

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

### Fines Imposed In Sum Of \$615; Long Road Sentence Given

Calling twenty cases in the county court last Monday, Judge J. Calvin Smith cleared the docket and adjourned the tribunal before noon. Few spectators were present for the session which netted \$615 in fines and saw several defendants go to the roads for long terms.

Proceedings: Having been continued under prayer for judgment, the case charging Cleve James with violating the sanitary law was cleared from the docket when Judge Smith suspended judgment upon the payment of the costs. It was pointed out that the defendant had complied with the law by erecting a sanitary privy.

Fred James Calloway, charged with disorderly conduct and an assault, pleaded not guilty. He was adjudged guilty of simple assault and judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost. In a second case against him, Calloway neither pleaded guilty nor not guilty in the case charging him with simple assault and resisting arrest. He was sentenced to jail for five days, fined \$50 and taxed with the cost.

Percy and Lucy Brown were charged with assaulting a female and both pleaded not guilty. The wife was adjudged not guilty. Found guilty, Brown was directed to pay the cost.

Orson Puckett, charged with speeding, did not report for trial. Pleading guilty in the case charging him with larceny, A. J. Hardison was sentenced to the roads for one year. Last September the defendant was sentenced to the roads for one year when he was convicted of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. The sentence, suspended at that time, was invoked, and the defendant is to serve that year, the sentence to begin at the expiration of the first. In another case, charging Hardison with larceny, a nol pros was taken.

Charged with non-support, Vernon Andrews was adjudged not guilty. The case charging Horace Latham with non-support was continued until next Monday.

Whitie Griffin, Lee Griffin and Walter Corey each pleaded guilty of violating the liquor laws and each was sentenced to the roads for nine months, the court suspending the sentences upon the payment of \$100 fines and the costs. The court also ordered the defendant to pay for any violation of the law for one year.

Charged with drunken driving and operating a motor vehicle without a license, Wilson Lavern Godard pleaded guilty of drunken driving. The plea was accepted by Solicitor Paul D. Roberson and the defendant was sentenced to the roads for four months. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$125 fine and costs.

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## Ford Lowers Price On His Cars \$15 To \$50

In an unanticipated move, the Ford Motor Company this week dropped the prices on its cars from \$15 to \$50.

Announcing the voluntary reduction, Ford said, "We believe that the shock treatment of prompt action is needed to halt the insane spiral of mounting costs and rising prices and to restore a sound base for the hopeful period of postwar production we are now entering."

The price reductions are effective immediately.

## Patients Continue To Show Improvement

Late reports state that both Mayor J. L. Hassell and Attorney Wheeler Martin, patients in Washington and Rocky Mount hospitals, respectively, are continuing to show improvement.

## BANKS OBSERVE HOLIDAY

The birthday anniversary of General Robert E. Lee falling on Sunday, January 19, the Branch Banking and Trust Company and the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company will be closed Monday.

## Property Listing Gaining Momentum In the County

After getting off to a slow start earlier in the month property listing for taxation purposes is gaining momentum rapidly in the county, according to a statement released this week by Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel. While some districts are possibly half through with the task, hardly more than one-third of the property owners in the county had placed their names on the tax books up until Wednesday of this week, the supervisor said. Several of the list takers reported a rushing business during most of this week, and they will have to keep fairly busy every day if they are to complete the task by the last of this month.

It has been pointed out that no provision for a listing extension was made by the county commis-

sioners at their meeting the 6th of this month, indicating that all late listings will be subjected to penalty. The time originally allotted is considered sufficient for the property owners to list their holdings, that late listings boost the costs and delay the entire tax program.

Up until the early part of this week very few mercantile stocks had been listed, but in the few cases where merchants had listed fair gains in assessed values were reported. No definite trend has been established for values so far, but new construction is almost certain to boost the real values, while new automobiles, larger money value inventories and stored farm commodities are expected to increase the personal property listings over those reported for the past year.

## NO ACTION

No action has been announced so far relative to the establishment of tobacco acreage allotments for the current year, according to information coming from the office of the farm agent in the county this week.

While farmers are expecting a reduction in acreage allotments they are beginning to believe that quotas will be maintained at the 1946 level. Observing the lagging prices on a other markets, quite a few farmers have voiced the opinion that a fairly sizable reduction should be made in the flue cured acreage this year.

## Native of County Dies In Raleigh

Mrs. Martha Bennett Bellamy, a native of this county, died Wednesday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Luther B. Hughes, 2111 St. Mary's Street, Raleigh, following an illness of several months.

