

Clear Few Cases From The Docket In Superior Court

Hog Thief Gets Eight Years On The Roads; Coburn Theft Case Today

Opening a two-week term here yesterday morning for the trial of criminal and civil cases, Judge R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids cleared several cases from the docket of the superior court before ordering a recess late in the afternoon. Early today the court had quite a few cases left on its docket, including several for the jury. Court officials expressed the opinion that the criminal actions would be cleared by late today, making ready for the divorce mill to go into action tomorrow.

The court attracted an overflow crowd of colored spectators, but there were comparatively few white spectators present for the early sessions of the court.

This morning the court is working on the Leaman J. Bennett cases, the defendant entering a plea of nolo contendere or politely pleaded guilty of improperly using a spot light on a car, attempted hold-up and an assault on a Williamston officer, Chas. R. Moore, with a deadly weapon. The case charging Neal Coburn, colored man, with the theft of \$300 from Ammie Ambrose, aged colored woman, is scheduled for trial today.

Monday's proceedings were highlighted by the Whit Salisbury cases, the defendant having pleaded guilty in four counts. Considerable time was spent hearing the facts about the series of brutal hog killings and thefts Salisbury handled over a long period in this county last year. In all, he drew eight years on the roads, two each for stealing hogs from Reuben Everett, David Gurgahus, Monroe Taylor and W. O. Abbutt.

No true bills were found by the grand jury in the cases charging Lillie Mae Berry with the larceny of person, and John Frank Silverthorne with the larceny of a watch from Marvin B. Manning.

In the case charging Willie Frank Deans and Jimmy Watts, colored youths, with breaking and entering and larceny of batteries, a mistrial was ordered. The warrant charged the boys with breaking into Parker's junk yard, when it should have charged them with breaking into and entering the Williamston Parts and Metal Company.

L. D. Mizelle, appealing his non-support case from the county's court, was sentenced to the roads for twelve months, the judge placing the defendant on probation on condition that he pay \$75 now and \$18 a month for five years for the support of his two children and abide by the probation regulations. He is to pay the court costs.

George Mc. Carraway, young colored man, was sentenced to the roads for twelve months after he pleaded guilty of breaking into Hyman's cafe and Crandall's service station in Robersonville, and stealing cigarettes and about \$200 in cash. Carraway took advantage of circumstances and received what, under other conditions, would have been regarded a light sentence. Carraway, possessing a comparatively good record, said that his father was dead, that he had been virtually deserted by his mother, that he lived with his grandmother until she died. Judge Parker sensed the situation and declared that he had found similar circumstances existing in quite

ROUND-UP

All was fairly quiet on the crime front in this county over the week-end, a report from the sheriff's office stating that only three persons—two white and two colored—were arrested and detained during the period. One person was booked for reckless driving and two for assaults. No wrecks were reported either, members of the highway patrol stating that all moved over the highways in a very orderly manner during the period.

Large Number Of Vehicles Inspected Here First Day

Motor vehicle inspection, widely attacked by some, was found to be not so bad after all when Lane No. 35 was set up here last week-end, and the vehicle owners realized that there was no effort being made to clear the highways of old machines.

State, county and municipal vehicles were inspected last week, and most of them were found to have minor mechanical defects. The mechanics were instructed to make the corrections within seven days.

Monday, the inspection equipment, located on Warren Street between Haughton and Watts or at the corner of Park Street, was placed in operation for privately owned cars and trucks. Superintendent Porter, unusually polite and courteous and helpful, stated late in the day that 125 cars had been inspected, that not a single vehicle was ordered off the highways. Approximately half of the vehicles were found to have defective lights or brakes, but those defects were corrected quickly in most cases and the owners carried their machines through the lane a

second time to get the approved O. Keh sticker. One or two vehicles were run through a third time. The service, costing only \$1, is designed to correct mechanical defects and make the highways safer, and any owner whose vehicle has adequate lights, brakes, steering wheel and horn can expect to pass the inspection regardless of model or the condition of the body. It is apparently foolish for one to condemn the service by saying the State is trying to force vehicles off the highways. When a vehicle is being operated without brakes and with improper lights, the vehicle, in the name of safety, should be forced off the highway until the defects are corrected.

