant director of the State College Agricultural Experiment Station. Reviewing the work accomplished and that being done, Jane Hall writes as follows:

Specifically, Dr. Cummings and his associates are deeply interested in the prospect of creating an efficient peanut harvester, thereby cutting down on the loss of peanuts involved in present harvesting methods and reducing the high labor costs.

"The harvesting of peanuts in the South now beats cotton-picking as the most primitive agriculture going," said Agricultural Engineer G. W. Giles, who has charge of the station's mechanization program. "Most of the work is done by hand and as a result it is expensive and inefficient."

"Under present methods, a laborer digs up the peanut plant and shakes by hand, with a consequent loss of nuts. Then, the peanuts are put in stacks from one to six months for curing, and 19 percent of the hay crop thus is lost through weather action, not to mention the loss in nuts. Finally, the nuts are plucked out, with an additional loss.

"Although our program is just getting under way, we are aiming at a harvester that will do everything, dig, shake, pick, clean, cut, deliver the hay and bag the nut. It may take us several years, but we are going to do our best to deliver the goods."

Providing the peanut growers of North Carolina with an efficient harvester, however, is not the only peanut problem engaging the attention of Dr. Cummings and his staff. In general, Cummings' staff is aiming at better quality nuts, higher yields, better production methods and cutting the cost of production.

Currently, Plant Breeder W. C. Gregory is starting a program of producing bigger and better nuts, with emphasis on hybridization. For this purpose, Gregory has assembled samples of nuts from all over the world. "If our present peanuts are not suitable for a mechanical harvester," Gregory said, "we'll develop one. We also hope to develop plants which have increased quality in terms of market grade. In addition, we want to develop plants which have characteristics for specific uses in industry, such as peanuts for margarine, animal fats and for salting purposes."

Simultaneously, N. C. Brady, who has charge of the station's peanut soil fertility experiment, is concentrating on the twin problems of how to increase the calcium level of soil through the use of lime to the point where the growers' "landplaster" is no longer necessary, and, if so, how long the calcium will stay in the soil.

James H. Jensen, plant pathologist, is devoting his time to investigating the cause and cure of fruit, stem, peg and root decay, while soil Chemist J. Fielding Reed is looking into the problem of plant production as it relates to weed control. Meanwhile, B. W. Smith, cytogeneticist, is continuing his studies of normal seed development.

This six-pronged attack on the peanut's possibilities, a crop which had a 1944 cash value of

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## Local Young Man Opening Business

Thad F. Harrison, World War II veteran, is rapidly making preparations for opening an office supply business here. Spending several days in New York recently the young man purchased fixtures and supplies and he plans to open for business just as soon as deliveries are made.

Leasing the office building occupied on Main Street by Dr. J. B. H. Knight between the Harrison Shop and K. D. Worrell's electrical appliance shop, Mr. Harrison will alter the structure interior and make other improvements to the property.

## Officers Fired Upon During Raid On Still Last Tuesday

### Three Shots Miss Raiding Party In County This Week

#### Large Still Captured Along With Small Quantity of Illicit Liquor

For the first time in years, possibly twenty or more, Martin County officers were made targets of bullets when they raided an illicit liquor distillery in the Oak City section last Tuesday. No one was hit, but the officers heard the bullets ringing as they zoomed by near their heads.

Details of a preliminary investigation have not been revealed, but it was unofficially learned that the officers have some information and that they have a very good idea who fired upon them.

Handling duties they are sworn to handle, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel went to a pocsin about one mile off the new road running from Oak City in the direction of Hassell. The two officers, anticipating trouble, withdrew and made a call for h. p. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Patrolman W. E. Saunders answered the call.

The four men entered the woods and started closing in on the liquor plant. Just about the time they got near enough to the plant, the operator opened fire. "It was a funny feeling to hear a bullet sing by your head, but we continued to close in, using trees to every possible advantage," Sheriff Roebuck said. A second shot was fired, but the officers continued the march and reached the plant unharmed. The operators had departed, carrying most of the illicit liquor with them.

After wrecking the 75-gallon capacity copper still and pouring out a quantity of beer, the officers started to leave, racing against darkness. They had gone only a short distance before they were fired upon a third time. Fearing they would be shot down from ambush, Sheriff Roebuck gave orders to return fire. No more firing was heard from the offense.

