

## Discuss Plan For Annual Seal Sale At Local Meeting

### Executive Secretary Of State Association Addresses Leaders

Meeting in the local Woman's Club hall last Tuesday representatives from seven counties in this section of the State discussed plans for handling the annual tuberculosis seal sale this year and heard timely talks by Mr. Frank Webster, executive secretary of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association, Mrs. Glen Pendleton, executive secretary of the Pasquotank County Association, and Miss Anne Mann, field secretary of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association.

Miss Mann discussed the mechanics of the Seal Sale, including the newest techniques of fund raising.

Mr. Webster discussed the Tuberculosis control program. He pointed out that the Tuberculosis Association is only one of the agencies concerned with this problem. He stressed the importance of the cooperation of the Health Dept., the private physician and the welfare department if a good control program is to be carried on. A good control program includes four phases: Case finding, treatment, rehabilitation and protection of the families of tuberculosis patients from economic distress. Mr. Webster pointed out that the need for more hospital beds for the state of North Carolina is urgent. He called on all those present to do all they could to inform their senators and representatives of this need so that when the legislature meets again that something will be done about the shortage of beds. Mr. Webster also pointed out that though the death rate from TB had dropped 80% since 1900 that the battle was not yet over. There were 53,000 deaths in the United States from the disease last year, 1300 of which were in North Carolina. This disease still remains the first cause of death in the age group 15-44.

In conclusion Mr. Webster stated that the death rate has shown a decline as the Seal Sale has gone up. Though the Tuberculosis Associations do not feel that they are entirely responsible for this decline, they do feel that they have played an important part in the decline. This year the nation's quota is \$18,000,000. Of this North Carolina hopes to raise \$350,000. Ninety-five cents out of every dollar that is raised will stay in the state.

Mrs. Pendleton in her talk discussed the various phases of the program that could be carried on by local associations or committees. She stressed the point that no matter how small the county that a year round program should be carried on. She also pointed out that this program should meet the needs of the individual county, since no two counties have the same problem. She emphasized the fact that Health education is the most important function of any Tuberculosis committee or Association. Through this education we hope to control, prevent and eventually eradicate this disease.

Mr. Charles Manning, Martin County Seal Sale chairman presided at the meeting. Mrs. Eva Grimes, Executive Secretary of the Martin County Tuberculosis Committee was in charge of all arrangements.

## Owners Warned to Pen Their Dogs

Receiving numerous complaints from citizens in all parts of town, the police department this week issued a warning against the practice of allowing female dogs to run at large. "Unable to catch and punish the dogs in most instances, we'll be forced to shoot them on the spot," Chief W. T. Simpson explained.

The officer also warned parents against allowing their children to ride bicycles at night without equipping the vehicles with proper lights. Double riding is also prohibited, and violators are subject to court action, it was explained.

## Make Last Call For Return Of Peanut Questionnaires

A last-minute reminder to all Martin County peanut growers was issued today by Mr. George C. Griffin, chairman of the Martin County Agricultural Conservation Committee, urging all those who have not already done so to get their questionnaires into the office of the county agent at once. It was pointed out that less than sixty percent of the farmers had returned the questionnaires, that those farmers who do not act before October 1 will have their allotments determined after the best fashion on the meager facts available.

"October 1 is the deadline," the chairman said, "for returning the questionnaires on peanut acreages and production which were sent from the Agricultural Conservation office. Information needed by the county office for establishing peanut acreage allotments on each farm in 1948 will be taken from facts furnished by the farmers themselves. These questionnaires also establish each grower's right to vote in the coming referendum."

The chairman explained that, if the county committee does not have complete information on a certain farm by the time allotments are established, that allotment must be made from the limited county reserve. Failure to file the questionnaires by October 1 may result in smaller allotments for some farms.

Whether marketing quotas and acreage allotments are to be in effect next year will depend upon the results of the referendum to be held later this year, the chairman points out. The referendum date will be announced shortly. The county office then will notify farmers of voting places, and provide other information about the referendum.

## Get Long Terms For Killing On Highway

### TOWN TAXES

Notices of taxes due for the current fiscal year are going out to Williamston property owners and others this week. Of the approximately 1,442 notices, 827 are going to white and 615 to colored property owners.

