

Grand Jury Files Quarterly Report In Court Tuesday

Jurymen Declare They Found Offices and Property In Good Condition

Submitted over Foreman Jim Peel's signature, the quarterly grand jury report for Martin County received favorable comment from Judge R. Hunt Parker in open court Tuesday. All offices and various public properties were found in good condition, recommendations of past juries carried out and reports properly filed.

The report reads, in detail, as follows: We passed on all bills of indictment presented to us.

We visited the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court and found it to be in excellent condition, with all guardian accounts filed.

The Auditor turned over to us a report of all the monies turned in to the Treasurer by all Justices of the Peace in the county for the past two years, and we found that all fines have been paid in, and we are attaching the auditor's report and making it a part of this report.

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

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

We visited the office of the Superintendent of Schools and found it in excellent condition. We inspected the certificates in this office and found that all school bus drivers have proper licenses.

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

We visited the County Jail and found it to be clean and well kept. We found 1 white male inmate and 8 colored male inmates. We recommend some paint on the window frames in the jail.

We visited the County Home and Prison Farm and found everything clean and in excellent condition.

We visited the county schools, both white and colored schools, and found the following, to-wit: The schools as a whole are in good condition except for a few minor repairs that are needed, and Mr. Manning, the County Superintendent, has assured us that he is doing all he can to have this

(Continued on page six)

Justice Hassell Hears Few Cases

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

Charged with not displaying proper license plate on his trailer, Gaston James was taxed with \$7 costs.

Melvin Godard was required to pay \$7 costs for failing to stop upon entering a highway.

Publicly drunk, Henry Nicholson was taxed with \$8.50 costs.

Andrew Lyons was required to pay \$7.50 costs for public drunkenness.

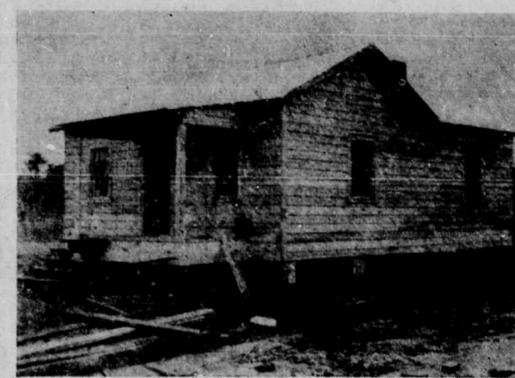
Operating a trailer with improper license, Arthur Gurganus was taxed with \$7 costs.

TWO-THIRDS

Based on preliminary reports received this week, the Red Cross fund drive in the Martin County Chapter is about two-thirds complete, according to Chairman C. B. Clark, Jr. While only about one-third of the amount has been actually reported, the chairman said canvassers said they were completing their solicitations and had been very successful in most instances.

To date, \$746.80 has been turned into the treasury, \$597.50 by Williamston and \$149.30 by Bear Grass. No late reports have been received from Jamesville, Williams and Griffins districts or the colored citizens in the chapter.

Ambrose Family's New Home Eight Divorces Are Granted In Court Yesterday



(Photo by Whit Saunders)

\$1,500 Project Handled for Cash Outlay of Less Than \$650

Facts to bear in mind concerning the appearance of the Elizabeth City High School Band here tomorrow afternoon include:

Arrival about 4:30, unloading at Grammar School.

Line of march, Grammar School grounds along Watts Street to Main, along Main to Houghton, back along Main to Post Office block (Smithwick to Watts) where special show will be staged.

After drills and march, the unit will parade to the High School for picnic supper supplied by Band Parents of Williamston. (Food should be at cafeteria by 4:30.)

Police will clear Post Office block after 4:30 to make room for show and the public is requested not to use the parallel parking spaces on Main Street between Smithwick and the Houghton Street corner so the band can march in full formation.

Concert by visiting band at High School auditorium beginning at 8:00 o'clock.

