

Few Days Left To Obtain Licenses In Martin County

Drivers Whose Names Begin With A or B Subject To Court Action

Martin County motor vehicle drivers whose surnames begin with A or B have, after this week, four and one-half days left to obtain their operators' licenses without fear of penalty. The license examining bureau will be open in the county courthouse on December 17 and 18 from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m., on December 24 from 9:00 a. m. until 1:00 p. m. and on December 31 from 9:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m., and in Robersonville from 9:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m. on December 19.

No official report can be had, but it is estimated that less than two-thirds of the motor vehicle drivers whose last names begin with the letters A or B have obtained operators' licenses in this county.

The State Motor Vehicle Department in Raleigh announces that out of the estimated 150,000 A and B drivers in North Carolina, only around 90,000 has thus far obtained new licenses.

Time is drawing short, and persons whose surnames begin with A or B who are caught driving after January 1 on an old license will be found guilty of a misdemeanor and will be fined not less than \$25.

Col. H. J. Hatcher, Commander of the State Highway Patrol, has announced that he plans to have patrolmen make spot checks along the highways after the first of the year for the purpose of catching delinquent A and B motorists.

Only 17 days remain for these drivers to renew their licenses, due to the fact that Christmas holidays for state employees will begin at 1 p. m. on Wednesday, December 24, and continue through Dec. 28. In some areas of the state where an examiner goes only one or two days a week, the time is much more pressing.

The A's and B's were given the period beginning last January 1 and continuing through December 31 to take a re-examination and obtain new licenses. And 104 license examiners were placed on duty throughout North Carolina to take care of the re-examination program.

Beginning January 1 and continuing through June 30, 1948, persons whose last names begin

\$30,000,000 Offered For Hungry Tots

A report from Geneva on October 31 said that the United Nations program of aid to the children of Europe would start on the following day. By the end of November, it is expected, the supplemental feeding and medical care programs will be under way in twelve countries. The UN Children's Fund, it was stated, so far has a little more than \$30,000,000. With this amount it is trying to establish a program of one good meal daily for 3,500,000 children. The fund supplies scarce foods such as milk, fats, cod liver oil and the government puts up the rest from available local supplies. A small staff sees to it that children get the meals.

The fund, according to the Geneva dispatch, is trying to care for 75,000 children in Finland, 700,000 in Poland, 125,000 in Czechoslovakia, 240,000 in Austria, 110,000 in Hungary, 400,000 in Rumania, 110,000 in Bulgaria, 340,000 in Greece, 600,000 in Yugoslavia, 700,000 in Italy, 25,000 in Albania, and 70,000 in France.

HOG KILLINGS

Hog killings were launched in the county this week on a fairly large scale, reports declaring that a solid schedule had been arranged in some sections for the annual task with the work overlapping in some communities.

It is reported that Martin farmers are packing away a supply of meat equally as large and possibly larger than the amount killed and packed in the county last season.

Peanut Quotas Adopted By Large Majority This Week

Peanut quotas for 1948, 1949 and 1950 were given a large majority in a referendum held in the peanut producing states last Tuesday, unofficial reports stating that 88 percent of the farmers favored the program as advanced by the United States Department of Agriculture. Only two states, according to preliminary returns, failed to give the program the necessary two-thirds majority, but the arbitrary vote there was more than offset by the other states. South Carolina led the states with a vote of 98 percent favorable, but only 2,148 votes were reported. Virginia was next with 96 percent in favor of the program. Other percentage majorities included, Georgia, 93; Alabama, 89; Texas, 81; Florida, 61 and Oklahoma, 60. North Carolina first reported 12,069 for and 898 votes against the program.

Martin County cast about the largest vote reported, it was learned Wednesday when the returns were tabulated in the agricultural building. The county favored the program, 2,303 to 14. Four townships, Griffins, Hamilton, Robersonville and Williams cast no negative votes while Jamesville led the opposition with a meager six votes. The vote by townships: Jamesville, 171 for and 6 against; Williams, 103 for and none against; Griffins, 239 for and none against; Bear Grass, 254 for and 2 against; Williams-Poplar Point, 401 for and 3 against; Cross Roads, 214 for and 2 against; Robersonville, 392 for and none against; Hamilton, 268 for and none against; Goose Nest, 261 for and 1 against.

It isn't considered likely that quotas will be invoked for 1948 in view of the big demand for peanut oil for export.

Triple A Committee Retained In County

Martin County farmers in an election last Tuesday made quite a few changes in the personnel charged with administering the Triple A program in the several districts during the coming year, but the old county committee was retained, according to a canvass of the vote handled in the agricultural building the following day. The election, held jointly with the peanut referendum, attracted a record vote in this county, and there were several close contests. Mr. George C. Griffin, well-known Griffins Township farmer, continues as chairman of the county committee. Mr. J. T. Moore is the vice chairman and Mr. Elmer Modlin is the county committee's regular member.