The lane will be open each day from 8:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m. through Friday of this week, and from 8:00 a. m. until Saturday at 12:00 o'clock noon. It will be reopened in the county on May 13 for another week. Defects found this week are to be corrected by the time the lane is reopened in May.

ANTI-RAT CAMPAIGN

Farm and home agents and health department representatives are making plans for a county-wide rat eradication campaign, the dates for the all-out drive to be announced later. During the meantime, the producers are appealing to every person in the county to get ready and help support the drive. Specialists are being called in to help complete plans for the drive. It has been pointed out that typhus fever, traceable to rats, has claimed at least one life in this county in recent months, that the rodents are carriers of other diseases, not to mention the destruction in property exacted by them every day.

Miss Bowen Died Last Thursday At Home of Brother

Funeral Services Conducted Saturday Afternoon At 3:30 O'Clock

Miss Mae Bowen, 41, died at the home of her brother, D. Bowen, near Williamston, last Thursday morning at 4:30 o'clock. She had been in declining health for twenty-three years, and had been an invalid for years, spending the last eight in bed.

Miss Bowen had been a patient in several hospitals at intervals over a long period of years, but her trouble was never determined. The daughter of the late Paul and Millie Jane Gurganus Bowen, she was born in Bear Grass Township on September 22, 1906, and had spent her entire life in this county.

Surviving are three sisters, Hattie Bowen, Mrs. John Mobley and Mrs. Mark Chesson of Williamston; and five brothers, Eli, Grover, D. Cortez, and Charlie Bowen, all of near Williamston and her mother.

Funeral services were conducted at her late home Saturday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, and Rev. James I. Lowry, Presbyterian minister. Interment was in the Bowen family cemetery, near Williamston.

Broughton Will Address Banquet

The Masonic Banquet scheduled to be held at the High School gymnasium March 25 has been postponed until Wednesday, March 31. J. M. Broughton, former governor, will be the principal speaker at the dinner. All members who are interested in attending are asked to notify W. Clyde Manning, H. G. Horton or Paul Bailey by March 26.

Judge Hunt Parker Addresses Meeting Of Grand Jurymen

Detailed Instructions Deal With Duties Of The Grand Jury

In an address dealing mainly with the duties of their body, Judge R. Hunt Parker, presiding over the current term of the Martin County Superior Court, Monday morning gave the grand jurymen detailed instructions and stressed the importance of presentment.

Nine new members, Messrs. Thurman Perry, N. T. Daniel, C. B. Harrison, A. P. Hyman, Vernon Griffin, J. A. Wynne, Julius Revels, Lester J. Griffin and J. G. Forbes, were added to the more or less permanent jury, succeeding nine others who retired after serving as members of the body for a year. Jim Peel, Griffins Township young man, succeeded Henry Johnson, Jr., of Hamilton, as foreman of the body.

Instructing the jurymen to pass on all bills of indictment, Judge Parker explained that it wasn't necessary to examine all the witnesses in finding a true bill, that if the examination of one or more witnesses supported probable cause, it would not be necessary to proceed further with the interrogation, that the petit jury would decide the case in open court. "But before you return 'not a true bill,' you must examine every witness," the jurist said. He explained that the first one called may be bootleggers or gamblers that only the last one may be a man of integrity and would tell the truth. If no true bill is found and all the state's witnesses are not available, the solicitor will withdraw the bill until a later date.

Judge Parker dwelt at length on the power and duty of the grand jury to present law violators to the court. "Each and every member has sworn that he would true presentment make of all violations of the law known to them or where they have good reason to believe that the law is being violated," the jurist said, adding that since the jurors came from nearly every section of the county no crime can be covered up.

"There are times when presentment can be important," Judge Parker continued. "There have been times when certain men flagrantly violated the criminal laws. The violations were discussed in public and reported in papers, but officers failed to act on account of the violators' political power. In those cases, law enforcement has broken down. When such a situation exists, where is the remedy. It is in the hands of the grand jury."

