

## Gets Ten Years For Breaking Into Home

### Superior Court Expected To End Its Work Today

#### "Fifteen-Man Jury" Passes Judgment In Divorce Case Monday

The Martin County Superior Court, opening a one-week term Monday morning, handled a full day's work even though it got off to a late start, and there was a good possibility that the docket would be cleared in time for adjournment late this afternoon.

Most of the defendants in the few cases docketed pleaded guilty, and judgment was delayed in all but two or three until today.

The grand jury, more or less permanent, heard no charge, Judge Clawson Williams, presiding over the term, directing the jurymen to call on the court for any information it needed and all help possible would be offered.

Without delay the grand jury moved out with Mr. Oscar Daniel as its foreman, and the petit jury moved in with three extras holding a seat within the jury box railing. A divorce case, based on two-year separation grounds, was called with W. E. Nolley as plaintiff and Ruth S. Nolley as defendant. The usual evidence was offered, the plaintiff stating that the couple were married on November 3, 1934, that they were separated in September, 1945, and that there were no children born to the union. The issues were read to the jury after all the evidence was in and when the court asked the jury if the issues were acceptable, to raise their hands in affirmation. The twelve men in the box raised their hands, and so did the three extras raise their hands. There was no added cost for the extra majority.

Roy Lanier, 57-year-old colored man, charged with first degree burglary, entered a plea of nolo contendere as to breaking and entering, went before the court with a good character. Taking the stand, Harry S. Peel whose home the defendant entered in the night time about two months ago at Hamilton, said that Mrs. Peel was at home at the time, that she heard someone open the front door, that when she received a mumble for an answer she ran out the back door. "I returned home from up town about that time, and saw the man in the hall. I followed him to the bedroom and knocked him down and out," the witness said, explaining that he then dragged the man out of doors and turned him over to Cpl. T. Fearing and Patrolman B. W. Parker. Peel told the court that his wife was badly frightened but that she was not harmed. The witness also said that Lanier was a good worker, that he (Lanier) wandered around when drunk and had been known to enter other homes under similar circumstances. "Lanier ate a meal in the Chesson home at Oak City and he was said to have entered the Keel and was said to have entered the Keel and Harrell homes also while under the influence of liquor," the witness told the court, adding that he did not recall when those visits were made. Peel also said that Lanier was all right when sober, that the man was easy to get along with, that he was very humble.

Patrolman Parker told how he and the patrol corporal had picked up Lanier and placed him in the county jail. Officer Edmond Early recalled Harrell homes also while under the influence of liquor. Lanier had served on the roads twice, it was pointed out. The defense offered J. B. Whitfield as a character witness, and he said that he had never known a more manly person when Lanier was sober. The man was humble and a hard worker when sober, the witness said. The defense, its case builded on character, addressed the bench and suggested that probation would solve the problem. Judge Williams said that he would not put

### Voluntarily Aids Recruiting Work

R. Frank Everett, young Hamilton man and World War II veteran, has been appointed volunteer recruiting officer for the U. S. Marine Corps in this immediate section. He has been authorized to effect enrollments and administer enlistment oaths for the Volunteer Marine Corps Reserve. Men between the age of 17 and 32 years, or older if veterans, interested in the service are asked to contact Lt. Everett in Hamilton.

During the last war the young man saw service at Kiska, Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa, and earned a battle field promotion to second lieutenant on December 20, 1944.

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## Two Accidents On County Highways During Week-end

### Occupants Miraculously Escape Uninjured In Two Rather Serious Wrecks

Occupants in four automobiles figuring in accidents on the highways of this county last week-end miraculously escaped uninjured, investigating patrolmen declaring they were puzzled to understand how no one was killed much less how all escaped without hardly a scratch or a bruise.

Both of the accidents were reported on N. C. Highway No. 125, one near Williamston and the other between Oak City and Hamilton.

Last Saturday evening about 6:15 o'clock Nathaniel Boston was driving his old model car toward Williamston and was reported to have overrun the middle of the road and plowed into the 1936 model car driven by Lucy Brown. Boston's car nosed the other car around, leaving it heading in the direction of Williamston. The Boston car came to a stop 36 steps down the highway and stopped with the front headed toward Hamilton. Investigating officers, Patrolmen Saunders, Parker and Narron, estimated the damage to both cars at \$200 to each car. Boston, charged with reckless and drunken driving, was alleged to have carried a small quantity of illicit liquor in his car, the officers finding a half-gallon container broken. He is slated to face the courts next Monday.

## 4-H Clubs Hold Achievement Day

The 4-H Clubs of Martin County held their annual Achievement Day Saturday, December 6, in the county court room. Clubs represented at this meeting were: Bear Grass, Jr., Bear Grass, Sr., Everetts, Farm Life, Hamilton, Hassell, Jamesville, Oak City, Williamston, Jr., and Williamston, Ind. The Oak City 4-H Club had the largest membership representation and won the gavel for attendance. This is the second year in succession it has been won by this club.