Preparation of the 1947-48 tax books was delayed when a definite tax rate could not be determined some weeks ago. The current levy amounts to approximately \$60,000.

## Hundred and One Placed On Jobs

The Williamston office of the State Employment Service reports that 1500 persons contacted the office and itinerant points during August. Over 1000 of these were veterans and a total of 101 were placed on jobs according to the manager, Howard S. Sexton. The level of employment for Martin County, despite strike threats, remains well above average and only 20 new applications for work were received in the office area during August. Job openings in Martin, Bertie, Washington, and Tyrrell Counties at the end of the month were over 150 which is the highest figure for some months.

Among the 1500 individuals who contacted the office a good percentage were seeking information other than on job openings. The 1000 veterans were seeking advice on loans, insurance, veteran hospitalization, self-employed allowances, and one-the-job training opportunities. Eleven of these visitors were given special employment counseling. Mr. Sexton reports that from the entire office area there are 265 active applications for work on file, and that is a much lower figure than was shown during the first part of the year. In placing these applicants in existing openings numerous problems arise such as transportation to work, living accommodations, and personal qualifications.

Plans will soon be initiated for observing the National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week during the week of October 5-11. This is the annual campaign proclaimed by the president for making a special effort to place all types of physically handicapped workers in suitable employment. The Williamston Employment Office has on file applications from twelve handicapped persons currently out of work and special attention will be given these applicants during the week in addition to cases submitted by the State Blind Commission. The annual drive to aid the handicapped is supported by the Veterans' Administration, American Red Cross, American Legion, VFW, local civic clubs, United States Employment Service, and the State Rehabilitation Offices and all work in conjunction to make the campaign a success.

## Subjecting Human Life To Too Many Hazards On Roads

After listening patiently nearly all of last Monday afternoon to the evidence in the case charging John D. Wooten and Webb Ward, Pitt County colored man, with manslaughter, Judge Clawson L. Williams, presiding over the regular term of Martin County Superior Court, offered some timely and strong comments when he pronounced sentence upon the two defendants late Tuesday.

Evidence in the case tended to show that Wooten and Ward, operating cars on the Robersonville-Stokes Highway last December 15, were driving on the wrong side of the road, that they crashed head-on, causing the deaths of Henry Ward, Mary Brown and Gladys Riddick, all colored of Pitt County. Both defendants pleaded not guilty and the case was warmly contested. Taking their first case of the term, the jury-men found that both defendants were guilty of manslaughter. Judge Williams stated that he would reserve judgment until later, and it was apparent that he studied the evidence and gave it much consideration before announcing his decision late Tuesday afternoon.

"The jury properly convicted both defendants," the judge said. "Human life is subjected to too many hazards on the highways, and all people ought to hang their heads in shame when they are told of the number being killed on the highways of our State."

Continuing his comments, the jurist said, "the victims were violating no laws. They were innocent, but their existence on this earth is ended. Too many deaths and too much maiming are brought about by folks who get into automobiles and don't care where they go or how. People are not going to tolerate it longer, this great disregard for safety."

Speaking directly to Wooten, Judge Williams said "You have no regard for law. You have been caught violating the highway laws since your driver's license was revoked. You have no business driving a motor vehicle and you should have no driver's license. And if you ever come into this court again for violating the highway laws you'll be sent to prison for the remainder of your natural life. You'll never see the sun rise or set except over prison walls."

Just before pronouncing sentence, Judge Williams overruled Defense Attorney Dick Bundy's motion to have the verdict set aside. Without blinking an eye and in a clear, ringing voice, Judge Williams sentenced Wooten to State's Prison for not less than (Continued on page eight)

## Farm Bureau Head Addresses Appeal For Organization

### Twenty Percent of Nation's Population Gets Ten Percent of Income

W. W. Eagles, Macesfield,

president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, said this week that despite all the clamor about high prices for farm products, "the farmers' share in the total United States income in 1946 was less than 10 percent."

Appealing for all-out support of the current Farm Bureau campaign for 100,000 members in the State "to insure a sound agricultural program for the future," Eagles said:

"The U. S. Department of Commerce's 'Survey of Current Business,' a study of major sources of income, shows agricultural income for the nation last year at 9.5 percent, compared with 21.3 percent for manufacturing payrolls, 26.8 percent for trades and services, and 17 percent for those receiving income from Federal, State, and local governments."

