

## Local School Has Large Number In Its Honor Lists

### Only Ten Meet Honor Roll Requirements In The High School

The names of 134 pupils appear on the honor roll in the local schools for the six-week period recently ended, Principal B. G. Stewart announced a few days ago. Only ten of the 134 were high school pupils, it was pointed out.

A list of the honor pupils' names follows:

Miss Baker's First Grade: Carlyle Brown, Billy Carstarphen, Jimmy Cooke, Aaron Davenport, Lemon Whitaker, Constance Chesson, Dianne Cherry, Mary Claudia Cherry, Leona Coltraine, Betsy Davis, Judy Donabauer.

Miss Hardy's First Grade: Beth Spivey and Guy Thomas, Jr.

Miss Morris' First Grade: Kenneth Gurganus, James Danier Leggett, Danny Manning, Lee Ray Rogerson, Ronnie Reese, Eleanor Sue Eubanks, Sallie Grey Griffin, Eugenia Glover, Carolyn Holliday, Francis Johnson, Betty Modlin.

Mrs. Carstarphen's Second Grade: Jimmy Hardison, Charles Hudson, Clayton Weston, Carolyn Beauchemia, Nancy Godard, Mary Lou Jennings, Blanche Manning, Jane Peelle, Mary Lee White.

Miss Crawford's Second Grade: Ann Darden, Emma Jean Godard, Henry Handy, Ann Harrison, Allen Modlin, Joe Murphy, Billy Britton Thomas, Billy Thornton.

Mrs. Davenport's Third Grade: Joseph Clayton, Julian Batey, Iverson Skinner, John C. House, Gerald White, Faye White, Gerivald White, Rudy Ward, Angerline Dickerson, and Ann Holliday.

Mrs. Froneberger's Third Grade: William Batey, John Clarke, Billie Dudley, Grady Godard, James H. Ward, Jr., Betty Carstarphen, Jane Biggs, Sandra Gardner, Joyce Lilly, Jane Manning, Sandra Margolis, Annette Rogers, Elline Smithwick.

Miss Manning's Third Grade: Victor E. Brown, Jr., Billy Partin, Bobby Parham, Rodney Pittman, Billy Simpson, Sarah Harrison, Phyllis Jones, Joyce Baker, Jane Barnhill, and Jeannette Raynor.

Miss Everett's Fourth Grade: Jean Coltraine, James Pittman and Doris Rogers.

Mrs. Foy's Fourth Grade: Mary Elizabeth Britton, Frankie Everett, Patricia Harrison, Bobby Manning, William Moore, Edward Rogerson, Kathryn Spruill.

Miss Jenkin's Fourth Grade: John Dunn, Carole Gurganus, Joyce Manning, Janice Rogers, Robert Weston, and Melva Lee

(Continued on page eight)

## Three Injured In Saturday Wreck

Three persons were painfully but believed not seriously hurt when two cars crashed at the intersection of Sycamore Street and the Jamesville and Washington Highways here about 8:30 o'clock last Saturday evening.

Ernest Godard, colored, and driver of one of the cars figuring in the accident, received a bad head injury. Waverly Outerbridge, 12, and Verna Lee Outerbridge received neck injuries, but a six-month-old baby, another passenger in the Godard 1935 Ford car, apparently was not hurt.

Godard stated he was crossing the Washington Highway and was about to enter Sycamore Street when a car driven by David Gurkin of Williams Township struck his auto, knocking it around and into a telephone pole. The Gurkin car, a 1937 Chevrolet sedan, was traveling in the direction of Washington and when it came to a stop it was locked against the Ford, one car facing one way and the other in the opposite direction. Neither Gurkins nor his companion, Norman Godard, was hurt badly.

The blow broke the telephone pole in two near the bottom and again a few feet from the top, leaving a large number of telephone wires dangling in the air.

No estimate of the damage could be had immediately from the investigators, Officers John Roebuck and Chas. Moore, but it will run well into the hundreds of dollars.

## Workers Maintain Schedule On Telephone Project Here

While there were many slips between the promises and the accomplished acts, workers are maintaining a guaranteed schedule for laying conduit on the main street here for underground telephone cable. However there is some doubt if the contractors can complete the project and get out of town by Thursday night of this week. No effort will be made just now to replace the broken concrete, the telephone company president promising a group of disturbed merchants last Thursday that sand would be used in the top of the ditch until the dirt packed.

