

Big Damage Suit Settled In Court For Nominal Sum

Widow and Six Small Children Virtually Left Penniless

A widow, her five children and four other plaintiffs were, by a technicality in the law, literally forced to accept a meager insurance company settlement in their \$30,300 damage suits against L. W. Hardison and Frank Green in the Martin County Superior Court late Tuesday afternoon, the action leaving doubt in the minds of more than one person as to the meaning of justice and as to the purpose of insurance.

No judgment was entered in the court records immediately but it was reported that the insurance company offered the combined plaintiffs a total of \$5,000, an amount that is certain to be whittled down to a frazzle by hospital and doctors' bills, costs and fees, leaving two widows and six small children virtually penniless.

The court after continuing just about everything on the calendar, dragged through two days with a record of two cases settled by agreement and then quit for the term at 4:00 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

On Monday an agreement was reached soon after court was opened with Judge Paul Edmondson on the bench in the damage suit of E. R. Stewart against Ben Biggs. The action was settled for \$50.

Tuesday morning, goodly numbers of citizens from Jamesville and Bear Grass reported, and after considerable delay the court started working on the damage suits against Hardison and Green with two insurance company representatives remaining out of the spot light.

More than an hour was spent selecting a jury, the action on that score indicating that an all-out fight could be expected in the trial.

Two witnesses, Patrolman W. E. Saunders and Clarence Wallace, were called by the plaintiffs before the noon recess. The officer said he investigated the accident on the evening of January 18 at the intersection of Highway 17 and the Bear Grass Road, and said that the defendant Green, driver of Defendant Hardison's truck, was under the influence of liquor.

Wallace said that while he was Jamesville constable he had warned Green about alleged reckless driving on at least three occasions but had never arrested him. Wallace also said that he had seen Green in Defendant Hardison's store while he (Green) was drinking, and "in others too."

Town Board Meets Tuesday Evening

The regular meeting postponed because some of the officials are to be out of town on Monday night, the local board of commissioners are scheduled to meet Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock, Mayor Robt. Cowen announced yesterday.

Town Engineer Henry Rivers is being called to meet with the commissioners and discuss the acute water problem and possibly draft preliminary plans for extending sewer lines within the town limits and the installation of an elevated water storage tank.

War Hero's Body On It's Way Home

The body of Pfc. Onward L. Gardner along with those of 4,211 other comrades who made the supreme sacrifice in the European theater during World War II arrived in New York last Tuesday on the U. S. Army Transport Robert F. Burns.

The young soldier, son of Mrs. Emma Gardner and the late Lloyd Gardner of Jamesville, was killed in action in Belgium on January 16, 1945. He had previously been reported missing.

The body, the third of a young Martin County man to be returned for burial in native soil, is being transferred from New York by special train to the distribution center in Charlotte. Ordinarily it required from two to three weeks to deliver a body to the home address. Tentative arrangements have been made with a local undertaker to handle the funeral, the date and other details for the service to be announced later.

Tobacco And Peanuts Cut By Nearly 11,000 Acres

A total of 10,927 acres will go out of production in this county next year, 4,001 in tobacco and 6,926 in peanuts, according to an official report coming from the offices of the county agent.

Figured at about 33 1-3 percent, the peanut reduction will leave an allotment of 19430 acres, agriculture officials pointing out that the acreage is slightly larger than it was in 1942. During the past several years Martin County farmers planted an average of 26,365 acres to peanuts each year. When compared with the acreage planted to the crop in 1942, the reduction proposed for peanuts in 1948 is not so bad, but it offers a pretty big shock to be absorbed when compared with the average plantings since 1942.

The tobacco acreage in the

county this year was 14,861 acres, the 28 percent reduction leaving 10,860 acres, a figure slightly below the plantings in 1942.

Peanut allotments, now going to Martin County farmers, worked out much better than many expected, leaving very few farmers with acreages below their 1942 plantings. The 1948, 1949 and 1950 quotas are contingent upon the outcome of the referendum to be held on Tuesday, December 9. If quotas are defeated, farmers may plant all the peanuts they want to, but there'll be no government support price.