Officers Destroy Three Distilleries

ABC enforcement officers went on another rampage along the Martin-Beaufort boundary last week-end, wrecking several illicit distilleries and capturing much equipment and material.

In Griffins Township Thursday morning, Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel found a large plant running full blast, but the operator, warned by gun signals, cleared out ahead of the officers, leaving a few identification papers and clothing. The plant was equipped with a 200-gallon submarine type still, five large vats containing almost 1,000 gallons of beer, twelve 5-gallon jugs, several lanterns, 200 pounds of sugar, 100 pounds of hog feed, and two bags of rye.

The next day, the officers, aided by raiders from Beaufort County, raided along the boundary in Bear Grass and wrecked a 50-gallon copper kettle and poured out 200 gallons of beer.

Saturday morning, the officers from this county joined those from Beaufort for a raid along Tranters Creek, wrecking a 100-gallon submarine type plant and pouring out several hundred gallons of beer. The raid led to the arrest of one or more persons and the confiscation of a liquor-laden car.

The Ambrose case came to light the first time last November when Neal Coburn, a colored man, stole approximately \$300 from the old woman, the money having been saved over a period of about three years to put a new roof on the house. It was suggested at the time that possibly a roof could be put on the house, but neighbors said it could not be done. The family faded out of public sight until early February when an Enterprise reporter and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck went there to see if all the members of the family had lived through the big snow.

It was at that time that a member of the family said they got along as well as could be expected, with no suggestion of begging. Realizing that the family could not "possibly" rehabilitate itself, and convinced by reports from neighbors and others that the family was worthy of aid, the sheriff and The Enterprise, moving independently of organized agencies, publicized the case, suggesting that contributions were timely.

Pictured above is the new three-room structure housing Ammie Ambrose, aged grandmother and her family of eight children and grandchildren. Given an estimated value ranging all the way from \$1,200 to \$2,000, the house, its walls covered with sheet rock and every room and the porches wired according to the latest specifications and modern requirements, was built with an actual cash outlay of only \$646.53.

All materials, including nails and hardware, cost \$527.13. After nine volunteers had worked several days on the house, it was decided that it would be only fair to pay them for one day of their time, and the labor bill amounted to \$60.80. Holding to their jobs without taking time out for lunch, the volunteer workers were given a free barbecue dinner, costing \$10. A cook stove, costing \$30.60, including stove pipe, was purchased and delivered to the family when it was found that the old stove could not be moved from the old shack. The light bill was paid up to next December at a cost of \$18.

A total of \$680.70 was received in contributions, exclusive of a \$1.50 check written by mistake, it is certain, on a non-existent bank in Williamston. The contributor is not known locally, and in changing the name of a local bank to Peoples Bank, she failed to change the name of the town. At the present time the fund has a balance of \$34.17, of which amount \$32.67 is in cash, and \$1.50 in money order made out to the grandmother. The money order is being turned over to her, and efforts are being made to provide a privy for the family with the \$32.67 cash balance. If the needed unit cannot be installed for that amount, the money will be turned over to the grandmother with the suggestion she supplement the fund and have one installed.

As for Ammie Ambrose's appreciation for all that has been done for her by friends and others, including white and colored in several states and unknown to her, the old woman threw up her hands in trying to find words to express herself. But the tears of joy, trickling down her cheeks the night the family moved out of the old and dangerous shack, more adequately expressed her thanks than ordinary words ever could.

The Ambrose case came to light the first time last November when Neal Coburn, a colored man, stole approximately \$300 from the old woman, the money having been saved over a period of about three years to put a new roof on the house. It was suggested at the time that possibly a roof could be put on the house, but neighbors said it could not be done. The family faded out of public sight until early February when an Enterprise reporter and Sheriff C. B. Roebuck went there to see if all the members of the family had lived through the big snow.