Going before a special meeting of the town commissioners last Thursday afternoon, representatives of most of the business houses on the main street called for a restraining order in an effort to have the work delayed. President Hill, appearing on the scene by coincidence or otherwise, explained that the contractors were scheduled to leave soon for Florida, that if the work was not handled immediately the present and admittedly inferior telephone service would obtain for another nine months, the president adding

four months to the delay after appealing individually to the commissioners the day before. After hearing the company president's arguments and accepting his promise at face value, the merchants withdrew their objections and agreed to suffer out the inconvenience in the face of the Christmas shopping season.

Mr. Hill promises that not more than 300 feet of the main street will be blocked at any one time. Saturday afternoon the thoroughfare was blocked from Smithwick to Haughton except for a one-way drive opening at Washington Street. Something was said about backlot parking. But the main entrance to the Harrison parking space was blocked early Saturday. Old junk machinery was not moved and promised lights were never provided. No walks were provided over the ditch, and men, women and children tracked clay they had picked up in quantities on their feet while climbing over the mound of dirt into stores. The project was just about abandoned late Sunday, but local people are praying for continued good weather and the scheduled exit of the air hammers and the mess makers.

## Few Cases Cleared From The Docket In Superior Court

### Plan To Complete Trial of Criminal Cases By Thursday

Interrupted by the return of a true bill and the arraignment of Otis Ragland for a capital offense, the Martin County Superior Court cleared comparatively few cases from its criminal docket during the first day of the current term Monday. After getting off to a late start, the court not pressed or otherwise dismissed two false pretense charges and several defendants pleaded guilty, the action making up for some of the time lost.

The courthouse was well filled during the early part of the day, but the proceedings were not of sufficient interest to hold the crowd throughout the day, but a packed congregation was predicted for today.

Judge Henry Stevens, past commander of the National American Legion, of Warsaw, is presiding, and Solicitor George Fountain of Tarboro is prosecuting the docket. The solicitor is being assisted by Private Prosecutor H. G. Horton in the Ragland case.

The court quit for the day Monday at 5:35 o'clock after handling the following cases:

The cases charging Joe Bell and Peter Williams with false pretenses were not pressed.

John A. Eberhart, sentenced in the county court to serve twelve months on the roads when he appeared before Judge J. C. Smith on the third offense of drunken driving, appealed to the higher court. He pleaded guilty, and Judge Stevens told the defendant that he would give him a last chance. "I am sentencing you to the roads for two years, but you'll be placed on probation for five. You are not to operate a motor vehicle for two years and you are not to use any intoxicating liquor of any type during the next five years. You are to pay a \$50 fine and costs," the judge said. Pointing directly to the defendant, the judge added, "I am convinced that you will serve those two years."

### (Continued on page six)

## CHRISTMAS SCENE

The unique Christmas scene, portraying the Nativity, prepared by artists confined in the German prisoner of war camp here a year ago will be displayed on the Presbyterian Church lawn on Main Street here. Attracting much attention and wide acclaim last season, the scene is being handled by members of the local Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The Jaycees inspected the materials Sunday and made ready Monday to locate the scene.

## World War II Vet Of Martin County Dies In Hospital

### Sully Jenkins Lost Right Hand In Mill Accident Short Time Before

Sully Jenkins, 26-year-old veteran of World War II, died in a Tarboro hospital last Wednesday afternoon about 4:00 o'clock, apparently the victim of shock received when his right hand was torn off less than three hours before in a planing mill accident at Hassell. The young colored man was said to have been on the operating table when he died.

Sawyer and mechanic at P. C. Edmondson's mill, Jenkins was adjusting a tap on the planer when he caught his right hand in the machine. The blades peeled it off to the wrist, and reports reaching here stated that the hospital doctors were taking the damaged limb off just above the wrist. Said to have been very careful in working in and around the mill, Jenkins forgot two wheels were turning close to the tap which he was trying to adjust. "I just forgot, and it was my fault," he was quoted as saying as he was being carried to the hospital.

It could not be learned how the hand was extracted, but it is believed he snatched it from the machine and ran almost 100 yards where Mr. Edmondson was starting his car, preparatory to taking him to the hospital. First aid treatment was rendered and the accident victim was said to have lost no great amount of blood. Jenkins sat up in the car on the way to the hospital and talked with Ernest Edmondson who was driving the car. After reaching the hospital, a tourniquet was applied and Jenkins told Mr. Edmondson that he was feeling all right at the time.