Mr. Brown was married in early life to Miss Sallie Hardison who died a few years later. His second marriage was to Miss Susan Ada Stallings, the couple having observed their 52nd wedding anniversary last July. Surviving are, Mrs. Brown; four daughters, Mrs. A. J. Holliday of the home, Mrs. P. M. Holiday of Jamesville, Mrs. R. L. Mizelle and Mrs. Jos. E. Griffin, both of Norfolk; four sons, D. A. Brown, professor in Wake Forest College, D. C. Brown of Plymouth, Edward E. Brown of Jamesville, and Maurice Brown of the home; a brother, Henry K. Brown of Washington; a sister, Mrs. V. C. Langley of Wilson; sixteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Brown was one of the oldest

Pay Last Tribute To Hero's Memory

Several hundred persons gathered in and around the little brick Christian church in Hassell, business firms in Hamilton where interment took place suspended activities last Thursday afternoon to pay a last tribute to the memory of Cpl. William F. Haislip, II, young Martin County man who made the supreme sacrifice on Guadalcanal on October 23, 1942. The church was filled to overflowing and possibly 150 or 200 persons waited outside while Rev. J. M. Perry, a former pastor, and Rev. Z. T. Cox, of Farmville, conducted the service and a special choir sang several selections. A freight train was shifting nearby; the engineer pulling the throttle softly as possible as a measure of respect.

A special detail from the Haislip-Roebuck American Legion Post in Hamilton accompanied the body from the Biggs Funeral Home in Williamston to the church and then to the Hamilton cemetery, supplementing a special honor guard from the district center in Charlotte. The detail fired three volleys and Frank Saunders Weaver, a member of Williamston's John Walton Masonic Lodge, conducted the funeral.

Interment was in the family plot by the corporal's parents, Hannibal J. and Nannie Haislip Haislip.

New Auto Agency For This Section

Operating under the firm name of Martin County Motors, Messrs. Evan Griffin and Jesse Heath have been assigned the Kaiser-Frazer car dealership for this section, it was announced last week-end. The new firm is establishing headquarters at Heath's Radiator Shop on Washington Street. The company will also display new cars at Griffin's Quick Service Center Haughton and Washington Streets. Several units are being placed in the hands of the new dealers for immediate delivery.

Commissioner Evans Outlines Tentative Road Program Here

Promise Several Highway Projects For This County

Plan To Build Road From Pulp Mill To Dardens; Surface Others

Meeting briefly with the Martin County Commissioners in special session Monday afternoon, District Highway Commissioner Merrill Evans outlined a tentative road improvement program for this county, and declared that the county had not been overlooked. Mr. Evans explained that the program as proposed is not definite as yet, that it will be two or three weeks before final plans can be announced.

While the tentative program has its limitations, it constitutes a forward step for transportation in this county. As for widening the county's miles and miles of narrow roads, the commissioner explained that heavy equipment is still scarce, that the commission had been unable to get anything like enough machines to carry on needed work. "We are getting right many trucks and some light equipment, but we need large machines such as bulldozers and heavy tractors to handle much of the work now needed to be done," he was quoted as saying.

Reminding the board that the program is a tentative one, Commissioner Evans expressed the belief that several projects could be handled in the county this year. It is proposed to pave around the pulp mill in the lower part of the county, and reopen or build a new road from the pulp mill to a point near Dardens. The program does not call for a surfaced road from the mill to Dardens, it was pointed out.

The surfaced road will be extended on the Jamesville-Washington route by several miles, possibly three and one-half miles. Some material is being placed for that project. The road from Hassell to Butler's Bridge on Highway 64 is to be surfaced, the commissioner explaining that grading work has already been started.

The old Greenville Road going by the prison camp is to be surfaced, offering in time an all-weather route to Cross Roads and on into Robersonville. The commissioner agreed to accept two or three additional road strips in various parts of the county and include them in the highway system for maintenance. However, very little new roadway is being added to the system at present because the heavy equipment is not available to build up those projects and place them in shape for regular maintenance.

