

Judge J. C. Smith Has Fifteen Cases In County's Court

Fines Imposed At Session On Monday of This Week Amount to \$305

Judge J. Calvin Smith held the Martin County Recorder's Court in session until 1:00 o'clock last Monday before clearing fifteen cases from the docket. A jury case and thierial of Leamon Bennett, colored man who faces several charges in the superior court and who assaulted a fellow prisoner in the county jail last Saturday night, took up much time of the court. Fines imposed at the session amounted to \$305.

Proceedings: Judgement was suspended in the case charging Sam Peel with disposing of mortgaged property. Charged with non-support, Richard Ewell was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the cost and on the further condition that the defendant pay \$50 now and \$4 each month beginning in August for the next year for the support of his family.

Tried by a six-man jury, Dalton Brown, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon was adjudged not guilty. Members of the jury were, J. R. Rawls, W. N. Perry, Ben E. Griffin, Jimmie Lee, A. H. Brown and R. N. Turner.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Chest Mooring was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

O. H. Stutts, charged with drunken driving, failed to answer when called and papers were issued calling for his arrest.

Adjudged guilty over his own plea of innocence, John Wayly Gatling was fined \$100 and taxed with the cost in the case charging him with drunken driving. The court recommended that his license be revoked for one year.

Charged with reckless driving, Russell Bailey Wynne pleaded guilty of failing to report an accident in which he was involved and the court suspended judgement upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs.

J. D. Thrower, Jr., was adjudged not guilty in the case charging him with speeding.

Papers were issued for his immediate arrest when Walter Clayton Hall failed to appear and answer in the case charging him with speeding.

Richard Pritchard was fined \$5 and taxed with the costs for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Pleading guilty of allowing an unlicensed driver to operate a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Isaac Evans was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Anticipating what was in store for him, Laverne "Mutt" Roberson called relatives over the telephone, explained that he was just before changing occupations and told them good-bye. A short time later Judge Smith sentenced him to the roads for six months for non-support.

Mayo Beacham, charged with non-support, was found not guilty.

Charlie Edward Lassiter, charged with speeding, pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs.

Adjudged guilty of an assault, (Continued on page eight)

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Martin County motorists are piling up more motor vehicles this year than they did last, but they are more considerate of life and limb with about the same regard or contempt for property.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

23rd Week				
Accidents	Inj'd	Killed	Damage	
1948	3	0	\$	160
1947	0	0		00
Comparisons To Date				
1948	63	22	1	\$12,600
1947	56	28	3	12,700

Bond Election For Water Department Next Tuesday

Williamston citizens will decide next Tuesday the fate of a proposed \$100,000 bond issue for expanding the town's water supply and extending water and sewer lines. The election will be held in the City Hall between the hours of 6:30 a. m. and 6:30 p. m., the present indications pointing to a comparatively small vote.

While few if any persons want to see the town go into debt, most everyone recognizes the almost imperative need for providing adequate water storage and the extension of water and sewer lines. It is understood that there is some opposition to the measure, but little has been expressed openly.

Discussing the proposal this morning, a town official explained that the commissioners had made a study of the present system, that

they are convinced some action is needed without delay, that they are placing the matter directly before the people for them to decide what shall be done. "We are not trying to frighten anyone, but the present system is seriously over-taxed, and should a real emergency present itself it could not be adequately met," an official said.

There was a small fire just out of town last Saturday afternoon when the demand for water is normally at a peak. When the firemen withdrew from the scene of the fire, the water supply had been reduced to hardly more than 20,000 gallons, an amount hardly large enough to last twenty minutes in a real emergency.

These are just a few of the facts the citizens are being asked to consider when they participate in the election next Tuesday.

Series Of Robberies Solved In Oak City

HEARING

Charged with brutally assaulting Haywood Cherry, mill night watchman here on the night of April 28, Frank Crews and Henry Williams are to be given a hearing before Justice R. T. Johnson in the courthouse Friday evening at 7:00 o'clock, Chief W. E. Saunders said this morning.

The victim was just released from the hospital this week, one report stating that his condition was much improved. Crews and Williams have been held in jail pending the outcome of Cherry's condition.

Jaycees Sponsor Beauty Pageant Again This Year

Twenty-six Entries Reported Already in the Annual Beauty Contest

The local Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsoring organization for the "Miss Williamston of 1948 and Little Miss Williamston" pageant, are busy at work receiving entries and formulating plans for this event. The pageant is to be staged at eight o'clock on Wednesday night, June 23rd in the local high school auditorium. Miss Angela McLawhorn, Miss Williamston of 1947, will reign over the festivities along with Constance Chesson, Little Miss Williamston of 1947. J. Paul Simpson will serve as toastmaster. Immediately following the pageant a public dance will be held in the high school gym honoring the contestants.