It was at that time that a member of the family said they got along as well as could be expected, with no suggestion of begging. Realizing that the family could not "possibly" rehabilitate itself, and convinced by reports from neighbors and others that the family was worthy of aid, the sheriff and The Enterprise, moving independently of organized agencies, publicized the case, suggesting that contributions were timely.

Seeks Permission To See His Child

Unable to see or visit his child, Robert B. Nelson will go into a Virginia circuit court at Norfolk next Monday seeking permission of the court to see the child at stated intervals and ask for the child the privilege of visiting the father. The hearing has been scheduled before Judge Taylor.

Following legal action in the courts of this county, the mother was given permanent custody of the child. It was reported that the plaintiff was seeking to have that judgment set aside, but a judge later pointed out that the father is only seeking the right to see the child at stated intervals.

Eight Divorces Are Granted In Court Yesterday

Judge Says Bible Does Not Recognize Some Grounds Of Separation Action

Eight divorces were granted and a ninth action was thrown out of court Wednesday when the plaintiff failed to appear and prosecute the action before Judge R. Hunt Parker.

Running along at full speed, the divorce mill was delayed just a few seconds when Judge Parker commented on the evidence offered by one of the plaintiffs. Asked why he and his wife had separated, the witness said "We just could not get along." While the action may stand up under North Carolina law, Judge Parker advanced the opinion that such grounds for divorce are not recognized by the Bible.

The marriage of Alice Ferrell Perrin and Roscoe I. Perrin, Jr., was annulled when the plaintiff submitted proof tending to show that the defendant had a living wife when they were married in August, 1946. The plaintiff is a resident of Clayton, and the defendant was last known to have maintained residence in California.

All other divorce actions heard before the court recessed at 1:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon until next Monday morning were based on two-year separation grounds, as follows:

Janice Saunders Robrahn against J. Charles Robrahn. Mary Brown Gray against Felton Gray.

Roberta Gorham Moore against Joshua D. Moore.

Betty Mobley Lilley against W. Kater Lilley.

Christine Quick against Nelson Quick.

Clyde O'dell Cowey against Jane Esterline Cowey.

Ether Marie Pitt against Jesse James Pitt.

The divorce action brought by

(Continued on page eight)

Robertson Rites Largely Attended

Funeral services for Mrs. Joseph L. Robertson who died at her home here last Monday morning at the age of 86, were largely attended Tuesday afternoon, and the floral offering was an extensive one. Her former pastor, Rev. B. T. Hurley of Stantonsburg and Rev. E. R. Shuller, the present pastor of the Methodist Church here, conducted the last rites and interment was in Woodlawn cemetery here.

Among those from out of town attending the service were:

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Ellison, Sr., Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Ellison, Jr., and Mrs. Joe Gay of Suffolk; Mr. and Mrs. Tom McKim and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Baker, Mr. and Mrs. William Harrell, of Ahsokie; Mrs. Paul Gilmore and Mrs. S. H. Hatton of Norfolk; Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Pope, Jr., of Robertsonville; Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Taylor of Bethel; Mr. and Mrs. Johnston Dees, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Woodard and Mrs. Parkinson of Greenville; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin G. Moore of Durham; Mrs. B. F. Mitchell, Miss Charlotte Robertson and Mr. Harry A. Biggs of Virginia Beach; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Ellison of Belhaven; Mr. and Mrs. John H. Throver of Litleton; Mr. and Mrs. Ellison Goddard and Mrs. C. Thomas of Dunn; Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Curry and daughter of Kinston; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Davenport of Columbia; Mrs. Dennis Chesson of Roper; Mr. George Booker and Mr. Graham of Rocky Mount; Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Anderson and daughter and Miss Sally Robertson of Washington, Mrs. Bob Guns and son, Mrs. R. E. Cleaton, Mrs. I. E. Ready, Mrs. Sam Bunn, Mrs. Virginia Babcock, Mr. William B. White, Mrs. G. C. Readford, and Mrs. Blair Gibson of Roanoke Rapids; Mrs. B. G. Campbell, Mrs. W. C. Jones, Mrs. S. R. Brown, Miss Miriam Ausbon, Mrs. W. R. McCombs, Mrs. W. H. Thomas, Mrs. Lena Carlisle, Mrs. Harry Barnhill, Mrs. A. J. Byrd, Mrs. Allie Harrison and Marion Ramsey, of Plymouth.