Celia Stokes, Oak City, presided over the meeting and Edith Rogerson of the Bear Glass club, acted as secretary in the absence of the County Council secretary. The program was opened with the singing of "Joy To The World" followed by the club pledge. Rev. John L. Goff gave the devotional. Greetings were brought by Mr. C. Abram Roberson of Robersonville. Edith Rogerson, Bear Grass, responded. This was followed by reading of the minutes and roll call by clubs. Reports of the outstanding 4-H activities of the year were given by Corronne Bryant, Wildlife Camp; Celia Stokes, Electric Congress; and 4-H Short Course, Amanda Faye Rogerson. The Oak City trio rendered special music.

Assistant County Agent J. W. Sumner introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Paul Nickens, of Plymouth. Rev. Nickens entertained the 4-Hers with magic. This was greatly enjoyed by all those present.

## Agree On Use Of High School Gym

The following county winners were announced and certificates and medals were given: Mary Ola Lilley, senior dress revue winner; Lena Bennett, junior dress revue winner; Mary Ola Lilley, clothing achievement and girls' records; Rachel Gurkin, room improvement; Edith Rogerson, canning achievement; Celia Stokes, better electric methods; Howard Bennett, better electric methods, and Billy Bailey, meat animals. Other winners were Dan Clark poultry; and Joe Roebuck, garden.

Winners in the hybrid corn contest were announced as follows: \$25 first prize, Mayhue Bailey; \$20 second prize, Berry House, Jr.; \$15 third prize, Carrone Bryant; \$10 fourth prize, James Cratt; \$5 fifth prize, Melton Lilley. The prizes were given by the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company as sponsors of the contest.

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## County Officials Are Called Before Court

### Certified Copy Of Jury Report To School Head

#### Details Not Immediately Aired In Open Court This Week

The receipt of grand jury reports, regarded more or less as a mere formality for all these years, attracted more than passing attention yesterday afternoon after Clerk L. B. Wynne read the findings and reviewed in open court the jury's recommendations.

Judge Clawson Williams, presiding over the one-week term of mixed court, leaned forward a bit when that part of the report recommending a new fire escape for the Williamston grammar school was read, but it was Paragraph No. 10 that brought forth action. In that paragraph the jury said, "In our visit to the county home we noticed that the suggested repairs in the last several reports have not been made. These repairs are needed very badly."

When Clerk Wynne finished reading the report, Judge Williams meditated for a minute or more, the court room maintaining pin silence.

Without comment, Judge Williams said, "Mr. Clerk address a certified copy of this report to the chairman of the Martin County Board of Education and to the superintendent of schools. And issue instant subpoenas directing the county commissioners to appear before the court Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock." The action took the courtroom by surprise, but the jurist continued, "Several reports recommending certain repairs be made. The work hasn't been done. The officials have no right to stand by and allow property damage through negligence," he said, and added, "Mr. Solicitor I order you and I'm not suggesting, that you bring indictments if the work is not done by the next term." The judge expressed his thanks to the jury for its thoroughness and told the members that they were subject to be recalled during the current term.

The commissioners' side of the story was not immediately advanced, but it is quite certain that

## Destroyed Twelve Plants In County

Twelve illicit distilleries were destroyed in this county in November by ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel, the officers pointing out that the illicit business flared up during the period following months of little activity on the manufacturing front. About one-third of the plants were equipped with copper kettles, but most of them were using old oil barrels for stills.

The officers poured out twelve gallons of white liquor and 1,750 gallons of sugar beer or mash. Raiding in Robersonville Township last Friday, Officers Roebuck, Peel and Holloman found and wrecked a partial plant in the Gold Point area.

Apparently limited preparations have been made by the illicit manufacturers in the county for the holiday business, possibly, because they did not feel equal to the enforcement work relentlessly carried on by the officers.

## Two Cars Damaged At An Intersection

No one was hurt and no great damage resulted when two cars crashed at the intersection of Houghton and Main Streets here last Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Investigating the minor accident, members of the local police force stated that the 1946 Dodge coupe owned and driven by Wm. F. Scott of Greenville was damaged to the extent of about \$75. About \$25 damage was done to J. E. Pope's Chevrolet.

## Urge Patrons To Shop And Mail Early This Christmas

To make certain that no one will be disappointed when gift packages are opened, Postmaster W. E. Dunn is urging all postal patrons to shop and mail early for Christmas. Only fifteen days are left to handle the task, and it is next to impossible to clear the Christmas business if all wait until the very last minute to call on the department.