"The underbrush was so thick we could not see very far, but we did glimpse one of the operators," one of the officers said. No arrests have yet been made in the case, but a full investigation is to be expected.

The plant, in addition to one complete manufacturing outfit, was being enlarged to accommodate two stills, but the arrangements were disturbed, for a while, at least.

The attack followed a day in court where several defendants from that section of the county were tried and convicted of handling illicit liquor.

Officers would not comment when asked if they had heard indirect threats made on their lives.

Rapidly becoming the center of illicit liquor manufacturing operations, the section was visited the

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## New Motor Firm Opening Monday

Its modern new building just about completed, the Griffin Motor Company will open for business on Washington Street here next Monday morning.

Jim Roebuck, experienced motor man of Robersonville, will manage the new business which is handling DeSoto and Plymouth cars. Tom Letchworth, able mechanic, will be foreman of the repair department, and they will have able assistants in the sales, office and repair departments.

A complete line of parts is being installed and demonstration cars are being unloaded for the showroom.

The company was organized months ago by Messrs. R. T. W. O. J. E. and Jos. Griffin and Hoke Roberson and is locally owned and will be locally operated. Considerable delay in opening the business has been experienced due to building material shortages and other obstacles. The building is located next to the Blue Star cleaners.

## Grant Telephone Company Permission To Lay Cables

After taking up arms against it to the extent that a restraining order was considered, Main Street business operators Thursday afternoon agreed to withdraw any action that would delay an improvement program of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company for its plant here.

During the next five days workmen will operate their air hammers, rip an eighteen inch strip in the concrete, ditch a five-foot ditch and place conduit for underground telephone cables from the central office on Smithwick Street to Main, up Main to Haughton and across Main at the intersections. The action will not interrupt traffic other than eliminate south side parking and the commissioners agreed when they met with merchant representatives and President Hill of the company that arrangements would be made to open more parking space in the backlots.

It has been known for some time that the company planned to place its lines in the main business sections underground, but not until Wednesday morning did workmen move in to handle the job. Engineer Thompson appeared before a special meeting of the board and he was denied the right to start the project this near Christmas. President Hill came down Wednesday afternoon, and the commissioners individually altered the action taken earlier that day. Local merchants, learning of the last-minute developments, considered a restraining order, but after the matter was fully explained they agreed to withdraw any action designed to delay the work. Hill told the group that three shifts would be employed night and day and Sunday and that the company would spare no expense in handling it.

The commissioners instructed the street superintendent to clear out the backlots where it will be possible to park approximately 200 cars.

Noticing the first day's work handled by the company's contractors, observers expressed doubt if the work could be handled before next Thursday night, but something was said about closing the project down if it was not completed by that time, weather conditions considered.

## MEMORIAL

The proposed \$100,000 Martin County War Memorial is gaining support very rapidly, according to reports released following a meeting of the committee this week. Several thousand dollars, including three \$1,000 gifts, have been received, a member of the committee said.

Plans are being made to carry the fund drive into all parts of the county within the near future, and members of the committee declare they are optimistic over the prospects.

## Changes In Post Office Service During Holidays

Discontinue Delivery Of COD Packages After December 18

Anticipating a big rush again this Christmas season, Postmaster W. E. Dunn today announced a few changes to be made in the service during the period.

"To make room for the delivery of gift parcels there will be no delivery of C. O. D. parcels by carriers commencing Wednesday, December 18th," Mr. Dunn said. "Commencing Saturday, December 7th and until Christmas one window will remain open all day Saturdays for the delivery of C. O. D. parcels. All windows will be open all day for all postal service on Saturday, December 21st.

"Due to the fact that many trains have been discontinued on account of the coal strike, the necessity for early mailing of Christmas greetings and gift parcels is most imperative this year. Mailings for out of state should be deposited well in advance of December 14, and greeting cards and parcels for local delivery in the state should be mailed not later than December 18, to assure delivery before Christmas day.

