

Clear Few Cases From Docket In Superior Court

Judge J. Clawson Williams Opens Court After A Week's Delay

Working until late Monday afternoon, the Martin County Superior Court cleared comparatively few cases from its criminal docket and it is fairly certain today that the tribunal will not reach the civil calendar before late Wednesday or early Thursday. The grand jury completed its work about 4:30 Monday afternoon and recessed after returning a number of true bills, including one charging William Kirkman with the murder of Fred Little in Parrale a few weeks ago.

Only one case reached the jury during the first day of court, but Judge Clawson L. Williams, presiding, did not pronounce sentence immediately in that or in several other cases where the defendants pleaded guilty.

The court is attracting only casual attention from the public, and spectators have been comparatively few during the first two days of the term, the first week of which was delayed on account of Judge Williams' illness last week. Solicitor George Fountain of Tarboro is prosecuting the docket.

After spending most of Monday morning addressing the grand jury, reviewing the civil calendar and waiting for the grand jury to return some bills, the court worked for quite a while on the case charging Warren Griffin, Bill Gilliam and Sam Brooks with highway robbery. The defendants were accused of robbing Dennis Whitaker, Williamston tax driver, of about \$35. After hearing all the evidence, the court declared Gilliam and Brooks not guilty, and Griffin pleaded guilty of refusing or failing to pay a taxi fare from Williamston to Farm Life. Sentence was not imposed immediately in the case.

Harold Clark, charged with breaking and entering and larceny of clothes from the Blue Star Cleaners in Williamston, pleaded guilty, Judge Williams delaying announcement of judgment in the case.

The cases charging John E. Williams and James Robert Bullock with false pretense, were not pressed or dismissed. The William case had grown a full set of whiskers, it had been on the docket for so long.

Matthew Williams, pleading guilty in the case charging him with breaking and entering and the larceny of meats and supplies from Roberson's Slaughter House, was sentenced to State's Prison for not less than eighteen months and not more than three years.

Spending just about all of Monday afternoon on the trial of the manslaughter cases brought against John David Wooten and Webb Ward, the court recessed for the day shortly after the jury got the case. After deliberating for about thirty minutes the jury found both of the defendants guilty, but judgment was delayed.

The two defendants were driving automobiles on the Robersonville-Stokes Road last December 15 and ran together, causing the deaths of Henry Ward, Mary Brown and Gladys Riddick.

Fires Into Group At Show Grounds

Using a shot gun, some low-down, common, sneaking scoundrel fired a load of small shot into a group of persons at the carnival grounds here on Washington Street about 1:00 o'clock Sunday morning. Three persons—a white youth and two colored boys—were hit, but neither of them was badly hurt.

Struck back of the neck by a single shot one of the colored boys bled freely for a few minutes, but the other two victims had their skin barely broken by one or two of the small shot.

Two officers, on duty there at the time, investigated and voiced the opinion that the load of shot was fired from a moving automobile. No motive supporting the cowardly act could be advanced.

Local Lumber Plant Plans To Resume Full Operation

While no report has been released on the progress, if any, of negotiations between the union (District 50, UMW) and the W. I. Skinner Tobacco Company here, the Williamston Lumber Company management, it was learned this morning, planned to resume full-scale operations shortly. Its operating schedule reduced to a low point by a strike now in its second week, the lumber company plant is gradually resuming activities, the management explaining this morning that approximately fifty employees were operating the small saw mill, the planing mill and the grading shed.

"We have about enough applications for work to resume operation of the big saw mill," the managers said, adding that just as soon as a reorganization can be effected the whistle at the big

plant will be blown. No day was mentioned for the resumption of operations at the big mill, but the managers are planning to go on a regular schedule later in the week. "Some of our old workers are returning, but most of those applying for work are coming from other places," the managers said.

The company is operating its trucks, but logging activities have been curtailed in some instances because the loggers were shifted to the fields to dig peanuts. However, enough logs are moving to the plant to keep the mill running.