Through Saturday, June 5, 17 entries had been received in the Miss Williamston contest and 11 entries in the Little Miss Williamston contest. Entries for competition in each of the contests will be received through Saturday, June 19th. After that no entries will be accepted. Each contestant in the Miss Williamston contest will be sponsored by a local business firm. Already most of the entries have been assigned to their sponsor. A list of sponsors and their contestants will be announced at a later date.

The local Jaycees hope to give Williamston a great deal of publicity through this contest. Bernard S. Harrison and Thad Harrison, co-chairmen of this event have announced that arrangements have already been made to publicize this event in several out-

of town newspapers and over the radio. A few days prior to the pageant the Jaycees and contestants will be on the air for a 15 minute program. Also there will be several announcements of the event coming over the radio each day for approximately ten days (Continued on page four)

Kerr Scott Makes Hurried Visit In Eastern Carolina

Declares All Unnecessary Heads Will "Roll" If He Is Made Governor

Making his first visit in this county, Kerr Scott this week hurriedly patched up his political fences and confidently made ready to go into the second gubernatorial primary on June 26. The runner-up in the first round on the 29th of May, Scott made no public appearance in the county during his short stay last Tuesday, but he contacted quite a few individuals, explaining that he would like to spend several days but that his plans called for conferences in several of the northeastern counties and that he was scheduled to be in Raleigh this evening. Traveling alone, the candidate enjoyed an informal lunch in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Abbutt and made one or two quick visits in other sections of the county before moving on to meet appointments in Bertie and other counties northeast of here.

Trailing Chas. M. Johnson, 161-293 to 170,141, in the first primary, Scott was confident as he continued to lay his plans for the second round. "Given a fair election, I feel confident we'll win," Scott said, intimating that there were reports of irregularities in the voting and counting in some counties on May 29.

During his brief stay here, Scott talked informally of his platform and activities in the first campaign. And apparently he knew in detail what went on and who was who, the candidate accepting it as a seasoned politician. As he talked about excess jobholders, his pulse quickened. "The people can expect the unnecessary heads to 'roll' if I am made governor," Scott said, adding that such action would be among the first in the order of business.

Asked Governor Cherry's position in the race, Scott said that Mr. Cherry had promised to remain neutral. "I give him credit for doing just that," Scott said, adding, however, that it was a bit strange that so many of the department heads close to the administration were fighting him for all they are worth.

The candidate briefly reviewed his program as follows:

Taxes—Repeal sales tax on all food. Remove discriminatory taxes on farm machinery.

Bond issues—None, unless absolutely necessary after huge surplus now in banks without interest is used.

Roads—Repeal 'mud tax' on farm-to-market, home-to-school and home-to-church roads.

Schools—Save them by paying teachers living salaries, reducing pupil load, and aiding construction of new school buildings.

Health—Carry out State Good Health Program.

Welfare—Better provisions for aged and indigent.

Business—Fair taxes and equal opportunity.

Labor—A square deal.

Veterans—State service program second to none.

Municipalities—Financial relief by returning State revenue from license taxes, helping maintain (Continued on page five)

Finland Native Works In Fields

Vidar Wolontis, native of Finland, reported to the local employment office yesterday for work in the fields of this section. Following an interview with Mrs. Miller Harrell of the commission, the young man chose the Irish potato fields in Tyrrell County where he plans to work for about two weeks.

Studying to be a professor in a university back in his country, the young man has spent one year at mathematics. During the summer months he is spending his time touring the States, working in various places.

Coming to this country from Helsinki, Wolontis said that the food situation, critical during the war years, was much improved now.

Three Murder Cases On Court Docket For Trial Next Week

Sixteen Cases On Docket For Trial In Superior Court

Leamon J. Bennett, Colored Man, Defendant In Four Cases

Sixteen cases, including three murder charges, are being placed on the docket for trial during the one week of superior court here next week. While most of the cases are of a more or less trivial nature, there are several big ones even in addition to the three charging murder.

The Martin County Bar is expecting the court to complete the criminal docket by late Tuesday, a report stating that a few divorce cases and several civil actions had been scheduled for trial on Wednesday and Thursday. There is some doubt, however, that the criminal docket can be cleared in the first two days of the term.

Leamon J. Bennett, defendant in four cases, is very likely to occupy the court's time for at least half a day. He is said to have summoned witnesses from two counties. Bennett was arrested in Robersonville last November 12 for operating a motor vehicle with improper equipment. He appealed from a county court judgment and pleaded nolo contendere at the March term when the plea was ordered stricken out and the case continued. On February 26, Bennett allegedly attempted to hold up John Slade on Williamston's East Main Street. He appealed and the case was continued. On February 29, he was booked for carrying a concealed weapon and assaulting Chas. R. Moore, local officer, with a deadly weapon. On June 5 he was booked for assaulting Joe Mabry in the county jail.