The daughter of the late John and Kate Waters Gardner, she was born near Jamesville on April 3, 1889, and spent most of her life there and in the Dardens Community before locating in Plymouth in 1940. In early womanhood she was married to Louis Hardison who died eleven years ago this month.

Mrs. Hardison, highly esteemed as a friend and neighbor both in her home and adopted communities. She had been a member of the Cedar Branch Baptist Church for a long number of years, and the services are being conducted there this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington and the Rev. Mr. Nickens, Baptist minister of Plymouth. Interment will be in the Gardner Cemetery near the old home not far from Jamesville.

Surviving are twelve children, seven daughters, Mrs. Hilton Forbes and Mrs. John G. Coltrain, Jr., both of Williamston. Mrs. Elmer Mizelle, Mrs. Ronald Tetterton, Mrs. Delma Harris and Miss Emma Bell Hardison, all of Plymouth; and Mrs. Jasper Bennett of Everetts; five sons, Dewey Hardison of Farm Life in this county, Arthur, Marvin, James B. and T. B. Hardison, all of Plymouth; and one sister, Mrs. Eb Hardison, of Jamesville.

(Continued on page eight)

Making Plans For Annual Fat Stock Show Here In May

Prospects Are For Smaller But Better Quality Baby Beef Entries

Tentative plans for holding the annual Martin County fat stock show in Williamston on Friday, May 7 were formulated by farm leaders and representatives of the various civic and business organizations in a meeting held here last evening in the agricultural building.

Details are to be completed within the next two or three weeks and will be announced along with the prize list as soon as possible, J. W. Sumner, assistant county farm agent, said.

With every civic and business organization represented except the Robersonville Jaycees, the meeting advanced much interest in the event, and it is certain that all the organizations will support the show to the limit.

Speaking to the group, Chas. L. Daniel, president of the county farm bureau, appealed to the civic club leaders, urging them to take more interest in the show. "Instead of supporting the farm leaders who have been staging the event, get busy and stage the show yourselves with the help of the farm agents and agricultural teachers and other farm leaders," Mr. Daniel was quoted as saying.

Advancing plans for the event, the meeting named C. J. Goodman chairman of the show. He will be assisted by V. B. Hairr, Jamesville agriculture teacher, as head of the swine department, and John Hassell, Oak City agriculture teacher, as head of the cattle department.

K. P. Lindsley was named secretary and treasurer of the show.

It is fairly certain that attractive prizes will be offered by the several organizations, but the representatives, including E. T. Smith of the Oak City Ruritan Club, C. A. Roberson of the Robersonville Rotary Club, E. N. Modlin of the Jamesville Ruritan Club, T. B. Brandon of the Kiwanis Club, W. T. Ross of the Williams-Township Jaycees, and C. L. Daniel of the Farm Bureau, explained that they would have to discuss the matter with their clubs.

A second meeting of the representatives or directors of the show will be held on April 28, and during the meantime a booklet, carrying paid advertisements, will be released.

Discussing the prospects for the

(Continued on page five)

Native Of County Dies In Plymouth

Mrs. Bertha Hardison, 59, died at her home in Plymouth yesterday morning at 8:15 o'clock. She had been in declining health for about a year and her condition had been serious for several weeks.

The daughter of the late John and Kate Waters Gardner, she was born near Jamesville on April 3, 1889, and spent most of her life there and in the Dardens Community before locating in Plymouth in 1940. In early womanhood she was married to Louis Hardison who died eleven years ago this month.