Postmaster Dunn points out that the handling of Christmas mail will be greatly facilitated if persons carefully prepare their packages and cards. The patrons are asked to wrap all packages securely, sealing them only if a printed endorsement appears on the wrapper. The endorsement reads, "Contents, Merchandise — Postmaster: This parcel may be opened for postal inspection if necessary." Parcels not so marked

## GETS AWARD



Attending the annual meeting of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in Chicago last week, Tom B. Brandon of this county was given the coveted and distinguished association award for long and efficient service to the agricultural industry. The award, one of seven now held in this state, was signed by H. M. Nicholas, president.

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## Issue Twenty-Five Licenses To Wed In Martin County

### Issuance Last Month Was The Third Largest Reported During Year

Twenty-five marriage licenses were issued in this county last month, the issuance being the third largest reported so far this year.

The licenses were issued, thirteen to white and twelve to colored couples, as follows:

**White**  
Howard Keel, RFD 3, Williamston, and Thelma Hardison, RFD 1, Robersonville.

Garland L. Taylor, RFD 2, Williamston, and Elvin Lee Silverthorne, RFD 3, Williamston.

William C. Roberson and Doris Beddard, both of Williamston. Melvin Ray Edwards, RFD 3, Williamston, and Daisy Griffin of Williamston.

Howard B. Cone and Frances Elizabeth Parker, both of Williamston.

Delbert Junior Davis, RFD 1, Williamston, and Myrtle Mandy Bullock, RFD 1, Robersonville.

Roy Vance Thomas, 404 C St., Copeland Park, Newport News, Va., and Bernice Murril Pierce, of Williamston.

C. D. Bratton and Mary C. Owens, both of Plymouth. Joseph S. Briley, RFD 1, Bethel, and Edna Louise Harrison, RFD 3, Williamston.

Jesse Lawrence Peel and Lillian C. Buchanan, both of Williamston.

Lloyd J. Sampson of Norfolk and Alice Gardner, RFD 3, Williamston.

Jesse Reuben Brown, RFD 2, Williamston, and Dorothy Dean Bullock, RFD 1, Robersonville. Jodie Hardison and Hester Faye Price, both of RFD 2, Williamston.

**Colored**  
Maurice Brown and Willie Mae Person, RFD 2, Williamston. Hudson Best and Beatrice Bellamy, both of Robersonville.

Junior Williams and Mattie Best, both of Robersonville.

Nathaniel Thomas of Roper and Etta Morgan of Plymouth. Roosevelt Andrews and Sarah

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## Youth Center Is Reopened Here

Closed for a short period when operating funds became exhausted, the local youth center, maintained in the Legion Hut on Watts Street, was opened last Saturday evening, and tentative plans were advanced for its operation during the remainder of this month.

The Youth Recreation Committee met last Friday evening in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Garland G. Woolard in Martin Heights to discuss ways and means of keeping the Youth Center open. Discussing many plans as to how to supplement the funds provided by the town, the group finally agreed that arrangements be made to secure sufficient funds to operate the center until a city-wide effort could be made to procure such funds. The middle of January was chosen as the best time to give both parents and business concerns the opportunity of making available this much needed recreational facility.

A great cry went up from "Ramah" last week when it was announced that the center would be closed because of a lack of funds. Many boys and girls were heard to say, "What can we do now?" Gaining in attendance and importance, the center must somehow be kept open, it was declared by the committee.

## Peanut Referendum Vote Off To Slow Start Here

Preliminary reports this morning stated that the voting in the peanut referendum was off to a slow start. However, a fairly sizeable vote is still being predicted. According to some estimates well over 2,000 votes will have been cast before the voting places close at 6:00 o'clock this evening.

Martin County farmers are also voting on community committees and delegates to the county agricultural convention to be held here tomorrow.

## Sustains Injunction In Water Case Here

### TOY COLLECTION

The first canvass for used toys, conducted late yesterday by the Jaycees met with fair success here, it was learned today. A second collection will be made next Sunday afternoon, beginning at 2:30 o'clock and the people of the town are earnestly urged to support it. During the meantime, toys will be accepted by T. F. Davenport at the Williamston Motor Company.

The Jaycees plan to hold a Christmas party for the needy children of the community possibly the latter part of next or early the following week. Time is short and the need is greater than it was a year ago. All are asked to help.

## White Cane Sale Proves Successful

At their regular monthly meeting, held last Thursday night, members of the board of directors of the local Lions Club heard a report from the chairman of the White Cane sale, in which it was brought out that the club met its quota of \$210, or \$3.00 per member. One hundred percent participation of the club members was lacking, but thanks to the extra efforts of some members the quota was met. Leading salesman was Lion "Shag" Abernathy, who sold his bangles for \$38.25, with Lions Fletcher G. Thomas and D. V. Clayton in second and third places, selling \$31.00 and \$20.00 worth respectively.