No other tangible results have been reported on the labor front here, the Standard Fertilizer Company plant management stating this morning that operations there were normal at the present time.

WARNING

Peanut farmers in this county are again warned to get their questionnaires prepared and back into the office of the farm agent by the last of this month.

If the information desired and needed is not in the hands of the county Triple A committee by that time, basic figures upon which quotas are to be determined will be set up by the committee. Quotas for 1948 peanut plantings are to be established for individual farms before the referendum is held in December, and the information must be had from the farmers without delay, it was explained.

Agreed Judgment In Damage Suits

Two big damage suits, brought after a friendly fashion by Tom Brown Manning and George Harrell Manning against Marvin W. Corey, were settled out of court this week.

The plaintiffs were asking combined damages in the sum of \$40,000, both having complained of sufferin broken backs and other injuries when the defendant's car in which they were riding, was wrecked in Jamestown early in the morning of last October 20.

According to the judgment entered in the court records this week, Plaintiff Tom Brown Manning through his next friend, Jas. Raleigh Manning, received damages in the sum of \$2,750. His brother, George Harrell Manning, was awarded \$5,500 damages. The defendant or his insurance company, is to pay the costs of the two actions in addition to the damages.

Several other large suits are pending trial this week, but there is some doubt if the court will find time to hear them.

Suffers Rib Injuries In Accident Yesterday

Mr. Charlie Coltrain, mechanical superintendent for the Martin County schools, suffered painful but believed not serious injuries while working in the county garage Monday morning. He was working at a rip saw when the saw kicked back a piece of timber, throwing it into his side and injuring his ribs. He was removed to the local hospital for treatment.

ROUND-UP

Local and county officers rounded up and temporarily detained six alleged violators of the law here last week-end, the arrests running considerably below those of the week before. Two persons were charged with public drunkenness, two with larceny and receiving, and one with false pretense. The sixth alleged violator was charged with skipping bond. One of the six was white and the ages of the group ranged from a low of seventeen to 25 years.

Inspect Property For Fire Hazards

With the fall season at hand, Fire Chief G. P. Hall this week issued a timely warning against fire hazards. At one time the local fire department received a goodly number of calls each fall when home owners built their first fires. Many of the hazards have been removed over a period of years, but the fire department head suggests that careful inspections be made in an effort to eliminate every possible fire hazard.

"Roof fires," he said, "are chiefly caused by sparks leaking out through cracks in the chimney. In time bricks may loosen and a dangerous fire hazard is created. Such cracks should be cemented before the heating units are started in the fall."

He also recommends that stove pipes be thoroughly checked for rust, holes and worn spots. "Be sure the pipe joints fit snugly, otherwise smoke and flame may seep out," he said.

Emphasizing that fire can wipe out a life's savings in a few hours, the chief reminded home-owners that America's fire losses for the first twelve months of this year are already greater than the entire twelve months of 1942. These losses so menace the prosperity of the country and the life of its citizens that President Truman through Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has asked all people to do their part in stopping these huge losses.

Prisoner Turned Over To Virginia

Completing a sentence imposed upon him in Gates County, a colored prisoner, held in the camp here, chose to return to Virginia voluntarily to face a corn theft charge in Suffolk, it was learned last week-end.

Asked if he wanted to fight extradition, the prisoner who had paid his debt to society in this State said he would go voluntarily and went on to explain the voluntary action.

"I was in Pennsylvania once and they wanted me in North Carolina for a crime I committed. Two lawyers visited me in jail and advised they could keep me if I paid them \$300. I begged the money from those hardly able to part with it, paid each of the lawyers \$150 and a short time later the law brought me back. No, I don't believe I want to bother with any papers this time," the prisoner was quoted as saying.

Local Man Critically Ill In The Hospital

Mr. Charlie Gurganus, local man, continues critically ill in a Washington hospital, the victim of typhus fever. Last reports from the hospital stated that he had developed pneumonia, that uremic poisoning had set in and that his condition was gradually worsening.