Mrs. Hardison, highly esteemed as a friend and neighbor both in her home and adopted communities. She had been a member of the Cedar Branch Baptist Church for a long number of years, and the services are being conducted there this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington and the Rev. Mr. Nickens, Baptist minister of Plymouth. Interment will be in the Gardner Cemetery near the old home not far from Jamesville.

Surviving are twelve children, seven daughters, Mrs. Hilton Forbes and Mrs. John G. Coltrain, Jr., both of Williamston. Mrs. Elmer Mizelle, Mrs. Ronald Tetterton, Mrs. Delma Harris and Miss Emma Bell Hardison, all of Plymouth; and Mrs. Jasper Bennett of Everetts; five sons, Dewey Hardison of Farm Life in this county, Arthur, Marvin, James B. and T. B. Hardison, all of Plymouth; and one sister, Mrs. Eb Hardison, of Jamesville.

Plan Special Services Each Day In Theatre Next Week

As a vital part in the Holy Week religious program, the Williams-Township Ministerial Association is planning a series of union services in the Watts Theater each morning from Monday through next Friday at 10:00 o'clock. While the services are planned especially for the working people, everyone is invited to attend. Local merchants, while not planning to close their places of business during the 30-minute services, have agreed to stagger their forces, permitting some to attend each day, it was announced. Following the services in the theater the ministers will repair to the high school for a special morning service during the five days.

Speakers for the special ser-

vice are as follows: Monday, Rev. Stewart B. Simms; Tuesday, Rev. E. R. Shuller; Wednesday, Rev. James I. Lowry; Thursday, Rev. J. T. Ashley; and Friday, Rev. John W. Hardy.

Climaxing the union worship schedule during the Easter season will be the sunrise service Sunday morning, March 28. Rev. John L. Goff will be in charge of that service, it was announced. In addition to the union worship services, several of the churches are planning special programs at other hours during next week.

A cordial invitation is being extended the general public to attend all the services.

Criminal Cases Here Court Ends Trial Of

Justice Tempered With Mercy During The Current Term

Five-To-Eight Years Maximum Sentence; Thieves Go On Probation

After dragging along since Monday morning, the Martin County Superior Court completed the trial of the criminal docket shortly before noon Wednesday.

Presiding over the two-week Early May Boston, charged with badly assaulting his wife, wiggled out of court with a suspended road sentence. He pleaded guilty but at the conclusion of the state's evidence, he changed the plea to one of nolo contendere, meaning he neither admitted the charge nor denied it. He was sentenced to the roads for twelve months, Judge Parker placing him on probation for five years. Boston is to move out of the house owned by his wife, Sarah Jane Boston, and is to pay \$5 a week for the support of his children. Among other things, probation means the defendant is

To avoid injurious or vicious habits; avoid persons or places of disreputable or harmful character; report to probation officer as directed and permit probation officer to visit his home or elsewhere; work faithfully at suitable employment as far as possible; remain within specified area and not change place of residence without written consent of probation officer; support his dependents; and violate no criminal law of any state or federal government, and be of good behavior.

The case charging Clara Bell Moore with larceny of \$10 was not pressed.

The case in which Henry Lee F. Shelby was charged with violating the motor vehicle laws was continued until the June term.

The case charging Burnice Bullock with bastardy was not pressed, possibly because the prosecuting witness, Margaret Beacham, had married.

A verdict of not guilty was directed in the case charging Levy Jones with breaking and entering the home of Harry Wynne. The action was taken after the state had concluded its evidence.

George Junior Jackson, young colored man, who nearly stabbed Jimmy Crumey, Edenton taxi driver to death over in Williams Township a few weeks ago, was sentenced to prison for not less than five and not more than eight years. Jackson, without the services of a lawyer, pleaded guilty of stabbing Crumey with the intent to kill him, but pleaded not guilty of the "trouble." When Jackson could not explain what he

(Continued on page eight)

Parents-Teachers To Meet In Colored School

Members of the Parent-Teacher Association will meet in the colored school auditorium this evening (Thursday) at 8:00 o'clock, it was announced this week. All parents are asked to be present.