Eagles said the road ahead for agriculture, one of the nation's chief industries, employing nearly 20 percent of the total population, is going to be difficult, especially for southern agriculture. Farmers of the South, he added, face an uphill battle to keep price support and acreage allotments, for many agricultural people in other parts of the nation have no immediate need for such "safeguards of income," and therefore are not inclined to fight for them.

"While agricultural income was the smallest piece in the country's income pie," he said, "farming scored a gain as a source of income from 1940 to 1946. The share that agricultural income represents in the United States' total income increased 2.6 percent from 1940 to 1946, while percentage gains for other major sources were: Manufacturing payrolls, one percent; trade and service income, 1.4 percent; and Government payrolls, 4.6 percent."

North Carolina farmers cannot afford to wait to show their determination to secure their tremendous investment of time, labor and money, Eagles declared. They must organize to their fullest strength right now, he continued, if they hope to extend their present overall program beyond 1948, when the direct benefits of the Steagall amendment and the current Commodity Credit Corporation appropriation for support of tobacco prices will end.

Eagles urged every farmer in the State to join the Farm Bureau. (Continued on page eight)

## Member Police Force Tenders Resignation

A member of the local police force for the past several years, Lewis Keisler, this week tendered his resignation, effective as of Friday, September 26. Faithful and punctual to duty, the officer is considering several job offers, including one from a trucking firm with an increase in salary. It was also reported he is considering moving back to his home in South Carolina.

Willie Modlin was named today by Chief of Police W. T. Simpson to succeed Keisler.

## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Motorists on Martin County highways traveled through the 38th week of the current year without serious accident, but so far they are piling up more machines than they did a year ago. Fortunately, however, the motorists hold no more disrespect for life and are far more considerate of limb.

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

38th Week			
Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge			
1947	2	1	0 \$ 100
1946	2	1	0 400
Comparisons To Date			
1947	96	49	3 \$21,179
1946	93	72	3 \$21,800

(Continued on page eight)

## Jury Charged With Blocking Justice By Judge C. L. Williams In The Superior Court Here

### Great Miscarriage Of Justice, Judge Williams Declares

### Jury Returns "Not Guilty" Verdict In Carnal Knowledge Case

"In all my forty years in the courts of this State I have never seen a greater miscarriage of justice," Judge Clawson L. Williams, presiding over the current term of the Martin County Superior Court, lashed out against twelve jurymen late Wednesday afternoon when they returned a verdict of not guilty in the case in which Burnice Bullock, young white man, was charged with carnal knowledge of a female over twelve and under sixteen years of age.

"If you desire to make your daughters and other young girls of your county open prey to such men under such evidence as was offered in this case, that's your privilege," Judge Williams continued in what was described as one of the most timely and scathing attacks ever directed squarely at a Martin County jury.

"If a man 26 years old can fulfill his lascivious desire on a 13-year-old child, and the jury acquits him on the evidence offered in this case, justice has been blocked," the jurist declared.

"The State statute was designed to protect children when they were persuaded by older men, but you have failed to support it. It is your county, not mine, but I must say your verdict constitutes the greatest miscarriage of justice I have ever seen in a superior court in North Carolina," the jurist said in his verbal lashing of the jury.

That the just was bitterly disappointed in the action of the jury was quite evident, and he then moved to take action "that the defendant may not go free." He called for a bench warrant charging Bullock with bastardy and non-support. Bond was required in the sum of \$1,500 and Bullock is slated for trial in the county court next Monday on that charge.

D. C. Keel, a witness for the defense, was charged in a bench warrant with aiding and abetting prostitution and in the felonious abuse and carnal knowledge of a female under sixteen years of age. The warrant was drawn by a bench order prior to the action of the jury, and Judge Williams fixed bond in the sum of \$1,000. Keel is slated for trial in the county court Monday.

Members of the jury handling the case were, Grady Godard, Mack Wynne, M. N. Griffin, Roland G. Coburn, Kenneth Harrington, Eli H. Bowen, Dennis Beach, Archie Coltrane, Atwood Gurgan, Grady C. Modlin, Henry C. Oakley and B. E. Anderson.