After his arrest on the two previous terms, the case charging Henry Lee Fred Shelby with violating the motor vehicle laws is again slated for trial. Shelby was arrested in Robersonville on September 25 for various infractions of the vehicle laws. He appealed from the lower court.

Charged with operating a picolo without a license, Charlie Butler is going into the court on appeal from the county tribunal.

W. F. Coppage, adjudged guilty and fined on a speeding charge, is appealing from the county court.

Roscoe L. Moore is booked for trial for being drunk and disorderly in Robersonville on March 27, his case having come up on appeal.

Burley Nelson is charged with breaking and entering a Robersonville filling station and stealing on May 18 cigarettes and cash money.

Harmon Roberson is charged with the larceny of an auto from James David Lilley on the streets of Williamston on March 21.

Lenndora Coburn is facing the court for assaulting with a knife and almost cutting Thelma Louise Brown Little to death in Robersonville on May 15. The victim was not expected to live for several days.

Justice Johnson Hears Few Cases

Justice R. T. Johnson heard several cases in his court here this week.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost in the case charging Daisy Mae Riddick with operating a motor vehicle with improper lights.

Chas. E. Hardy, charged with not stopping upon entering a highway, was taxed with costs.

Operating a motor vehicle without state licenses, John C. Harper was fined \$5 and required to pay the costs.

Charged with improper parking in Bear Grass, Joseph Wynne was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs. He appealed to the higher courts.

CONDITIONS

Crop conditions in Martin County yesterday were described as fair to critical. In some sections where the rainfall has not been excessive, the crops look very good. In other sections where the rainfall has been excessive during the past ten days or two weeks, the crops look bad, farmers stating that tobacco is yellowing. In still other sections the tobacco crop has been damaged by fifty percent, peanuts are grassy and corn is turning yellow. As a whole, however, the corn crop outlook is the best in several years in this county.

New Ford Car To Go On Display Here On June 18

Radical Changes Announced By Manufacturer In Design, Equipment

The 1949 Ford, which reveals a radical departure from traditional Ford styling and engineering, was made public today by the Ford Motor Company. The car is to go on display Friday, June 18.

"New standards of beauty, comfort, economy and performance in the 1949 Ford passenger cars advance them far ahead of others in the low-priced field," J. R. Davis, vice-president and director of sales and advertising, said. "Styling of the new Ford definitely establishes it as the car of the year."

The 1949 Ford passenger cars, Ford Motor Company has expended more than \$37,400,000 in tools, dies, jigs and fixtures.

The modern design has been molded along functional lines, resulting in a long, low, sweeping silhouette. The grille is distinctive, the hood massive but shorter and the body so wide the rear fenders have been eliminated. There are clean, unbroken lines from front to rear.

There is more room in the "lounge car" interiors than in many cars with much larger overall dimensions. Front seat widths have been increased six inches and the rear seat nearly eight inches. The body has been moved five inches forward with the seats cradled between the axles for a much smoother ride.

A new type of suspension system—"hydra-coil" springs—replaces the traditional transverse springs and the front axle.

A new heating system available in the new Fords brings year around comfort to driver and passengers. Fresh air is scooped into the car through large intakes just behind the front fenders.

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Detain Woman For State Of Virginia

Arrested in this county last Monday afternoon for public drunkenness, Emma "Duck" Thomas Enide, 30-year-old white woman, is being held in jail for Virginia authorities.

After serving most of a three-year sentence in a woman's penitentiary in Virginia, she was paroled. One report stated that the probation period had just three months to run when she was arrested by Patrolman J. T. Rowe on Highway 171. Said to have resisted arrest, the woman is now scheduled to go back to Virginia to finish the three-year prison term.

Virginia authorities in a later report said they did not want her, that Martin County could have her. Bond was then fixed in the sum of \$50, but up until early today it had not been arranged.

Place Few Cases On Civil Docket In Superior Court

Seven Divorce Cases And Six Civil Actions Slated For Trial

While there is some doubt if the criminal docket can be cleared in time, seven divorce cases and six civil actions have been calendared for trial in the superior court here next week. Several of the civil cases involving sizable damage suits were set preemptorily for trial at the direction of the court last March. Judge Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids is to preside over the mixed term.

All of the divorce cases are based on two-year separation grounds, but some of them are being contested.

Elizabeth Howell is suing Johnny Howell for a divorce. In her complaint she says they were married in August, 1923, and separated in March, 1943, that three of the children are living with her and that a fourth one is married.