The daughter of the late John A. and Martha Jones Bennett, she was born in this county 69 years ago. She was married to Claro N. Bellamy and left the county years ago, spending the last seventeen with her daughter in Raleigh.

A brother, Milton E. Bennett, died in Roanoke Rapids the 27th of last month and was buried on the old home farm near Oak City. Surviving are a son, Robert L. Sullivan of Greenville, S. C.; three daughters, Mrs. Harrie W. Barnes and Mrs. Luther B. Hughes of Raleigh and Mrs. J. Newton Bridges of Fayetteville; two brothers, W. B. Bennett and J. T. Bennett of Oak City; two sisters, Mrs. Bettie Manning of Oak City and Mrs. W. T. Stinnette of Williamston; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock from the Hayes Barton Baptist Church, with the pastor, Dr. Carl M. Townsend, officiating. Burial was in Montlawn cemetery in Raleigh.

## Mr. and Mrs. Ripley Building Home Here

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Ripley, of Richmond, are building a home here on Liberty Street back of the high school, and will move here just as soon as construction work is completed.

Mr. Ripley, representative of the General Electric Company in this area, maintains an office on the second floor of the town hall.

## NO DEVELOPMENTS

The sixteen robberies locally since last December 9 remain unsolved, police stating Thursday morning that they had been unable to establish the first lead in any of the cases.

A week has passed without a robbery, leading some to believe that the robbers have withdrawn. Others are of the opinion that a new outbreak of thefts will follow.



## Liberal Response Given Infantile Paralysis Appeal

### Nearly One-Tenth of Quota Raised In First Day Of The Drive

The annual appeal for support of the Infantile Paralysis Fund received a liberal response in this county on the first day of the drive on Wednesday this week, Chairman L. B. Wynne said. Approximately one-tenth of the \$2,120 quota was raised that day, the chairman said, quickly adding that the present ratio of contributions must be maintained if the quota is to be met.

Twenty-seven answers were received in the first mail from the 404 persons in the county who received direct appeals. The first returns, amounting to \$170.50, ranged from \$1 to \$15, the chairman said.

The drive is being extended to the schools this week, and the chairman is depending on the approximately 7,000 pupils to handle the fund raising task effectively. The school children have done a noble work in supporting the fund in years past, and the chairman feels certain they will see that the drive meets with success. Coin folders are being given the elementary pupils, and the high school students are being asked to make general contributions.

While the county is being asked to raise \$2,120 during the drive ending the 30th of this month, the chairman points out that the fund account was overdrawn by more than \$100 last year when heavy demands were made. "We hope to make up the deficit and surpass the quota to meet any added emergencies this year," Chairman Wynne said.

Already this year one case of the disease has been reported in eastern North Carolina, and there is no reason to believe that this year will be any different. More cases before the year is spent. "We want to be prepared and must be prepared to render aid in any emergencies, regardless of color or station in life," the fund chairman explained.

Mr. I. M. Little of Robersonville after making a liberal contribution, assured the county chairman that he would do all he could to advance the fund drive in his community. Others, including school officials, teachers and pupils are pledging their best efforts in furthering the drive.

A four-year-old victim, fully recovered, went on a national radio hook-up Wednesday evening and expressed her appreciation for the March of Dimes program which had made it possible for her to walk again. "Please give to the March of Dimes that other little children can walk again," Little Miss Drury pleaded.

## Heavy Rains Fall In This Section

After several months of comparatively dry weather, the heavens opened up over the week-end and filled swamps, creeks and rivers to overflowing. Nearly two inches of rain fell during the period, boosting the total for the first sixteen days of this month to 2.79 inches. Rain fell on eleven of the first sixteen days in the month. Falling slowly, most of the rain soaked into the ground which is now about as wet as it has been at any time in months past.

The Roanoke is almost out of its banks here and the stream is still rising. No reports on a freshet have been received.

## Few Register For Selective Service In Martin County

### No Extension of Draft Holiday Mentioned After This Month

Few Martin County youths are registering for possible selective service, according to reports coming from the draft board a few days ago. It is fairly apparent that some of those youths are a bit lax in complying with the draft regulations. However, it could be that few boys became eighteen years of age last month when only fifteen registered in this county. Registrations are running considerably below normal, it was learned.

The status of selective service in the nation continues in a state of uncertainty. As far as it can be learned no provision has been made for extending the draft holiday after this month. However, no calls for men have been received lately, leading some draft officials to believe that the holiday will be extended.

Several young men in this county have enlisted for service in the regular Army since last fall, but the number is hardly large enough to meet the need. However, enlistments have been fairly large in other sections, the Greenville recruiting office announcing this week that more than a dozen men in its area had volunteered for service during the past few days.