Judge Williams, definitely pointed out before offering the stinging comment, that not one mite of evidence had been offered by the defense to support such a verdict, that the defendant had admitted illicit relations with the prosecuting witness, Margaret Beacham, when she was only thirteen years of age.

The case, one of the most sordid heard in the courts of this county in many years, was called for trial late Tuesday afternoon. The prosecuting witness told her story before recess was taken late that day, relating her connection with the 25-year-old defendant. She said that he suggested a name for the child, now seven months old, that he had paid the hospital bill and contributed \$5 for the child's support.

No holds were barred, and the evidence reviewed a condition sufficient to rock the foundations of society while the cries of the little waif, the illegitimate offspring of an illegitimate, warned of shock degeneracy and decay, all of which was capped smoothly by the jury's verdict. (Continued on page six)

## Tobacco Prices Stronger On The Market Here Thursday

Despite unfavorable weather, tobacco deliveries continue unusually heavy on the local market and direct reports from the sales Thursday indicated prices were strengthening on several types. No official figures could be had for Thursday's sale, but it was conservatively estimated that the general average for the day would hit right at \$40 per hundred pounds. Sales earlier in the week averaged from \$36.95 to slightly more than \$38, pulling the average for the season to a point slightly below \$40 per hundred, a figure below the price guaranteed by the government.

Including today's offerings, sales for the season now stand right at six and three quarter million pounds. A reduction in the selling hours from five to four this

week dropped the poundage receipts by about 75,000 pounds daily.

Inferior types of leaf are still predominating the sales, playing havoc with the daily price averages. Reports coming from the Old Belt this week indicate that the markets there are plagued with a price decrease compared with revenue reported there last year. Opening prices were ranging from \$2 to \$12 below those of last season, and deliveries to the Stabilization Corporation were said to be heavy.

Very little tobacco was going to the stabilization organization on the market here Thursday, one report stating that the agency received on an average hardly more than one pile to the row during the early sales.

## Grand Jury Files Quarterly Report In Superior Court

### Finds That Suggested Repairs Had Not Been Made To The County Home

Functioning efficiently and without delay, the Martin County Grand Jury completed its work, including the handling of bills of indictment and county-wide inspections last Monday and recessed until next December. The jury's quarterly report filed over the signature of Foreman Henry S. Johnson, Jr., of Hamilton, follows:

We have passed on all bills of indictment presented to us. We visited the Clerk of Court's Office and found it to be in excellent condition with all Guardian Accounts filed.

We found the Register of Deeds' Office in excellent condition and all bonds in order.

The Sheriff's Office and Tax Collector's Office were visited and found to be in good condition with all records up to date.

We visited the office of the Superintendent of Schools and found it in excellent condition.

We checked all Justices of Peace reports and found them all filed with the Clerk of Court and fines submitted to the Treasurer.

We visited the County Jail and found it in good condition and well kept. We found 3 White Male inmates, 8 colored male inmates and 1 colored female inmate.

We visited the County Home and Prison Farm and found everything in good condition. (Continued from Page Six)

## Jurymen React To Judge's Comments

The verdict freeing Burnice Bullock, 25-year-old Pitt County white man, of carnal knowledge did not have the wholehearted support of the jury in the superior court here this week. At least two of the twelve men opposed the acquittal verdict at first, "but we were outnumbered and gave in," one of the jurymen declared.

"It was fairly evident that we were doing wrong, and I tried to tell our leader that the evidence demanded us to find the defendant guilty," one jurymen added.

One of the jurymen expressed a desire to talk with the judge and ask to be excused, "For I'm ashamed to return to the court room." Still another juror boasted of his stand and that he would vote for acquittal again and again. There is the possibility that there was a "leak" in the case during the noon recess Wednesday, but such a possibility was dismissed in some quarters.

## TURN BRIDGE

The new draw bridge over Roanoke River here was turned in position for traffic at 4:27 o'clock last Tuesday afternoon, nearly a year after the old bridge was closed to traffic. Reports state that the draw span fitted perfectly and that it worked without a hitch. The steel structure, one of the largest of its kind in the entire state highway system, was turned by manpower, reports stating that it will be several more weeks before electrical equipment can be installed to power the bridge operations. It could not be learned when the bridge would be opened to traffic.