The tobacco reduction will be applied, more or less, straight across the board at the rate of about one-fourth or 28 percent below the 1947 allotments.

Officers Destroy Stills In County

Raiding in the Free Union section of Jamesville Township and along N. C. Highway No. 11 in Hamilton Township, ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel wrecked three illicit distilleries last week.

The catch in the Free Union area included a 100-gallon capacity copper kettle, three barrels of sugar beer and twelve gallons of white liquor. The officers picked up three different trails, finding several gallons of liquor at the end of each, the search terminating mighty close to a home.

Two plants, equipped with crude oil drums, were wrecked along Highway No. 11 and the officers poured out three barrels of sugar beer.

Up until last week-end, the officers had wrecked six illicit manufacturing plants in the county.

The officers, Roebuck and Peel, dealt the illicit business a right heavy blow last week-end when they wrecked three plants in Bear Grass Township within a one and one-half mile radius. The first plant was equipped with a 100-gallon capacity oil drum and four 50-gallon capacity fermenters. No beer was found. A 50-gallon oil drum and five 50 gallon capacity fermenters were found at the second plant. The third plant was the payoff, the officers capturing a fairly new 100-gallon capacity copper kettle. They poured out 1,000 gallons of sugar beer from two containers. The plant was equipped with an oil burner.

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Farms In County Sold At Auction

Two farms, both located in the Oak City area, were sold at public auction in front of the county courthouse this week. Both farms belonged to the Tom Savage estate.

One of the farms, located right near Oak City and having about 65 cleared acres, sold for \$16,100 and was bought by Mackie Savage. The second farm, located near Conoho Church and having about 23 or 30 cleared acres sold for \$5,900 and was purchased by S. V. Sills.

PEANUTS

Idle for ten days or more, peanut pickers were put back in operation Wednesday in a few instances, but farmers declare that the fields are so soft they could not carry on the work even if the peanuts were dry. Weather predictions indicated rain in some sections Wednesday night but skies were clearing Thursday.

It is estimated that less than ten percent of the crop has moved to market in the county so far, the harvest setting a new record for lateness.

Soil Conservation Election Planned

Five county farmers recently nominated for places on the Martin County Soil Conservation Committee will be voted on in a special election next week, it was announced by C. U. Rogers, supervisor of the Coastal Plain Soil Conservation District.

A ballot box will be open in the county agricultural building all next week and special ballot boxes will be open on Saturday, December 6, in Sexton's store at Jamesville, Agers' store in Oak City, Rogers Store in Bear Grass and David Grimes' drug store in Robersonville. Farmers are asked to visit their nearest polling place and participate in the election. The nominees are, J. L. Knowles, C. U. Rogers, J. H. Lillard, E. V. Smith and C. L. Green. These men are being voted on in accordance with a law passed by the last N. C. legislature, and the three receiving the greatest number of votes will be declared elected.

Prepared ballot will be made available at the polls in Williams-ton all week and at the four other points all day on Saturday, December 6.

The Soil Conservation Committee will have the responsibility of representing the people of this county and developing and directing a soil conservation program in the county. The chairman of this committee will represent the county on the Coastal Plain Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

The election next week is not to be confused with the referendum on peanuts and Triple A committee elections on December 9.

Unusual Accident Reported Tuesday

A most unusual highway accident was reported near the plant of the Williamston Lumber Company early last Tuesday evening.

James Moore, driving a lumber company truck, and pulling another truck owned by the same firm, and steered by Walter Rogers, came out of the mill yard and had cleared the highway with the tow truck. The other truck had not entered the highway but the tow chain was across the road, and J. T. Edmondson, driving a 1939 Ford, crashed into the chain. The grill, one head light and the radiator were damaged, local police officers, investigating the accident, estimating the damage at about \$25.

No Revaluation Of Property Planned For Year Of 1948

Board Expected To Appoint Supervisor and Maintain Usual Procedure

With a revaluation of property virtually ruled out for 1948, the Martin County Commissioners in their regular meeting next Monday are slated to appoint a supervisor and advance plans for listing real and personal property holdings as usual, according to reports coming from the courthouse this week. While a revaluation is slightly overdue according to the quadrennial schedule, the authorities are of the opinion that possibly the year 1949 would offer a better opportunity to make changes if any.