Truman Calls For Action Just Short Of War In Speech

Tells Congress Draft Law Is Necessary Along With Universal Training

Addressing a joint session of Congress yesterday, President Harry S. Truman called for action just short of war, declaring that a draft law is necessary immediately to build up the armed forces to authorized strength until universal military training or the conscription of just about every youth can be instituted. A third point in the drive to "stop Russia" calls for the immediate passage of the European Recovery Program, calling for an expenditure of nearly six billions of dollars.

The President warned the New Yorkers that the American people may be called upon in the coming year to assume the gravest risks in their history, but he said the danger has been thrust upon us by Russian expansionism and cannot be sidestepped. "The issue which confronts the world today... is tyranny versus freedom," he said, adding that the sole purpose of his preparedness proposals is "to prevent war."

"Our faith and our strength must be made unmistakably clear to the world," he said. The Russian ambassador and envoys from the other eastern satellite states were conspicuously absent from the diplomatic galleries. But Finland's minister, K. T. Jutila sat among the Western European diplomats.

Thousands of worried Washingtonians, unable to gain admission to the jammed House galleries, gathered in the streets around automobile radios and radio shops to hear the President's somber words. Mr. Truman made it clear that the extraordinary military preparedness measures he advocated were being forced upon the United States by Russia.

He lashed out against the Kremlin in the strongest terms he has ever directed against that government since he took office three years ago. He labeled the Russians and their satellites in Eastern Europe as aggressors who alone are responsible for the present international crisis; he accused them of obstructing the work of the United Nations by repeated use of the veto, and he charged them with

(Continued on page six)

Inspection Lane Closes Saturday

Opening on Warren Street here last Monday, the North Carolina Inspection Lane handled 347 initial vehicle inspections during the first three days, and cars and trucks were moving into the lane in fairly large numbers this morning. In addition to the initial inspections, the lane checked 48 vehicles for the second or third time.

No cars or trucks have been condemned, and while quite a few did not get the approved stickers, only minor adjustments or correction of minor defects will qualify the vehicles, it was learned. The lane will be closed here at noon Saturday when the operators are to load the equipment and move to Plymouth. They will return here on May 14 for another week. Those owners whose vehicles did not pass inspection this week will have until May 14 to get the mechanical defects corrected. They are to go through the inspection lane a second time without cost.

The case in which Henry Lee F. Shelby was charged with violating the motor vehicle laws was continued until the June term.

The case charging Burnice Bullock with bastardy was not pressed, possibly because the prosecuting witness, Margaret Beacham, had married.

A verdict of not guilty was directed in the case charging Levy Jones with breaking and entering the home of Harry Wynne. The action was taken after the state had concluded its evidence.

George Junior Jackson, young colored man, who nearly stabbed Jimmy Crumey, Edenton taxi driver to death over in Williams Township a few weeks ago, was sentenced to prison for not less than five and not more than eight years. Jackson, without the services of a lawyer, pleaded guilty of stabbing Crumey with the intent to kill him, but pleaded not guilty of the "trouble." When Jackson could not explain what he

(Continued on page eight)

Paving Approach To River Bridge

Delayed for weeks by bad weather, highway forces this week started paving the western approach to the new half-million dollar river bridge here. Material has been near the project site for weeks, but it was impossible to start the work until a few days ago.

The strip is ten feet wide and eight inches deep and extends from the bridge around the curve, a distance of several hundred feet. Using a small mixer, the builders plan to complete the project the early part of next week. During the meantime, one way traffic is being maintained by the project.

The strip is being laid on grade and when completed and opened to traffic in about two weeks much of the danger associated with the curve will have been eliminated.

(Continued on page eight)

(Continued on page eight)