## Kiwanians Will Stage Play Here

The Williamston Kiwanis Club announced the arrival in Williamston this week of Miss Betty Struble of Kansas City, Mo., who will direct their home talent show "Cornzapoppin'." The show will be presented in the local high school auditorium on Thursday and Friday nights, October 2 and 3.

Mr. W. H. Carstarphen, president of the club, appointed Jimmy Harris chairman of the show and he will be assisted by Gene Kimball, Bruce Wynne, John H. Gurgan, Bill Glover and Meyer Levin.

"Cornzapoppin'", a 3-act musical comedy, will be presented for the benefit of the public school music department and will feature an all-male cast with 30 local girls doing song and dance routines and musical specialties between acts. Response to the appeal for talent has been exceptional and the show will have excellent characters, dancers, choristers and soloists. (Continued on page five)

## Farmer Recovers From Snake Bite

Bitten by a copperhead snake while working in his father's peanut field near Palmyra last Friday, Thomas Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Smith, is rapidly recovering from the bite, having spent three days in a Tarboro hospital.

Striking the young man on the left hand, the reptile's fangs penetrated the middle finger. He was said yesterday to be suffering from the mad itch, a reaction from medicine. The young man's mother entered Duke hospital this week for treatment of a high blood pressure condition.

## Trial Of Criminal Cases Nearing End In Superior Court

### William Kirkman Sentenced To Prison For Twenty Years In Murder Case

Delayed one week by the illness of Judge Clawson L. Williams, the Martin County Superior Court in the second of the two-week term was nearing the end of its criminal docket Thursday afternoon, having sandwiched in a few divorce cases during the meantime.

Trials have been long, drawn out in several instances, the court spending a day each in handling manslaughter charges against John D. Wooten and Webb Ward, Pitt County colored men, and carnal knowledge charge against Burnice Bullock, 25-year-old Pitt County white man. Considerable time was spent trying William Kirkman for killing Fred Little, colored, in Parmele a few weeks ago.

The State did not ask a first-degree verdict against Kirkman, but announced it would try him for second degree murder or manslaughter. Kirkman, pleading self defense, was found guilty of manslaughter in the first case to reach the jury which deliberated hardly an hour before returning a verdict late Tuesday afternoon. Sentencing Kirkman to State's Prison for not less than eighteen and not more than twenty years or the maximum allowed by statute, Judge Williams declared that too much of the defense evidence apparently had been "manufactured."

The trial of Mack Peterson, colored man charged with the theft of several hundred dollars from his wife here in 1945, was brought to a sudden halt Tuesday when Judge Williams had a juror withdrawn and declared a mistrial. No explanation for the action was offered immediately, and the case was left hanging in suspense.

Tony Curry, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was ruled not guilty by direction of the court. Curry had appealed from a 30-day sentence imposed in Judge J. C. Smith's court.

Richard Vines, charged with breaking and entering and larceny of money from Roberson's Slaughter House, was freed, the court directing a verdict of not guilty when the evidence was declared insufficient to support the charge. Work on the case was started following near sensational developments in the Bullock carnal knowledge case, and was brought to a close Thursday morning.

The case charging Charlie Lewis, colored native of Georgia who has served time in quite a few prisons, with an assault with intent to commit rape, attracted much attention in the court Thursday when Solicitor George Fountain confronted the defendant with a yard-long criminal record. Lewis, admitting at first only three law violations, broke down and acknowledged a crime record running from 1930 until August 27 almost without interruption. But the defendant denied attacking Julia Williams, 12-year-old colored girl, here last August. The little prosecuting witness gave a good account of the attack but broke down and cried near the end of the cross examination.

The evidence completed, Defense Attorney R. L. Coburn and Solicitor Fountain made their arguments. (Continued on page five)

## Justice Hassell Has Three Cases

Justice John L. Hassell heard three cases in his court here this week.

D. L. Stallings, mayor of Bridgeport, was fined \$5 and taxed with \$6.50 costs for passing a school bus on a highway near here.

Charged with disorderly conduct, Jeff Slade was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. Judge Hassell suspended the road sentence on guaranteed behavior for twelve months and the payment of \$6.50 costs.

William Riddick was fined \$5 and required to pay \$6 costs for operating a motor vehicle with improper lights.