During the several years of inflated values, the county and towns therein have held, for the most part, to the pre-boom values, the authorities thinking it better to hold to those figures rather than go up and then be forced to come down as was the case during and following World War I when values fluctuated by more than several million dollars almost overnight.

As far as it could be learned this week only one person has applied for the job of county tax supervisor, and it is quite likely that Mr. M. L. Peel, the applicant, again will be chosen to head up the work. The supervisor with the recommendations of the officials is to name list-takers for the ten townships and meet sometime during December to study the personal property value list and make preparations for starting the work early in January.

Other than a reorganization of its group, the commissioners have very little new business on their schedule for next Monday.

The reorganization is almost certain to leave the county's official family unchanged. It is expected that Chairman John H. Edwards will continue in that position. The re-election of John Bland as superintendent of the county home is freely predicted, and the services of Peel and Manning as county attorneys are likely to be retained.

Bonds of the various officers of the county, including the treasurer, sheriff, tax collector, auditor and others are to be renewed and approved.

Continue Hearing For Non-supporter

The case in which Junius Rappold, Newport News man, is charged with non-support of this two small children, was continued in Richmond this week when it was reported that the defendant's lawyer had suffered a broken back in an accident while on his way to the hearing. It could not be learned when the hearing would be held. The defendant's attorney explained that the defendant would be allowed a few days, but that if the wreck victim could not appear within a reasonable time other arrangements should be made.

Arrested in Virginia several weeks ago, Rappold was to have been given a hearing in chambers on November 8. He either waived the hearing or got an unfavorable decision and he appealed directly to Governor Tuck in his effort to fight extradition.

Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Mrs. Junius Cherry Rappold went to Richmond for the hearing this week, leaving here just about an hour before they were advised the defense attorney had been injured in an accident.

Goes On Rampage, Woman Is Jailed

Said to have gone on a drunken rampage, Sallie Mae Brown, 18, of near Robersonville, was placed in the county jail Wednesday morning to serve a ten-day sentence imposed by Mayor H. S. Everett at a hearing held in Robersonville a short time before.

Reports reaching here stated the woman got mad with her mother and bit her badly on the arm and then attacked her brother when he tried to protect their mother.

Parents-Teachers Hold Discussions At Regular Meet

Planning the Purchase Of Steam Table and Playground Equipment

Meeting in regular session last Monday evening, members of the local parent-teacher association in a lengthy program, including discussions of various topics, and heard Mrs. Irving Margolis in an address on the "Home and Its Relationship To the School." The speaker said that it is the home's responsibility to develop a happy and well adjusted child who has faith in his home and his school.

Addressing the meeting briefly, Health Officer John W. Williams said that Martin County has one of the highest TB death rates of any county in the State. His department showed a picture, "Behind the Shadow" telling how tuberculosis spreads and how it can be prevented.

Following the opening of the meeting by President H. P. Mobley, Rev. E. R. Shuler offered the invocation and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

President Mobley, stating that the membership report had to be in the state office by next Monday, said that the organization's enrollment this year was much less than it was a year ago, that the association apparently was falling down on the job. A special appeal netted fourteen or fifteen new members Wednesday.

Discussing the purchase of a steam table, the meeting was advised that one could be installed for \$110, and the committee was instructed to determine the financial angle of the proposed purchase.

The purchase of play ground equipment and the expenditure of \$200 for material last year were discussed, the president asking the members to think over the possibility of providing either light or heavy equipment this year. Playgrounds will be discussed further at the next meeting to be held on Monday, December 15 in the high school.

Large Docket For The County Court

A large docket is in the making for the regular session of the county court here next Monday. Cases have been accumulating for two weeks while the superior court was supposed to have been in session, late reports stating that others are finding their way on the docket after a rapid fashion.

Up until Wednesday noon approximately thirty cases had been placed on the docket for trial next Monday and several others were placed there and scheduled for trial on December 15.