Jenkins, a good worker and an able sawyer and mechanic, had been employed at the mill five or six years except for about six months spent in the armed service. He never married and compensation will go to his brothers and sisters.

A young white man, Leon Eubanks Barfield, was killed at the mill a few years ago when he apparently slipped and he fell into a cut-off saw.

## ATTENDANCE

Its attendance running after a hit-and-miss method for several years, the local school with the aid of the parents and children, too, is making splendid progress in maintaining respectable attendance figures this year.

According to a report just recently released by the principal, B. G. Stewart, nearly half of the approximately 1,000 children enrolled in the white schools here or 410 of them, to be exact, were neither absent nor tardy during the second six-week period.

Possibly the weather lent a helping hand, but it is apparent that pupils and teachers, too, are making a noble effort to make every day count for something.

## Doctor Agrees On Man's Mentality

Apparently mentally unbalanced, Thad Martin, 72 years old, was found wandering in the woods in Goose Nest Township near the Edgecombe County boundary early last Thursday night and was placed in the county jail a short time later for his own protection. He had endangered his life earlier that day when he wandered down the middle of the highway, a motorist stopping to lead him off. While his actions were not violent, the old man had wandered around the section, turning out team and other stock. He was carried to a State institution in Goldsboro Saturday morning by Deputy J. H. Roebuck.

Passing on the old fellow's mentality, Dr. W. E. Early asked, "You know me?" The old man replied, "Yes sir. You are Bro. Jones and I heard you preach last Sunday." The doctor was quoted as saying, "It's no use asking anything more. Give me the entrance papers and I'll sign them."

## Firemen Called Out Here Monday Morning

Local volunteer firemen were called out yesterday morning when a flue burned out in the home of George Williams on the corner of South Pearl and Griffin Streets and filled the Ralph Spruill upstairs apartment with smoke. No damage was done.

Firemen had a difficult time starting the truck, but after pushing it about a block the firemen got it into operation.

## PRECAUTION

Fairly certain that no overt action will be taken against his prisoner, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck decided to take precautionary measures and contacted the governor's office, and a patrol detail of possibly ten men will be assigned here during the trial of Otis Ragland.

## Hundred Citizens Called For Jury Service In Ragland Case

### Little Child Dies In Hospital Last Friday Of Burns

### Funeral For Two-Year-Old Dorothy Dean Griffin Held Sunday

Accidentally burned at the home of her parents near here shortly after noon last Friday, Little Miss Dorothy Dean Griffin died in the local hospital a few hours later at 5:30 o'clock. Most of her clothes and part of her hair burned, the child was unconscious until an hour and a half before the end. She talked with her mother and grandmother, but doctors, examining her burns, said recovery was doubtful from the first.

The daughter of Ben E. Griffin and Dorothy Coltraine Griffin, she was twenty-five months old on Tuesday, December 3, bright as she could be and unusually active for one her age.

Mrs. Griffin placed several pieces of wood in the heater and went to sweep the front porch. Dorothy and her older sister, Linda, talked with their mother through the window. After sweeping the front, Mrs. Griffin went to sweep the back porch. A few minutes later she heard the child scream and rushed into the living room to find her clothes in flames. Mrs. Griffin threw a blanket around her and smothered the fire. Picking the child up in her arms, she ran to the road and a neighbor brought them to the hospital.

Just how the child's clothing caught fire is not known, but it is believed that she fell against a red hot spot on the stove and fired her clothing. No furniture or furnishings were burned.

Surviving besides her parents and young sister is a brother, William Eugene, her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Coltraine Hadley, and paternal grandfather, Mr. W. W. Griffin.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. John L. Goff at the home in Williams Township, near Nurney's store, Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, and interment followed in the new family cemetery nearby. An unusually large number of friends of the little girl and the family attended the services.

## Thieves Busy In Oak City Section

Thieves have been active in the Oak City section during the past few days, according to information gained here yesterday from Deputy Edmond Early.

Eleven bags of choice goobers belonging to Floyd Harrell were stolen from a tobacco barn shelter on the Spencer Burnette farm near Oak City last Friday night.

Last Wednesday night nine bags of peanuts belonging to B. L. Johnson were stolen from a tobacco barn shelter on new highway No. 11. The theft was not discovered immediately and was not reported until Sunday.

Operating in the Jamesville section Saturday night, thieves stole several bushels of sweet potatoes from a curing barn.

No arrests have been made in either case so far.