The six white youths registering in December for possible service in the armed forces and their addresses follow:

- James Bullock, Jr., RFD 1, Robersonville.
- Edward Franklin Davenport, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Willie Horton Gardner, RFD 1, Jamesville.
- James William Bailey, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Johnnie Lawrence Beacham, RFD 3, Williamston.
- Jack Clifton Taylor, RFD 2, Williamston.

Names and addresses of colored youth registering last month follow:

- Clarence Marcella Brown, RFD 1, Williamston.
- Roosevelt Andrews, RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Hillary Harrell Matthewson, Jr., RFD 2, Robersonville.
- Henry Lee Higgs, RFD 1, Hobgood.
- John Arthur Parker, RFD 1, Oak City.
- George Thomas Stokes, RFD 2, Williamston.
- Willie James Knight, Palmyra.
- Herbert Columbus Teel, Robersonville.
- Riley Everett, Oak City.

Even if the holiday is lifted next month, the draft can operate only during February and March because Selective Service is scheduled to die on March 31. It is believed that the military will not press for a continuance of Selective Service, but there are indications a universal military service will be sought.

## Carry On Business Started By Father

The lease having been surrendered, a son and son-in-law are reopening tomorrow the business established years ago by Mr. Theodore Roberson, one of the partners, "Tootsie" Roberson announced yesterday.

Already two sons, C. T. and George Lee Roberson, are handling a nice business at the oyster bar and sandwich shop, and when the third son of Mr. Roberson and his son-in-law take over the meat market and grocery the entire business will be carried on by members of the founders' family.

Some of the sons were in service. Others were in war work, while for the past two and one-half years the partner in the market and grocery, Tootsie, has been employed by the Baker Oil Company, handling Esso products here.

## Assistance For Aged Materially Increased

### Average Grant In February Will Be In Excess Of \$20

### Assistance Program In The County Will Amount To \$6,457.80

Its funds greatly increased by liberalized contributions from the federal government, the Martin County Welfare Department is materially increasing the allotments to the aged, the superintendent of the department adding that the amount of aid to dependent children is being slightly increased while no change will follow in the program for the blind.

Last month 220 aged persons in this county received an average grant of \$14.49 per month. Beginning the first of February, the size of the average grant will be upped to \$20.86, an increase of \$6.37. It was pointed out that the increase was made on a uniform basis, that in February the aged persons on the list in this county will receive a total of \$4,589.20.

Since last December 1 one case was dropped from the list when the subject became self-supporting, and two others were removed by death. However nineteen new cases have been approved since that time, boosting the count to 236, leaving fourteen new applications for later consideration.

The old age assistance allotments range from a low of \$8 to \$40 a month. Names of the aged enjoying the grants cannot be made public.

The increase is indeed quite timely in some cases, reports stating that some of those in the group found their allowances so small that they actually were without food for as many as two and three days at a time. Grants to dependent children have been increased from \$37.07 to \$40.47 per family, the average allotment now standing at \$13.16 for each of the 123 subjects. The children are to receive \$1,618.68 under the revised program. One family of dependent children has been dropped from the list, the superintendent explaining that the group had become self-supporting. Three new groups were added, increasing the case load by eight. Three applications are now pending. Unofficial reports indicate that the dependent child is fast becoming the big problem either for the juvenile, the law enforcement or the welfare department.

The eleven blind persons on the list in this county are receiving an average grant of \$22.75 per month, or a total of \$249.92. As far as it could be learned, no change was made in the size of the grant for the blind.

As of January 13 the welfare department in this county was handling 460 active cases, including 307 public assistance cases, 16 general relief cases, 9 hospitalization cases and 128 service cases. The service cases include 7 adult parole cases, 4 paroled patients from mental institutions, 4 family adjustment cases, 11 county home cases, 10 medical and health care cases, 56 cases of service to individual children such as adoptions, truancy cases, juvenile court probationers and 36 miscellaneous cases.

## County Young Men Hurt In Accident

Four Martin County young men, Arthur Harrison, Jr., James L. Lee, Oscar and Jack Taylor, were painfully but not badly hurt in a passenger bus accident near Wilson last Monday evening at 6:10 o'clock. The young men, on their way to Fort Bragg to join the Army, were riding the bus when it crashed with a passenger car and tore down a several-foot embankment.

Jack Taylor was bruised about the mouth and the others suffered shock and minor injuries, one report stated. Removed to a Wilson hospital, the boys were treated and returned to their homes Wednesday.