Business handled by the directors consisted of the setting of "Bosses' Night," January 8th, at which time each member will take his wife to the regular meeting. The directors approved the appropriation of \$80.00 for the School Boy Safety Patrol, and \$50.00 for work among the 4-H club boys and girls of the county. Twenty-five dollars was authorized for use in connection with transporting the members of scout troop No. 29 to camporees.

The board appointed a committee to investigate the plight of a blind and deaf citizen of the county, and report to the club at its next meeting. The meeting was held at the home of Lion H. P. Moberly, and followed a steamed oyster supper held in the backyard. Lions J. H. Edwards and B. G. Stewart were hosts along with Lion Moberly. Those present in addition to this trio included Lions D. V. Clayton, E. R. Fronberger, E. S. Mears, E. L. Ward, Jr., W. Clyde Griffin, R. Homer Barnhill, J. H. Harrell, K. D. Worrell, Jas. E. Bullock, C. J. Goodman and W. B. Gaylord and Wheeler Manning.

The plaintiffs maintained that the contract did not apply to extensions, that the defendants were extending the service to property acquired by them within the past twelve months.

The plaintiffs presented affidavits from the town's consulting engineer and the superintendent of the water department, tending to show that the present "good" pumps were barely meeting the demand for water, that a salt well would have to be used to supplement the supply; that the present storage capacity was 225,000 gallons short of what is needed to guarantee the town a safe margin of operation.

The defense expressed the belief that the water asked for will

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## Closing Street For Auto Tests

Smithwick Street from Church to the High School will be closed to general traffic on Friday morning of this week from 9:15 until 11:00 a. m. while special tests are made with automobiles to establish braking speeds, Chief of Police W. T. Simpson announced today.

Owners are asked to move their cars from the designated area and all are asked to cooperate in handling the tests.

A special representative will work with high school pupils in stressing traffic safety. The tests will show how long it takes a driver to stop a car traveling at various speeds.

## Small Vote Cast For Conservation Group

A very small vote was cast in this county last week for members of the Martin County Soil Conservation Committee. Complete reports had not been received from all the boxes early today, but the results will be announced later in the week, Mr. H. F. McKnight, of the service, said this morning.

## Judge Would Not Abate Appeal By Defense Counsel

### Action Directs Defense To Disconnect Tap From Water Lines

An injunction blocking the "promiscuous" tapping of the town's water lines was granted before Judge Clawson Williams in the superior court here late yesterday afternoon when defendants in the case of the town against the owners-operators of Roberson Slaughter House were given no alternative except to disconnect certain taps made to the town's water supply.

After hearing both sides during the better part of an hour, Judge Williams expressed the opinion that the town was under obligation first to the taxpayers, that in the case he could see no obligation on the part of the town to render service outside the limits.

The defense counsel gave notice of appeal with the apparent intention of going before the Supreme Court. Judge Williams, declaring that the town was entitled to an injunction, announced that he would not abate it (the appeal), meaning that the order of the court calls for the tap to be disconnected and plugged pending the outcome of the appealed case.

The defense built its case around a contract made with the town on or about October 29, 1941, when the defendants agreed to build a pipe line from the old fair ground gate to their place of business on the McCaskey Road. It was pointed out that the defendants paid \$714.88 and that the town installed the pipe and effected a connection. It was pointed out that on account of the dire circumstances of the town's finances at the time that the defendant would accept the cost with the understanding that they would be credited with their water bills each month until the loan was repaid. It was also pointed out by the defense that the town was given permission to hook on other customers while the pipe line belonged to the defendants. The line, according to the evidence advanced at the hearing, was paid for in April, 1944, the defense maintaining that it was entitled to water for the present and future under that contract. Affidavits were submitted from the old commissioners setting out the terms of the contract.

The plaintiffs maintained that the contract did not apply to extensions, that the defendants were extending the service to property acquired by them within the past twelve months.

The plaintiffs presented affidavits from the town's consulting engineer and the superintendent of the water department, tending to show that the present "good" pumps were barely meeting the demand for water, that a salt well would have to be used to supplement the supply; that the present storage capacity was 225,000 gallons short of what is needed to guarantee the town a safe margin of operation.

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## Sale Of Marriage Licenses Gaining

Holding to about normal for several weeks, the sale of marriage licenses in this county showed a lively gain during the last few days of last week. Eight licenses were issued in three days. Four of them went to white couples, as follows:

Williams Thomas Kirkman of Robersonville and Ruth Hazel Gurganus of RFD 3, Williamston; Carroll Alton Whiehard of Stokes and Gloria Seable Rogerson of Robersonville; Dennis Corbellus Briley and Mildred Marie Bryant, both of Bethel Route 1; and Ernest Johnson of Palmyra and Marguerite Page Smith of Robersonville.