## Five Marriages In County Last Weekend

Five marriage licenses were issued in the county last weekend by Register of Deeds J. Sam Gettinger:

Joe M. Bullock of Robersonville and Burnell Woolard, of RFD, Washington.

Maurice Hardy and Elliaten Scott, both of Robersonville.

Percy Gattis Hughes, Jr., and Mary Frances Fowler, both of Elizabeth City.

Herbert Bullock, RFD 1, Robersonville, and Rosa Mae Wynne, of Robersonville.

Charles Milton James and Della Margaret Griffin, both of Williamston.

## CABBAGE AND QUAIL

"It was just like manna from heaven," Mr. Willie K. Parker said in telling about how food literally fell and flew into his lap and that of his son, Burke.

Returning from Virginia one evening last week, Mr. Parker picked up a goodly number of cabbages after they had bounced out of a truck bumping across Chowan River bridge. "We had enough for ourselves and all the neighbors," he said. The next day, the son was hauling a truck load of nails from Kinston when a small covey of quail flew up at the side of the road, and swooped down inside the body of the truck, killing themselves. One or two got away, leaving barely enough for the family, Mr. Parker explained.

## Speaks Briefly To Grand Jury In Superior Court

### Fireman's Excuse Is Timed Perfectly With Fire Alarm Monday

Explaining that no charge would be necessary since Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn had addressed them last September, Judge Henry Stevens of Warsaw, presiding over the one-week term of Martin Superior Court, Monday spoke briefly to the jury. "It was my loss when I could not hold your September court," he said, explaining that Judge Burgwyn wanted to exchange and that the move was made as a matter of accommodation. "It is always a pleasure to come to Martin County. Your court officials are courteous and nice, and Martin is a splendid county and one you ought to be proud of. Edmond Early was named officer of the grand jury.

Turning to the petit or trial jurors, Judge Stevens told them that their selection was a matter of lottery, that it was the most impartial and fair system known.

Getting down to the time to hear excuses for jury duty exemption, the judge warned that they had had 20 days' notice to arrange their business and serve their county. "You render no greater service in peace time than by serving as jurors," he said. And just at that point, Williams-ton's fire alarm sounded. Fireman Wheeler Manning was excused then and there when he was pointed out as a member of the fire department. Connie B. Clark, electric service man who has the duty of cutting wires from burning buildings, was excused to answer the call, but Judge Stevens instructed him to return.

N. C. Everett and J. W. Peel were excused to pick peanuts, and William Lambert was released when he explained that he completed only last June a year of service as a grand juror. Merchant D. E. Darden was retained after he explained that he was the only man in his department store. "The women are running the country," Judge Stevens said and then instructed the clerk to empanel the jury.

## Arrest Man For Entering Home

Lafayette Pearsall, 22-year-old colored man, was arrested and jailed here Sunday by Officer Chas. Moore for allegedly entering the home of Chas. Grimes and stealing a pocketbook containing about \$19. Pearsall is alleged to have crawled through a window of the home Saturday night and found Grimes taking a nap with his clothes on. Pearsall, according to the officer, reached slowly and steadily into Grimes' pocket and extracted the wallet. Grimes opened his eyes just in time to see Pearsall run to and jump out the window.

Pearsall is booked for trial in the superior court this week.

## Victim Recognizes Her Assailant In Court Yesterday

### Officers Work Late Into Night Rounding Up Special Venire For Trial

Preliminary arrangements were virtually complete by early Monday afternoon for trying today in the Martin County Superior Court Otis Ragland, young Negro man, charged with criminally assaulting Mrs. Floyd Moore at her home in Williams Township on November 8. A special venire of 100 county citizens was ordered by Judge Henry Stevens and officers worked late last night rounding up the men and instructing them to appear in court Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock when a jury is to be selected in the case.

Ragland, thick-lipped and heavy set fellow with a dent in his forehead, was arraigned before Judge Stevens shortly before noon Monday. When he was led into the courtroom with several officers accompanying him, Mrs. Moore apparently recognized him. She broke down and wept and was helped from the courtroom. Faces, expressing sympathy and understanding, were grim. There was no commotion and the courtroom was quiet.

The grand jury considered it necessary to question only one witness, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, and the group a few minutes later returned a true bill in a body at 11:11 o'clock.