## NEW DEPUTY



Murray (Buck) Holloman, World War II veteran, was recently appointed deputy sheriff for Martin County. He entered upon his new duties the 7th of this month.

## Assistant Agent Assigned County

J. W. Sumner, native of Northampton County, entered upon his duties as assistant farm agent in this county this week immediately following his appointment.

Born and reared on a farm near Conway, Mr. Sumner had hardly received his diploma at State College before he entered the Navy in July, 1943. During his stay in the service he was stationed in the Pacific theater for thirteen months. Following his discharge last August he returned to State College where he did graduate work until last December 17.

While the new assistant has had very little experience in the work he is now engaged in, he received a whole of a lot of practical training on the farm and centered his studies while in college around agriculture.

He is succeeding L. W. Cone who resigned to continue his college training in Georgia.

Mr. Sumner, single and a Baptist, is making his home with the T. B. Brandons on Grace Street.

## Library Observes 9th Anniversary

The Williamston Public Library will celebrate its ninth year of service to the public of the town and the surrounding county. During this period the library has outgrown two homes. The present location has been too small for quite some time, but will have to be used until commodious quarters can be obtained. The library has now collected about 1800 volumes and has circulated about one hundred thousand books during this period.

Last Monday a letter was sent out to friends of the library and its service asking that support be given it during the ensuing year. Replies coming in are very encouraging, but with the cost of operation and maintenance contributions will have to be increased if the service is to meet the needs.

While supported mainly by the various civic clubs and a small contribution from the town treasury, the library belongs to the general public and if it is to function properly and meet growing needs, individuals must offer a liberal support, it was pointed out.

## CLUB MEETING

The local Woman's Club will hold its first meeting of the new calendar year next Tuesday evening, January 21, at 8:00 o'clock in the club hall, and the president, Mrs. P. B. Cone, is earnestly urging a large attendance.

Members are asked to bring something for the "white elephant" table, the president explaining that such contributions would be of use to someone and that they would help boost the club finances.

## Former Prisoner Of War Extends Thanks For Gift

### Extends Holiday Greetings To Family Befriending Him While Here

While an inmate of the prisoner of war camp here, Gerhard Richard, a German, worked a day or two for Farmer Lester Bryant near Williamston. The prisoner was impressed by the friendliness of the Bryants and when he returned to his native land he wrote to them. Letters were exchanged and the Bryants sent a package.

Receiving the package and letter Richard last December 1 expressed his thanks and extended Christmas greetings in a letter just recently received by M. Bryant, as follows:

"Dear Mr. Bryant and Family, I have received your long, long letter before some days when I was yet at home, that means in my new town where my parents and sisters are living now. (Name of town could not be deciphered, but it is in the British Zone).

"All of us were surprised when the postman brought the letter to us in our dwelling and to see that we had gotten greetings from America. I couldn't believe that it is true and someone had written to me from overseas. But when I saw the address I thought of you at once and of people who are good to everyone. All the others were happy with me together and the thought to the package was too beautiful. I knew that you and your whole family are kind and religious people of God and would send us some things against the hunger."

"Two years ago my parents have had a big restaurant and grocery, but now all is gone. At that time my mother who worked in the grocery shop often gave to the poor persons food. But now we are living in a new world and my dear land in the east is separated from me and the many other Germans. God, give us back our native country that we love so much. We are too many folks on a small spot and must die whether we want it or not if we can't see better times. But God forbid! My belief in the United States of North America and the good men and women in it is too firm in order to despair of the future. No country can help us if not your nation. And our only hope is the Strong State on the other side of the ocean."

"You'll wonder at my new address. I work by a friend now. We both were in America together as prisoners of war. But I would be glad if you send all the mail to my parents to the old address."

"I wish you get my letter to Christmas and that you are able to read all what I have written. I would be very glad if you show me my faults in it if I want to learn more about the American language."

"I and with me the whole family wish you, your wife and children a nice 'Christmas and Happy New Year'. At those days our hearts will be by you and God."

"The best regards send you the then prisoner, Gerhard Richard."

## Local Jaycees To Meet At Macedonia Friday

The local Junior Chamber of Commerce will hold its regular semi-monthly dinner meeting Friday evening promptly at 7:15 at the Macedonia Community building. A turkey dinner will be served, and all members are urged to note the change in time are to be present. Members without cars are asked to arrange transportation with others.

## Schoolmasters Met In Jamesville This Week

The Martin County Schoolmasters club met in the Jamesville High School last Monday evening and discussed various school problems. The local committee members, Messrs. Kirkman, Gandy and Modlin, were special guests.

The next meeting will be at Farm Life on February 10.