"Because of the many advantages that will result patrons are urged to send their holiday greetings at the first-class rate of postage. When so sent the greetings may be sealed and contain written messages not otherwise permitted, therefore having a personal appeal which is, of course, more highly appreciated by the recipients; such greetings are dispatched and delivered first, and if necessary, forwarded without additional charge; also, if undeliverable, they are returned without charge provided the senders' returned card is shown on the envelope.

"On the other hand, printed Christmas greetings mailed in un-

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## Calls Thirty-Two Cases In Session Of County Court

### Judge J. C. Smith And The Solicitor, Paul Roberson, Start New Term

Starting new terms last Monday, Judge J. C. Smith and Solicitor Paul D. Roberson were greeted by an unusually large docket in the Martin County Recorder's Court. Thirty-two cases were called and when the court tabulated its activities when it completed the docket at 4:00 o'clock that afternoon it was found that \$250 had been collected in fines alone and that several defendants had drawn jail and road sentences. A large crowd heard the proceedings during the early part of the day.

J. J. Cogdell, charged with battery, was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the term upon the condition that the defendant pay \$2.50 a week to the welfare department for the benefit of his illegitimate child. Cogdell is to return for further orders on the first Monday in December, 1947.

The case charging Raymond Williams with aiding and abetting larceny was dismissed.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost in the case charging Robert Martin with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, William Stokes pleaded guilty of assaulting a female. He was sentenced to jail for five days, fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Goldie Williams, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was sentenced to the roads for sixty days. He pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Cleveland Baker, charged with violating the liquor laws, pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 and taxed with the cost.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, John Edwards pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 and taxed with the cost.

Thurman Harrell was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost when he was adjudged guilty of violating the liquor laws. He pleaded not guilty.

Pleading guilty in the case in which he was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Delmus Williams was fined \$40 and taxed with the cost. The court recommended that no license be issued the defendant for twelve months.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Franklin Modlin was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his driver's license revoked for one year.

A continuance was allowed until December 16 in the case charging L. D. Mizelle with drunken driving.

Charged with drunken driving, Jesse Enoch Whitehurst pleaded guilty and he was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his license revoked for one year.

Charged with drunken driving and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, James Perkins pleaded guilty. He was fined \$75 and taxed with the cost and the court recommended that no license be issued the defendant for one year.

James Curtis Roberson, charged with drunken driving, pleaded guilty and was fined \$75 and taxed with the cost. His license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for one year.

The case charging B. L. House with drunken and reckless driving was continued until January 6.

James Albert Rider, charged

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## SICK

With independent buyers withdrawing and others boosting no strong demand, the peanut market this week was described as "sick." However, quite a few peanuts continued to move to market with the top price standing right at ten cents. A few sales where the jumbo goober accounts for 40 percent of the total were said to have exceeded the ten-cent figure. Other sales were made as low as nine and one-half cents. Threshing has been going forward rapidly this week in this section.

## Superior Court Has Crowded Docket Including Attack Case

### Will Receive Applications For Soil Building Payment

All those Martin County farmers who have reported their soil building practices for 1946 will find it convenient to sign application forms for payment when they participate in the annual community committee election on Saturday of this week, T. B. Slade, secretary of the Agricultural Conservation Association, explained yesterday. Quite a few farmers have already reported their soil practices. It was explained that others are being asked to report their activities that applications might be prepared.

The amount to be distributed under the soil building program for 1946 has not been disclosed, but it isn't likely that the county, as a whole, has earned the maximum allowed.

At the polls Saturday farmers may place orders for limestone. The material will be offered the

## Otis Ragland To Go On Trial For His Life Tuesday

### About Thirty Cases Slated For Trial In Longest December Term

Opening a one-week term next Monday, the Martin County Superior Court is scheduled to handle about thirty criminal cases, including one capital crime, two manslaughter charges and about twenty-five others ranging almost one end to the other of the crime scale. The docket is the largest tentatively slated during a December term of the court in a goodly number of years, Clerk L. B. Wynne stating that it was the largest since he had been serving the tribunal.

Otis Ragland, one of eight convicts escaping from the prison camp near here on the night of November 3, will go on trial for his life for criminally assaulting Mrs. Floyd Moore at her home in Williams Township early in the afternoon of November 8. A time for calling the case during the term has not been fixed, but it isn't likely that it will be placed before the court before Tuesday.