Judging from the docket a little was declared in Williamston a short time ago, the officers rounding up an even dozen for alleged assaults. Three others stand charged with drunken driving, and still three others with non-support. Two each are charged with drunkenness, larceny and receiving and speeding.

Recovering From Skull Fracture

His skull fractured in an automobile-bicycle accident at the Houghton-Main Street stoplight late last Saturday night, Branch Marslander, 18, is recovering rapidly in the local hospital and plans to return to his home in West End the latter part of this week.

The young man was riding west on the main street when Eli David Harrison of Bear Grass started to turn into the street, the boy's wheel striking the right front fender between the front of the car and the door. Neither vehicle was traveling very fast. The young man was unconscious for a short time and remembers few details of the accident.

No Meeting Of County Education Board Monday

No meeting of the Martin County Board of Education has been scheduled for next Monday, it was announced this week by the office of the superintendent.

Hog Thieves Strike Again In The County This Week

Since about the middle of last September, hog thieves returned to the county last Tuesday night and pulled a flash theft in a pen on Bill Abbott's farm near Williamston. Approximately 20 hogs were stolen in previous raids centered in the Robersonville-Everetts-Gold Point area during several weeks the latter part of the summer. For some unexplained reason, the thieves, after repeating the raids almost weekly, withdrew from the county and farmers were given an opportunity to fatten up their swine. The raid last Tuesday was timed for Thanksgiving.

Placing over \$500 worth of feeder pigs weighing around 100 pounds each in the pen just a few days ago, the owner had placed a self-feeder there and did not visit the pen only about once a day.

Wednesday morning when an employee went to the pen he saw where two or three of the pigs had been killed. Employing rather crude tactics, the thieves apparently had knocked the hogs in the head with some blunt instrument and bled them on the spot, dragging them to a waiting automobile on the highway about thirty or forty yards away.

An old automobile was seen parked along the highway near the Abbott mill, but it was thought the machine had broken down and little attention was paid to it at the time.

The sheriff's office was contacted and officers and the owner started work on the case immediately. During the meantime it was learned that thieves, employing similar tactics, had been operating in Pitt County on a fairly extensive scale for several weeks.

APPEAL

Explaining that one of the most extensive drives ever launched in this county against tuberculosis is slated to get under way next January, Chas. H. Manning, chairman of the Christmas Seal Sale in this county, today appealed to every person in the county to support the fund campaign. Letters asking support for the drive are being placed in the mail this week-end, and the sale chairman is hopeful that the response will be immediate and liberal.

Auxiliary Plans Drive for Gifts

Cooperating with other units, the local auxiliary of the John Walton Hassell Post of the American Legion is launching a drive for war veterans who will spend Christmas in hospitals in North Carolina.

Among the things the auxiliary asks for are cigarettes, books of stamps, postal cards, cash, toilet articles, snapshot albums, small mirrors, wallets, military brush sets, white handkerchiefs and socks, size 10-12, 11 and 12, tobacco pouches, pipes and pipe tobacco, pencils, puzzles, dictionaries, Bibles (small size) and small size magazines.

If a member of the appointed committee fails to contact anyone who desires to remember these hospitalized boys, please forward your gift to either Messdames James E. Bullock, Arthur White, Roy T. Griffin or John A. Ward.

The request for help with this project for comfort articles is the only outside help asked for during the year by the auxiliary. It is sincerely hoped the people of Williamston and Martin County will respond as generously this year to this call as they have in the past.

Two Are Fined In Justice's Court

Two persons were fined in Justice John L. Hassell's court this week for violating the motor vehicle laws. Theodore Ruta of Norwalk, Connecticut, was fined \$5 and required to pay \$8 costs for passing a school bus while passengers were being discharged.

Operating a motor vehicle with improper equipment, Reuben Lee Godfrey was fined \$5 and taxed with \$7 costs.

Local Boy Included In Who's Who In College

John Thigpen, local young man, has been selected at East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, to represent the college in the annually published work "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

Chosen by a committee made up of both students and faculty members, those chosen for inclusion in the work are students who have outstanding records in scholarship, leadership, and participation in extra-curricula activities and who give indication of future usefulness to business and society.