The fever, as far as it could be learned, has not been definitely traced, but it is believed to have come from rats.

J. Paul Leonard Talk To Members Of Kiwanis Club

Must Advocate Economy And Efficiency In State And National Affairs

J. Paul Leonard, representative and spokesman for the North Carolina Fair Tax Association, was guest speaker at the meeting of the local Kiwanis Club last Thursday night in the George Reynolds Hotel. Mr. Leonard, who lives in Statesville, pointed out what he termed our "dangerous departures" from "the world's noblest experiment in government marked by the signing of our national constitution 160 years ago, the righteousness of which was proved by the subsequent development of the best system of self-government and the most prosperous national life with which mankind has ever been blessed."

"We must, of necessity if our government is to survive, advocate economy and efficiency in the operation of our state and national affairs," the speaker said. Mr. Leonard stated that in 1939 the total expenditures of the nation did not amount to but nine billion dollars. "In 1946 the payroll for federal employees alone amounted to eight billion."

The speaker also emphasized the necessity of maintaining the sovereignty of the individual, democratic principles in government and free enterprise in business. "There are many men in this country who would destroy our way of life and although their acts and intentions are insidious they remain on the government payroll."

"Our spending program," the speaker said, "is out of step with our normal income. There is waste and extravagance from county operations up through the national government, and the public is aroused over such a large portion of the national income being consumed by taxes to finance our over-expanded federal government with its surplus of a million civilian employees added under the guise of war emergencies and retained by a selfish bureaucracy."

Mr. Leonard stated that he did not object to assisting Europe with food and materials so long as it was consistent with common sense and sound judgment.

"A total crop failure in this country would place us in a precarious situation and no one can foretell the outcome should this happen. We must have a reserve and it is a known fact and apparent to everyone who knows the conditions in Europe, that the more we give in billions to the countries of Europe to save them from Communism the more they hate and detest us."

Two Accidents On County Highways

One person was badly but believed not critically hurt in vehicle accidents on the highways of this county last week-end. Particulars on a second accident could not be had, Cpl. T. Fearing explaining that the vehicle, a 1938 Chevrolet pick-up truck registered in the name of James Reason, was stolen in Hamilton Saturday night and wrecked on a bridge on the Williamston-Hassell Road, a short distance off Highway No. 125. The railing was ripped away on one side of the bridge and the truck was found turned over in the swamp.

Irving Moore, colored of Robersonville, was hurt when he was run down by an automobile in Parrale last Sunday afternoon between four and five o'clock. "I have heard so many versions of the assault I hardly know what happened," Patrolman W. E. Saunders said following a preliminary investigation. The car, registered in the name of Eli Council, was reported to have been driven by John Council. Moore was said to have been sitting or lying beside the highway watching a baseball game when he was run down by the car. Picked up, Moore was delivered to a doctor's office in Robersonville where his injuries were treated.

The driver of the car did not tarry long and was said to have left for Norfolk in another car.

P.-T. A. Will Seek 500 Members in '47

Attended by a large number of parents and the teachers from every section of the school district, the Williamston Parents-Teachers Association Monday night got a good start toward the membership goal of 500 set by Committee Chairman Mrs. Irving Margolis.

President Hildreth Mobley addressed the meeting for several minutes outlining the work and purpose of the Parents-Teachers associations here and throughout the country. He called attention to the need for cooperation among the patrons of the school and the teachers for the good of the students and the schools as a whole. He said that it not only offered an opportunity to help the schools but also gave parents a chance to mingle with others in their community, to make friends and discuss the problems of the day.

Membership in the P.-T. A. is a "badge of honor", he said, and the organization needs the support of all parents, patrons and friends. Calling attention to the fact that there are nearly four and one-half million members enrolled in the National Congress of Parents-Teachers Associations, Mr. Mobley declared that this was one of the guardians of the future welfare of the nation which had no ax to grind.