Judge Stevens explained in open court that it was his duty to appoint a lawyer when he was advised that the defendant was without money. He further explained that it was the duty of the appointee to the court, county and state to accept and give his best service, that a man's life was involved. Hugh G. Horton was first appointed, but he explained that he had been employed as private rosecutor. H. L. Swain was then appointed and when he said he did not want the job, the court said that if there was no other reason, he would be instructed to represent the defendant.

Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne then read the bill of indictment drawn by Solicitor George Fountain and returned by the eighteen grand jurors shortly before the attorney appointment was made. The bill, as read by the clerk: "Jurors for the State upon their oath present: That Otis Ragland on the 8th day of November, 1946, with force feloniously assaulted Mrs. Floyd Moore, and forcibly and against her will, did ravish and carnally know against the form and statute in such case and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State." According to the charge there can be no compromise in the case. Ragland goes on trial for his life, meaning he will be found guilty and sentenced to die or he will be found not guilty.

After the bill of indictment was read with the defendant standing before the bar of justice and his right hand raised the clerk asked him how he pleaded. According to law, a person cannot plead guilty in a capital case, but before he could be stopped, Ragland mumbled something. Observers understood him to say that he was guilty of something, but that possibly he was trying to deny part of the charge. The court inter-

## ROUND-UP

Crime broke loose in this immediate section last week-end when seventeen alleged violators of the law were rounded up and placed in the county jail. Nine were booked for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct, two for breaking and entering, one as a material witness, and one who was mentally unbalanced.

Most of those jailed were colored men. The ages ranged from tender years up to seventy-two.

## Schedule Divorce Actions For Trial In Court Thursday

### All But One of the Cases Based On Two Years Of Separation

Twelve divorce cases have been scheduled for trial in the superior court before Judge Henry Stevens on Thursday of this week, it was learned Saturday following a meeting of the Martin County Bar Association members.

All but one of the dozen actions are based on two years' separation. Several of the cases have been in the courts before, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn denying absolute separation when he presided over a special term of the court last month.

Charging adultery, Lester S. White is suing Leila Faye White for divorce. The plaintiff says that he and the defendant were married on June 11, 1943, while he was in the armed service. He further states that he last saw his wife on new year's, 1944, that in February, 1945, a child was born to the defendant. No answer has been made to the complaint.

Her suit against William Whitehurst, the plaintiff, Della Whitehurst, says they were married February 2, 1923, and that they separated June 6, 1940. She also states that nine children were born to the union, and alleges that she supported them, that, now, most of them are self supporting.

After being married ten years, James Washington, in his divorce action against Mary Washington, says that they were separated on February 2, 1944. At the November term Judge Burgwyn denied the plaintiff a divorce because it was brought out in the evidence that the plaintiff had slapped the defendant. "I'll not give any man a divorce who beats his wife and runs her away from home," the judge was quoted as saying at the time.

Delia Major is suing Cap Major for divorce on separation grounds. The couple were married on July 16, 1941, and separated in August, 1944. One child was born to the union.

In the case of James E. Strawbridge against Venita (Benette) Strawbridge, the plaintiff says they were married on October 22, 1936, and separated on July 14, 1944. The defendant in her answer to the complaint, alleged the plaintiff abandoned her and their 6-year-old child at her mother's home without provisions or money, that the plaintiff was convicted of abandonment and non-support, and sees no reason why a divorce should be allowed.

Lettie Brooks is suing LeRoy Brooks for divorce. They were married on December 4, 1939, and separated on June 16, 1942.

In the case of Emmett Thomas against Ethel Thomas, the plaintiff says they were married in October, 1938, that they separated in September, 1944, and that he was

(Continued on page eight)

## Officers Destroy Several Plants

Flaring up apparently in anticipation of a big holiday business, the illicit liquor business was dealt a stinging blow last week by ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck, Deputy Roy Peel and other officers.

Six plants were wrecked during the period and 1,250 gallons of molasses beer was poured out. A fifty-gallon capacity still was wrecked along with seven fermenters not far from Oak City late Tuesday.

Assisted by Pitt County ABC Officers Ward and Taylor, and Deputy W. E. Early, Deputy Roebuck wrecked three plants on Wednesday, one in the Hassell section of Hamilton Township and two in Robersonville Township. They poured out 750 gallons of cheap beer that day.

Last Thursday the officers disrupted plans in the Free Union section of Jamesville Township when they captured a 100-gallon capacity still and poured out 200 gallons of molasses beer. Later that day the officers went to the Mill Neck section of the same township and destroyed a 50-gallon capacity oil drum and poured out 200 gallons of cheap beer.