Make Nominations For Positions On Farm Committees

The County Tuesday, December 9th

Meeting in their respective communities throughout the county, comparatively small numbers of farmers named their nominees for places on the Triple A community committees for the coming year. The nominations, meeting a bare need in some communities, were made subject to an election to be held on the same day farmers vote on peanut quotas on Tuesday, December 9.

The nominations have not been officially announced, but according to the best information possible some of the communities named new men for the posts, while several districts retained all their old committeemen.

Goose Nest Districts one and two recommended the re-election of J. T. Moore to the county committee at the county convention tentatively scheduled to be held here on Wednesday, December 10. An unofficial list of the nominees named at the last Friday night nominating conventions follows:

Jamesville, No. 1: For committeemen, George Martin, Howard Hardison, Charlie Russell, George Barber, Sam Godard, Arthur Modlin, Clarence Barber, H. A. Sexton and Carl Griffin; for delegate and alternate to the county convention, H. A. Sexton and Howard Hardison.

Jamesville No. 2: For committeemen, Arthur Ange, David Ange, Grover Lilley, Edward Ange, Grady Davenport, Herman Reddick, Clarence Sexton and Linwood Knowles; for delegate and alternate to county convention, Elmer Modlin and R. G. Coburn.

Williams: For community committeemen, Chas. L. Daniel, Paul Harrington, W. J. Gardner, R. J. Hardison, Marvin Hardison, Howard Tyre and O. S. Green; for delegate and alternate to county convention, L. J. Hardison, C. L. Daniel and Joe L. Coltrane.

Griffins: For committeemen, Oscar B. Roberson, J. R. P. Griffin, Jas. B. Harrington, John A. Griffin and J. M. Peel; for alternate and delegate to county convention, P. E. Getsinger and W. A. Manning.

Bear Grass: For committeemen, T. L. Roberson, Wheeler Rodgers, H. U. Peel, Luther Harris, E. C. Harrison, L. J. Peel, W. C. Jones and Opheus Bailey; for delegate and alternate to county convention, H. G. Harrison, L. J. Peel, J. D. Wynne and Wheeler Rodgers.

Williamston-Poplar Point: For committeemen, J. E. Corey, J. Rossell Rogers, U. V. Bunting, C. F. Harris and Luther Peel; for delegate and alternate to county convention, Johnnie Gurkin and Mayo Hardison.

Cross Roads: For committeemen, G. H. Forbes, Tom Barnhill, Geo. W. Taylor, Oscar Ayers, Herbert Clark, H. M. Ayers, C. C. Bailey, W. L. Aasbon and Marion Griffin; for county delegate and alternate, H. L. Roebuck and J. F. Bailey.

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Hamilton Church Burns Mortgage

The Hamilton Church of Christ observed its first anniversary last Sunday by burning the mortgage held against its \$11,000 brick building. Quite a large congregation was present for the event.

The church was organized by Harvey C. Bream, Roanoke District Evangelist. Starting out with sixteen members supported by twenty-three members of the Bible school, the church now has sixty-two members and the Bible school has 89 with an average attendance for the first year of 84.

D. A. Hudson, the pastor of Roanoke Rapids, and the membership extended a vote of thanks to the district convention and others who supported the building program.

The official church board includes C. H. Gardner, T. F. Respass, G. W. Ayers, Sr., elders; William S. Edmondson, J. C. Williams, Bruce Stalls and George Ayers, Jr., deacons; and Mrs. C. H. Gardner, clerk.

Special Sing In County Sunday

There will be a big Fifth Sunday sing in the Robersonville Baptist Church on Sunday, November 30, at 2:30 o'clock p. m. it was announced this week by Rev. E. R. Stewart, county Baptist minister.

The program, featuring congregational singing, will include choruses, quartets, trios, duets and solos.

Those planning to have numbers on the program are asked to notify Rev. Stewart, Hamilton.

The public is cordially invited to attend and participate in the program and enjoy the old hymns and special numbers. A large crowd is expected for the event, the minister said.