While the 1948 program is pending, work is being resumed on the federal-aid project in Griffins Township where the road from John A. Griffin's station is being rebuilt to Farm Life via a point near Smithwick's Creek Church. Bad weather conditions forced the contractor to withdraw.

Add More Money To Ambrose Fund

While the main project—a three room house—has been completed, the Ammie Ambrose fund is still receiving support, and it is now planned to add a privy to the property under the direction of Specialist Palmer White.

The main project reduced the fund to \$22 but since that time \$15 has been added to the collection, making it possible to add the necessary unit to the project. However, there is some doubt if there'll be sufficient money to finance the painting of the house even though volunteers have agreed to handle the job if the paint is made available.

Contributions not previously acknowledged, include \$5 from the Greenville Christian Church, No. 17, and submitted by C. C. Jones; and \$10 from the Cedar Hill Baptist Church, submitted by Plum Williams.

Commissioner Evans Outlines Tentative Road Program Here

Merchants Decide Holiday Schedule At Meeting Here

Meeting in the Branch Bank offices here last Friday afternoon, local merchants and other business firm operators determined a holiday schedule they plan to follow during the next several months. While all the business firms were not represented at the called meeting, those attending constituted a large majority, and there is little doubt about the successful operation of the schedule.

While expressing a desire to cooperate with the Williamston Ministerial Association, the merchants decided against closing for the special Holy Week services in the Watts theater next week. However, they agreed to stagger their forces, permitting so many employees to attend each day. Easter Monday, March 29, is to be observed as a holiday for the merchants, but heavy industry and other business houses are scheduled to continue activities as usual. The schools here and in the county will not observe Easter Monday as a holiday as was first planned months ago, the weather having upset the school schedule.

Beginning on Wednesday, April 7, the merchants and just about all other business houses excluding heavy industry, of course, will observe Wednesday afternoons as half holidays, one report indicating that the closing hour will be fixed at 12:00 o'clock, noon. The half-holiday schedule is to continue up until the tobacco market opens the latter part of August or early September.

Welcome Ministers At Union Service In Baptist Church

Large Congregation Present To Welcome Town's Three New Pastors

Williamston's new ministers, Rev. E. R. Shuller for the Methodists, Rev. Stewart B. Simms for the Baptists and Rev. James I. Lowry for the Presbyterians, were extended a warm welcome by a capacity congregation at a union service in the Baptist church here last Sunday evening. The service, recognized as a good omen for religion in this section, was well received by the ministers and the large congregation. Just about every denomination was represented, not by a few individuals but by groups.

Welcoming the new religious leaders, Rev. John L. Goff, representing the local ministerial association, declared that during his several pastorates he had found no community where a finer spirit of cooperation and brotherhood had been practiced than that practiced here. Declaring that the belated welcome extended Rev. Shuller of the Methodist church was attributable to circumstances beyond the association's control, Goff concluded, "As we welcome you, we trust we can march forward in Christian brotherhood."

The combined Baptist choir were in the loft, and Miss Ida Privett sang "The Holy City." The ministers' wives were introduced by Rev. Simms and the newcomers were immediately recognized as homefolks. Rev. Shuller offered the invocation and following the Scripture reading by Rev. John W. Hardy, the Rev. Mr. Lowry preached, using for his topic, "What Must I Do To Be Saved?"

To be saved, the young minister declared we must believe, and to believe we must be humble. We must repent, the preacher declaring that we had lost our conception of sin, that gambling, cheating and other similar acts are not

Bakery Opened Here Last Week

A modern bakery was opened in the remodeled store building between the Cand G Soda Shop and Heiligh-Meyers Furniture Company store here on Washington Street last week. Leasing the property, Mr. Martin Moore, Jr., of Greenville spent several weeks remodeling the building and installing new and modern bakery equipment. Formerly from the People's Bakery in Greenville, Mr. Moore has employed Mr. Charlie Cherry who has had sixteen years of experience in the business. The bakery is recognized as a specialist in the baking of breads, cakes and pastries. Mrs. W. J. Ailsbrook has been employed as sales clerk.