The newly elected committee members immediately entered upon their duties where they had signed oaths of office. New members of the community committees are expected to sign written oaths, pledging faithful service, before they are to enter upon their new duties, it was pointed out. The oaths will be signed during the course of the next few days.

A list of the community committees for the new year follows, by districts: Bear Grass: T. L. Roberson, E. C. Harrison and H. U. Peel. Cross Roads: G. H. Forbes, H. L. Roebuck and J. F. Bailey. Goose Nest I: H. A. Early, M. E. Hyman and Thomas Smith. Goose Nest II: N. W. Johnson, N. L. Hyman and Jack Smith. Griffins: D. Clarence Gurkin, Oscar B. Roberson, J. R. P. Griffin.

(Continued on page eight)

Philip Thompson, Jr., 12 years old, was taken into custody Wednesday morning by Deputy J. H. Roebuck for breaking into the Bud Black home in West End earlier that morning. A ring stolen by the lad was recovered, but he had spent the small amount of change he was alleged to have stolen.

Carried before Juvenile Judge L. B. Wynne, the boy admitted entering the home with a pass key while the family was away. He was released into the custody of his aunt while application is made for his acceptance by a correctional institution.

The boy was abandoned by his father some time ago, and his mother is serving a five- to seven-year sentence in prison for an assault with a deadly weapon.

Williamston's volunteer firemen were called out about 8:30 o'clock Wednesday evening when it was thought the Bill Bullock home in Everetts was burning. Reaching there the firemen were advised that a thermostat went out of control and the generated steam poured through a relief pipe under the house. Passing by the home, someone saw the steam pouring from under the house and thought the building was on fire. Very little damage was done by the escaping steam, it was learned.

Justice Hassell Hears Two Cases

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

Harry Roberson, colored, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the sentence upon the payment of the trial costs of \$9.50 and guaranteed good behavior for twelve months.

Charged with a simple assault on Allen Warren, A. W. Hardison was taxed with \$5.50 costs.

Highway Deaths Reach 595 During First Nine Months

Raleigh.—Through the third quarter of 1947, 595 persons lost their lives and 4,501 were injured as a result of 8,362 traffic accidents on North Carolina streets and highways, Col. L. C. Rosser, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles announced today. Fatalities showed a 19 percent decrease over the same period last year.

During the nine months' period, 184 persons were killed when their motor vehicles overturned or ran off the roadway; 173 lost their lives in collisions; 148 pedestrians were killed; 28 met death when their bicycles collided with motor vehicles; and 28 were killed in motor vehicle-train collisions. Thirty-four deaths resulted from other non-collision accidents.

A 23 percent decrease was noted in pedestrian fatalities, while on the other hand there was a 56 percent increase in bicycle fatalities. Thirty-seven of the pedestrians killed and 200 of those injured were children under 14 years of age. Thirteen children were killed and 48 were injured in bicycle accidents.

Of the total number of accidents, 13,886 drivers were involved. Sixty percent of them were breaking a traffic regulation. Speeding led in violations with 1,818 drivers exceeding the given speed limit; 221 of the speeding accidents proved to be fatal crashes. One hundred of the fatal accidents were caused by driving on the wrong side of the road.

Eighty-four percent of all accidents occurred on straight roads; and 75 percent of the fatal crashes occurred on straight roads, proving that winding and curving roads are not big factors in our high accident rate.

In cities and towns there were 3,575 accidents resulting in 118 deaths and 1,268 injuries. Forty-three percent of urban fatalities were pedestrians. Total number of accidents in cities and towns remained about the same as last year. Accidents, however, were not as serious as last year, for a 21 percent decrease in fatalities was noted. More accidents occurred in residential areas.

In rural areas there were 4,587 accidents, with 477 persons killed and 3,233 injured. This was a 21 percent increase in number of accidents and a 19 percent decrease in fatalities over last year when 590 persons were killed in 3,803 accidents.

More people were killed and injured in the 25 to 34 years of age group than any other.

More farmers were involved in fatal accidents than any other class of drivers.

More fatal accidents occurred at the speed of 31 to 40 miles per hour.

Saturday was the leading day of the week for accidents. Wednesday has the least and thus far for 1947 has been the safest day for travel. More accidents occurred between 5 and 6 p. m. than any other time.

For the first nine months of this year Mecklenburg has led all the counties with 36 traffic deaths, as compared with 24 for the same period last year. Cumberland was next with 27 persons killed, while last year 18 deaths were reported.

Of the pedestrian deaths, 34 percent occurred in cities and towns. Charlotte led in pedestrian deaths, with 7 reported, while Mecklenburg led for counties with 10.