The case is the first of a capital nature to be called in the courts of this county since A. W. Watson was tried and convicted of first degree murder ten years ago this month. Watson was sentenced by Judge M. V. Barnhill on December 18, 1936, and the young Georgia boy was gassed on July 30, 1937.

Eighteen of the cases slated for trial were placed on the docket by justices of the peace. Two defendants were bound over by the county court, and nine were appealed from judgments imposed in the county court. The cases in several instances charge defendants with crimes dating as far back as 1940, and several are about a year old. The number of cases appealed is about the largest to come up from the county court since Judge J. C. Smith has been on the bench.

The case charging Frank Belcher with drunken and reckless driving and manslaughter, is still on the docket, but reports state that the main prosecuting witness, Mr. Marcellus Newsome, of Hertford County is still physically unable to attend court. On last February 17 Belcher ran his car into the one driven by Mr. Newsome, breaking the old gentleman's hip and causing him other permanent injury. Lloyd Cowen, riding with Newsome, was fatally injured. Belcher is at liberty under \$2,000 bond.

John E. Williams, charged with false pretense, is alleged to have obtained \$527 from R. S. Critcher July 13, 1945. The case has been continued four times.

Arrested for alleged drunken driving on November 13, 1945, Henry L. Harvey has managed to have the case continued term after term.

Charged with assaulting another with a deadly weapon near Dardens last Christmas eve, Early May Boston is slated for trial next week after appealing from the county court and having his case continued at previous terms.

On Christmas day last year, Ben Nichols allegedly broke into the home of Luther Perkins and

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## ACHIEVEMENT

Martin County 4-H and home demonstration clubs will review their work handled during the past year in an all-day achievement day program in the Williamston High School on Saturday of this week.

The program, planned jointly, will get under way that morning at 10:30 o'clock. Lunch will be served at 12:30, and the afternoon program, beginning at 1:30 will be brought to a close at 3:30 o'clock. Other than the members and agents, Rev. Ira Knight, Rev. John L. Goff, Commissioner R. Lee Perry and Miss Lissie Pearce, school supervisor, will have parts on the program, it was announced.

Several hundred club members are expected for the meeting.

## Jamesville Club Gets Its Charter

Recently organized by thirty-five of the leading citizens of the town and community, the Jamesville Ruritan Club was presented its charter last week in appropriate exercises held in the high school building. Presenting the charter to the new club, Swindell Lowery, president of Ruritan National, outlined the objectives of the organization and wished the members great success. Mr. C. B. Martin accepted the charter for the club.

Completing the organization of the club, members are already busy on a constructive program.

The charter presentation program was opened with the song, "America," A. Corey, chaplain, offering the invocation. C. A. Askew, secretary, submitted his report. Jim Blount of the Elizabeth City club talked on "Ruritan at Work." The following committee appointments were announced by President C. B. Martin:

Classification: G. M. Anderson, chairman, E. N. Modlin, G. E. Martin and B. B. Davenport.

Program: V. B. Hairr, chairman, F. A. Rawls, Watson Walters, and L. D. Clark.

Education: J. R. Rhue, chairman, Walter Brown and F. W. Holliday.

Agriculture: Carl Griffin, chairman, J. A. Gardner, Wilma Ange, Leo Gardner, Hosea Fagan, and Clyde Brown.

Industry: H. A. Sexton, chairman, Ira Alexander, L. W. Hardison and Arthur Modlin.

Finance: C. C. Fleming, chairman, J. C. Kirkman, C. C. Martin, Hosea Davis, and L. H. Hardison.

Fellowship: Walter Gardner, chairman, C. G. Gurkin, C. T. Gaines, P. M. Holliday, Wendell Modlin, A. Corey and U. S. Hassell.

The Club will hold its next regular meeting the first Monday night in January.

## Schedule Divorce Cases In Court

While no calendar will likely be prepared before Saturday, it is understood that members of the Martin County Bar Association will schedule possibly thirty divorce cases for trial in the superior court here next week. It isn't likely that more than one or two civil cases will be placed on the calendar for trial during the week.

Judge Henry Stevens, scheduled to preside over the term, is almost certain to be busy a greater part of the week, three days at least, in clearing the docket of criminal cases.