Oldest Native Of Williamston Died Monday Morning

Funeral Service Being Held This Afternoon For Mrs. Susan E. Robertson

Mrs. Susan Ellison Robertson, one of Williamston's oldest and most remarkable citizens, died at her home here on South Watts Street yesterday morning at 10:35 o'clock following an illness of about one month. Her condition had been critical for several days, but she was unusually bright Sunday when she chatted with members of the family. She recognized a son and daughter when they reached her bedside about 4:30 yesterday morning from Miami, but soon lapsed into unconsciousness, death coming peacefully a few hours later. All the children except one were at her bedside when the end came. One son, Eli, was unavoidably delayed, and did not reach here from Kentucky until just a short time after she passed away.

The daughter of the late James Henry and Charlotte Hutton Ellison, she was born June 3, 1862, in Williamston, living all her life except a short time spent on a farm near here within a few yards of her birthplace. On October 12, 1881, she was married to Joseph Lawrence Robertson who died on April 1, 1924.

Mrs. Robertson was the oldest native of Williamston and had been a member of the Methodist church since her early childhood. She was affectionately known by old and young as Miss Studie. Although she experienced many hardships common during and after the civil war, she maintained a sense of humor right up until the last. Only last Sunday she greeted a nephew who recently returned to this section from New York. "I'm glad you decided to come back home, for I was afraid if you remained in New York much longer you would have turned Republican," she was quoted as saying.

Although her eyesight was not very good in late years, she continued unusually active and cheerful, finding time to visit her neighbors and lend a helping hand to others. She loved her home and devoted her life to her family. She was the mother of eighteen children, the nine surviving ones exemplifying the teachings advanced by a thoughtful mother in a Christian home. When times were unfavorable for others, Miss Studie always had a comforting word to offer, and many found encouragement in her humble and simple but true philosophy of life.

Hadley Property On Main Street Sold At Auction

W. R. Snow of Windsor Said To Be Planning To Construct A Hotel

The old Ameleck Williams property held by the Hadley family on East Main Street next to Courtney's furniture store, was sold at public auction here last Saturday noon by the Rochelle Realty Company to W. R. Snow, Windsor man who is operating the Hotel Duke of Windsor.

Just outside the town's main business center, the property brought no fabulous amount, some observers saying that it was reasonable, others saying it was high and still others saying it was cheap. The sale price, just prior to the sale, was estimated anywhere from \$9,500 to \$27,000, four guessing within \$50 of the final auction figure.

Offered for sale in ten-foot lots at first, the property brought \$135 a front foot for the first thirty feet. When little interest was advanced in the next block of lots, the realty company offered the property as a whole, bringing \$110 a front foot. The first thirty feet were bid in by H. H. Cowen, but the sale was not confirmed, allowing

Hog Thieves Hit Here Last Week

Raiding Farmer Bill Peel's pasture near the river some time during last Wednesday night or early Thursday morning, hog thieves carried away a nice pig or parts of the pig. Believed to have knocked the animal in the head, the thieves carried the pig from the field on an improvised stretcher. Reaching the railroad this side of the basket factory, the thieves severed the head and legs, leaving the pig in the field. Officers are working on the case, but so far they have found only some impressive foot prints.

LONE COMPLAINT

Martin County people may not be altogether satisfied with their assessed property valuations, but one thing is fairly certain, and that is they are not complaining. Sitting as a board of equalization and review from 9:30 o'clock until noon Monday, the Martin County Commissioners received only one complaint. Discussing the value placed on a new structure of his, Milton Roynar of near Williamston said it appeared to him that the valuation was a bit out of line. After comparing records, the board adjusted the valuation from \$1,500 to \$1,000.

SPECIAL MEETING

Holding a special meeting in the county courthouse Friday night of this week at 8:00 o'clock, directors and canvassers of the Martin County Farm Bureau will make tentative plans for holding the organization's annual meeting and barbecue and discuss the proposal calling for funds to supplement a research and insect control in North Carolina. The meeting is opened to all members of the Farm Bureau, and they are invited to attend. President O. P. Daniel announced.