Quiet

Rains and a dwindling demand for cleaned goods have materially reduced activities on the farmer's peanut market. Several companies have withdrawn from the market, and wet peanuts are being returned to the farms. Were it not for the government support program, it is indeed likely that the market would have gone all to pieces. The government has not yet received any peanuts, but it is ready to handle the crop, but the receiving stations cannot accept wet peanuts.

Edward E. Fisher Gets Two Years For Non-Support

Young Man Breaks Down And Weeps When Sentence Is Pronounced

Edward Edgar Fisher, adjudged guilty of non-support in the Martin County Superior Court last Monday, was sentenced to serve two years on the roads by Judge Clawson Williams Tuesday afternoon. The jury deliberated only a few minutes in determining the defendant's fate.

Before passing sentence on the man, Judge Williams questioned him at length, and it was fairly apparent that the jurist recognized the problem facing so many deserted little children and wives up and down and across the country.

Asked about his first wife, Fisher said they had been separated a long time, that the two children born to that union were with the mother. Fisher said he divorced his wife in 1941 after being married six years, that he married a second time two months after the divorce decree was recorded.

Asked about his action in Texas following the war, Fisher admitted he instituted divorce proceedings on his attorney's recommendations, but claimed he tried to effect a settlement with his second wife.

Judge Williams asked Fisher why he tried to ditch his family, Fisher replying that he did not want to ditch his family. "Well, you wanted to get a divorce and get rid of her," Judge Williams said.

"You have tendered no support to your family since you left the service. Your wife has worked at odd jobs and had to depend upon her father for support while you were making \$300 a month," Judge Williams said. Fisher claimed that he had been in school, that he had earned the salary only a short time before he was arrested and returned to this county from San Antonio, Texas.

Asked if he had any relatives, Fisher said that his father had been dead twelve years, that his mother died when he was only thirteen months old. "I have no folks," Fisher added.

"The only reason you wanted a divorce in Texas was to get rid of your wife and children," the judge said, asking if Fisher was not running around with another woman there. Fisher denied having a girl in Texas, but admitted he courted his second wife before obtaining a divorce from his first one.

Fisher maintained that he tried to get his wife to go to him in Texas, but Judge Williams countered by saying, "Your claims do not coincide with your conduct. You say you could not come here and see about making arrangements for your wife to join you in Texas. You, at least, could have written to her."

Judge Williams charged Fisher with acting as a dog getting up and shaking off fleas. "You would get up and shake off your family," he said.

Meditating for a moment, the jurist said, "I don't know what the world is coming to anyhow," the judge adding that the wife in this case as in many others, was begging for her husband.

The two-year road sentence

Surety Relieved Of Bond Payment

After several rounds in the courts, M. N. Sutton finally scored a victory this week when he convinced Judge Clawson L. Williams of Sanford that he was entitled to recover just about all of the \$500 bond posted for Henry Paul, Greenville white man charged with manslaughter. Sutton was required to pay \$3 costs incurred when a writ was issued for the arrest of Paul.

Sutton went on Paul's bond about two years ago. The criminal action was continued time and again and when it was finally called for trial in June, 1946, the defendant failed to appear. Sutton proved that Paul was not advised the case was being docketed, and went on to show that Paul later appeared for trial.

County Officials Are Found Not Negligent

Board Proves It Had Arranged To Repair Property

Order, Calling For Action Before Next Court, Is Allowed To Stand

Called before Judge Clawson Williams in the Martin County Superior Court Tuesday morning to explain why certain repairs recommended by the grand jury had not been made to the county home property, the commissioners absolved themselves of any negligence and proved to the court that they were not to be held responsible for the delay. It was apparent that the jurist was more interested in seeing that the county's property was being properly cared for than he was in calling the authorities to task. The inquiry was most congenial, but an order, issued from the bench the day before and calling for the indictment of the authorities if the repairs are not made by the next term of court in March, was allowed to stand.

Addressing the commissioners, Judge Williams said, "I sent for you to make inquiry why repairs recommended by the grand jury, have not been made to the county home." According to the records, the jury recommended last March that the porch columns be repaired. In June the jury recommended again that the columns be repaired along with repairs to other parts of the property. In September similar recommendations were made and they were followed by other similar recommendations this term, it was pointed out.

Speaking for the official board, County Attorney Elbert S. Peel advised the jurist that materials could not be had for making the repairs, that a contractor had been contacted and advised to make the repairs. Referring to the board minutes, it was shown that a motion, made by Commissioner C. Abram Roberson and seconded by Joshua L. Coltrain, called for the immediate repair of the columns along with certain repairs to the stock barn. It was also pointed out that certain repairs where material could be had, had been made.

Judge Williams, accepting the defense, suggested to the board that if the present contractor can't get the material then it should contact a contractor who can get the material. "Going by the record, it would appear that duty has been neglected. The property of the county, gentlemen, is entrusted to your care and it should be repaired and kept in good condition," the judge said. "I want to give you time to have the work done, and it appears that you have made efforts to have it done, but I suggest that it be handled by next court."