In announcing the membership goal for the school year as 500, Mrs. Margolis said the membership reached a total of 431 during last school year and the minimum aim this year was to get one parent from each home.

Principal B. G. Stewart reported that the pupils in the Elementary schools the first ten days of this year totaled 760 as compared with 724 last year for the same period and in the high school 166 as against 164 last fall. He said that the record this year, while showing a gain since last year, was disappointing in that several high school students who had been expected back this year failed to return. Since they are above the age limit covered by the state law they can no longer be compelled to attend school, he said. He also reported that conditions were still crowded despite the addition of two rooms since last year. Four rooms in the school have 44 pupils each, he added.

President Mobley called attention to a district parent-teacher meeting to be held October 8 in Elizabeth City and urged as many of the parents to go as could possibly arrange it. He said that twelve representatives attended the district meeting in Columbia last year and was recognized as a large delegation but failed to get any recognition because no organization existed here the year before. "This year we will be recognized not only for our attendance but also for our accomplishments," he added.

Committee members appointed for the 1947-48 term include: Program, Mrs. Herbert Taylor; Membership, Mrs. Irving Margolis; Finance, V. J. Spivey; Social, Mrs. George Peele; Music, Mrs. Bucher Patterson; Lunch-room, grammar school, W. B. Gaylord; Publicity, Mrs. Geo. Corey; Procedure and by-laws, R. L. Coburn.

Suffers Broken Leg In Mill Accident Here

Mr. John Fagan, aged worker at the plant of the Williamston Lumber Company, suffered a compound leg fracture when a scaffold broke and threw him to the ground at the mill last Friday afternoon. He is recovering in the local hospital.

RUNNING FIRE

A Washington County farmer while en route to the local market almost lost his load of tobacco yesterday when it caught fire. It is thought that passing motorists flipped out a lighted cigarette, that it caught in the canvas and started the fire.

Other motorists saw the fire and stopped the farmer who put it out before much damage was done.

Schedule For Issuance Of Drivers' Licenses Listed

A schedule to be followed in issuing drivers' licenses was issued this week by the North Carolina Motor Vehicles Bureau. Licenses are now going to those drivers whose surnames begin with A or B. Persons whose last names begin with C or D will be examined for drivers' licenses between January 1 and June 30, 1948.

The schedule for other alphabetical groups follows:

E, F, and G—from July 1 to December 31, 1948.

H, I, J and K—from Jan. 1 to June 30, 1949.

L and M—from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1949.

N, O, P and Q—from Jan. 1 to June 30, 1950.

R, S, and T—from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1950.

U, V, W, X, Y and Z—from Jan. 1 to June 30, 1951.

Taking four years to complete, the re-examination program is designed to eliminate all poor drivers from the roads. A thorough driving test is now being given, which examines motorists on the essential driving techniques. Given in four parts, the exam consists of: a vision test, a highway sign test, a written rules questionnaire, and an actual road test.

Half of the time allotted for the issuance of licenses to those whose last names begin with A or B is about spent, but far from half of those scheduled to take the tests have reported so far, meaning that there'll be a last-minute rush and that possibly some will be without licenses after January 1. Licenses are issued in this county every Wednesday and Thursday at Williamston and in Robersonville each Friday.

Grand Jury Hears Brief Charge In Court on Monday

True Bill Returned Against William Kirkman In Murder Case

After a delay of one week on account of his illness, Judge Clawson Williams of Sanford opened the September term of the Martin County Superior Court Monday morning and briefly charged the grand jury. His remarks to the jury were confined mainly to instructions and the system followed in selecting jurors.

Pointing out that we had lived through one of the greatest periods in history since he was here five years ago, Judge Williams called attention to the importance of the high office grand jury hold. "The ideals men fought and died for are your responsibility now, for those ideals carry responsibilities," Judge Williams said. "The United States is one of the few countries in the world where average citizens have a voice in their government," the jurist said, pointing out the duty of jurors and others to maintain that system.