Attorney Peel assured the judge that the board will do all in its power to have the work handled, the jurist announcing that he would leave the matter in abeyance until the next term of the county superior court.

Former Owner of Plant Here Dies

Holmes R. Butler, one-time owner of the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company before it was sold to Messrs. Speight and Quayle here, died at his home in Virginia Beach last Monday morning at 4:45 o'clock. Mr. Butler, only 53 years of age, visited the plant and his extensive timber holdings in this section frequently and made many friends in this section.

Funeral services were conducted in Suffolk, his old home, Tuesday afternoon and interment was in Cedar Hill Cemetery there.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Virginia Jones; a daughter, Miss Susan Butler of Ann Harbor, Michigan, and a son, Holmes Butler, Jr., student at Washington and Lee, Lexington.

Bids For Sherrod Farm Rejected

Bids, ranging as high as \$210 an acre for cleared and wooded areas combined, were rejected in their entirety at the Sherrod farm auction sale near Hamilton last Tuesday. While much interest was shown in the sale, the number of bidders was limited, one report stated.

According to information received here, the aggregate bids for the 980 acre farm, approximately 480 of which are cleared, totaled between \$88,000 and \$94,000. The entire farm, after the bids for the fifteen individual tracts, were rejected, was offered for \$95,000, but there were no takers at that price.

Ask Local Citizens To Park Cars In Backlots

The local parent-teacher association...

Court Completes Criminal Trials At Noon Tuesday

Few Divorces Granted And Civil Matters Heard Before Adjournment

Convening at 11:00 o'clock Monday morning, the Martin County Superior Court completed the trial of the criminal docket at noon Tuesday and granted a few divorces before adjourning for the term later in the afternoon.

The fair-sized crowd, attracted during the first day of the session, dwindled to a mere handful on the second day.

Only three cases other than divorce actions reached the jury during the term, the twelve men finding two of the three defendants guilty.

Before discussing a matter with the county commissioners, the court heard the divorce case of John H. Davis against Alberta Davis. The plaintiff stated that they were married in December, 1941, that they separated a few days later and he had not seen her since that time. She was in Chicago when he last heard anything about her. The divorce was granted.

After absolving the commissioners, the court called James Horton Hunter to answer in a case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon. Doris Hunter, his wife, was stabbed last October 13 on the streets of Robersonville. Taking the stand she declared she did not know who stabbed her and went on to say that she and her husband had not quarreled, that there was a crowd in the street in front of Gus Knight's cleaners, and all were drinking. Earline Moore, witness, said that Doris told her she did not know who cut her.

Chief Wm. Smith, arresting Hunter 30 minutes after the serious attack, said that Hunter admitted cutting his wife, that Hunter explained they had quarreled when the wife would not go home with him, that when she ran he followed and attacked her with a certain knife. The officer said that the witness Moore had changed her story since the case was first heard in the county court.

James Horton Hunter, taking the stand in his own defense, said they had had no argument and denied attacking his wife. He claimed that they were drinking, that after the attack he took another drink and did not remember telling the officers anything about the attack. Although he was too drunk to remember his confession, Hunter, attending school under the GI education program, said he was at home making ready to go to school when he was arrested.

Officer Wade Griffin corroborated...

Committee Named For Farm Agency

Participating in the first election of its kind ever held in this county, 180 farmers elected a county soil conservation committee during a week of voting last week. Heretofore one man, C. U. Rogers, representing the county in the soil conservation program, but under the new set-up, a committee of three will handle the work.

Tabulating the returns this week, the election officials reported the following results: C. U. Rogers, leading with 118 votes; C. L. Green, 116; J. L. Knowles, 103; E. V. Smith, 60; and J. H. Lillard, 46. The high man is elected for a three-year term. The man polling the second largest number of votes, is to serve two years, and the next is elected for one year.

Churches Need Greater Unity

Atlanta, Ga.—Christians everywhere should make their religion a "powerful leavening force in the world today," declared the Rt. Rev. Thomas N. Carruthers, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, addressing an annual Synod here. Bishop Carruthers urged that the Christian Church make itself "distinctive." "We are not different enough from the rest of the world." Also he said, Christianity must become explicit and concrete, and finally, that the Church must leave no area unchurchd. "The results of splitting the world into secular and sacred sections have been disastrous. We must take Christ into our factories, schools, newspapers, offices, businesses, homes—everywhere."

MEETING

The local parent-teacher association...

meeting of the calendar year next Monday evening at 8:00 o'clock in the grammar school auditorium, it was announced today by President H. P. Mobley. Miss Grace Talton's first grade pupils will appear in a Christmas play. All members are asked to be present and the public is invited.