"You gentlemen were not chosen in a haphazard manner to serve as jurors. You were chosen by the county commissioners first, and to be selected you had to have good moral character and intelligence," the judge said, adding that no state is more jealous of the rights of its citizens than is North Carolina.

Continuing, the jurist said, "Some say that the grand jury is antiquated and out of date. This is not in accordance with accepted judicial theory," he declared and cited the advice Robert E. Lee gave to his son, "Remember duty is the sublimest word in the English language."

Judge Williams directed the jury to inspect various public properties and make presentation of any crime known to its members.

Nine new members were added to the jury this week, including Alton Croom, J. M. Perry, James E. Peel, E. M. Bland, C. L. Hadley, Geo. A. Harris, J. H. Leary, Gaston L. Andrews and Clifton Keel. Mrs. Bruce Roebuck, the first Martin County woman citizen to be called for regular jury duty, had her name drawn for grand jury duty, but she had been excused a short time previously.

Meeting Of Young Homemakers Held

A meeting of the Williamston Chapter of Future Homemakers of America was held in the home economics department here, last Thursday evening with President Lilybet Muse presiding.

Plans were discussed for the current term, including arrangements for a Thanksgiving dance, entertainment of the local football squad and duties of the historical and reporter. Means of making money for the club were discussed but nothing definite was decided.

A report on the summer camp was given by Rachel Chesson, Lucille Quinn and Sadie Banks.

The club is composed of thirty-nine girls, including, Doris Andrews, Sadie Banks, Jean Bailey, Genevieve Banks, Mary E. Bullock, Louise Cherry, Dorothy Chesson, Madeline Chesson, Rachel Chesson, Edna Coltrain, Barbara Coltrain, Louise Corey, Lucille Godard, Elizabeth Griffin, Marie Griffin, Betty Gurganus, Edna Harris, Mary Howard, Betty Jack Jackson, Jane King, Mary C. Leggett, Sarah Manning, Jessie M. Melson, Lilybet Muse, Jean McLawhorn, Alice Peaks, Harriett Peel, Joan Peel, Rhoda F. Peel, Lucille Quinn, Evelyn Rogers, Ruby Savage, Rosemon Simmons, Betty R. Taylor, Jeanette Thomas, Harriett Ward, Norma R. Wood, Alice P. Williams and Elizabeth Whitley.—Rachel Chesson, reporter.

TO MAKE SURVEY

Meeting with Engineers Henry and Tom Rivers in a special session here last evening, the town commissioners called for a tentative survey of needed water and sewer lines and facilities. The engineers plan to make a rough survey and report to the authorities at their next regular meeting.

No costs estimates and no definite program was outlined at the meeting. The possibility of meeting urgent calls for water and sewer lines in the northern sector of the town and a 350,000 gallon elevated storage tank were mentioned.

Hotel Renovation About Completed

Under way for several months the Hotel George Reynolds renovation program here is now nearing completion, Manager Chas. J. Brady said yesterday. Work on the first and second floors is just about complete and the modernization program is now being extended to the third floor. Mr. Brady said, adding that the last of the new furniture would be located within the next two or three weeks.

Carpeting the floors in the halls and rooms, the new hotel owners, Messrs. S. A. Mobley and R. L. Coburn, are re-equipping the entire building with new and modern furniture and fixtures, and table telephones are to replace those on the walls. "The beds and other furniture are the best that can be bought," Manager Brady said, pointing out that no expense is being spared and every effort is being made to give the town a creditable hotel and a comfortable home for travelers.

The hotel, maintaining a modern dining room, is reporting a rapidly expanding patronage. Most of its fifty rooms are filled through the week, and patrons, making repeat visits, are well pleased with the accommodations and impressed by the friendly atmosphere.

EXCUSED

Mrs. Bruce Roebuck, one of two Martin County women citizens drawn for jury duty during the current term of the superior Court, was excused by Judge Clawson Williams Monday.

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