In the divorce action brought by Emmett Thomas against Ethel Thomas, the plaintiff says they were married in October, 1938, and that they separated in June, 1944, admitting that two children are living with the mother in Alabama. Contesting the action, the defendant says there are three children, and they were abandoned by the plaintiff, and that she and her husband lived together until about the middle of 1945. The suit was started about two years ago.

Grover Williams is suing Josie Lee Williams for a divorce, setting out in the complaint that they were married in August, 1945, and separated in January, 1946.

In the divorce case of John Long against Ada Long, the plaintiff says they were married prior to 1937 and that they were separated on May 6, 1937.

Magnolia Ambrose is suing James Claude Ambrose for divorce, stating that they were married in August, 1944, and separated May 15, 1946, that no children were born to the union. In his answer, the defendant admits the allegations.

In the action of Georgia May Moore against Sam Andrew Moore, the plaintiff says they were married June 1, 1935, and separated January 8, 1944, that two children born to the union are supported by her.

Calendared several times before, the divorce action of Beattie Andrews against Mattie Lee Andrews is again slated for trial, the plaintiff saying they were married January 1, 1940, and separated in June, 1944, that the defendant left him and went to Philadelphia, saying that she would never live with him again.

The Martin County Board of Education is starting proceedings to condemn about five acres of Stevenson land in Robersonville for school use.

Margie Sullivan is suing Amos Cox and Vance Harrington for \$10,000 damages alleged to have resulted in an automobile-truck accident near Bethel on the Greenville Highway on the evening of May 29, 1944.

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Three Cases Were Slated For Trial Fifty Years Ago

Evidence of First Degree Strong In One If Not In Two Cases

For the first time in fifty years, if not longer, three murder cases have been booked for trial at a single term of the Martin County Superior Court. When the three cases are called by Judge R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids during the term opening next Monday morning at 10:00 o'clock, it is fairly certain that strong evidence will be offered to support a first degree charge in one and possibly in a second.

According to old court observers it was back just before the turn of the century that three murder cases were docketed for trial at a single term of court in this county. There have been two murder cases booked on several occasions and the appearance of a single case was accepted by some as nothing out of the ordinary. But when three killings are to be aired at one term of court, one can't help but recognize the tension and strain under which man travels today and the indifference toward human life.

The first in the murder series was committed in Jamesville last April 10 when Chas. H. Daniel, young colored man, shot and killed Sim Quinerly, aged colored man. Daniel claims he shot in self defense. At the preliminary hearing it was brought out that Daniel was drinking heavily, that possibly he did not know just what was happening at the time. He has been unable to raise the \$2,500 required bond.

Early in the morning of May 8, Abram (Buddy Rowe) Fonville was shot in a thimble here, fatally wounding Willie Melton and a short time later shooting and killing Louis Riddick. The drastic action allegedly was taken over gambling debts. Fonville, a young colored man, waived preliminary hearing and he continues in jail staring a first-degree murder charge squarely in the face.

A week later on May 14, Richard Percy Brown shot and killed his friend, William (Lus) Midgett, claiming that he thought Midgett was William Brown and that he was afraid of Brown. Bond was arranged in the sum of \$3,500 by relatives, and Brown is now at liberty at his old home in or near Roanoke Rapids.

Private prosecution has been employed in at least two of the cases, and the trials are expected to attract large numbers of colored citizens.

Three Are Hurt In Wreck Today

Three Jamesville young men, Edward Lee Martin, Luther Hugh Hardison and Clifford Corey, were painfully but believed not badly hurt when their car, a 1947 Chrysler, went out of control and turned over on U. S. 17 about seven miles north of here this morning at 2:35 o'clock.

Martin, owner and driver of the car, was cut on the head, and his injuries were said to be more serious than those of the other two. Hardison was cut on the left arm and there was an abrasion on one shoulder. Corey's left foot was cut and his right leg was badly bruised. They were given first-aid treatment in the hospital here.

Martin said they were driving toward Williamston at about fifty miles an hour, that they met another car and he lost control of his own. Patrolman M. F. Powers and

the driver of the other car, who was driving toward the scene of the accident, said the car ran off the road and traveled about 80 yards on the shoulder, that it was pulled back to the hard surface and traveled about 100 yards before turning over and coming to a stop in a ditch. The car was wrecked beyond repair, Patrolman Powers said.

Oak City Youth Wins Valuable Contest Award

George Ayers, Jr., a member of the Oak City F. F. A. Chapter was recently notified by the state executive secretary that he had been selected winner of the district Livestock - Improvement Contest and would be presented with a check for \$125.00 which is to pay his way to the National F. F. A. Convention which is to be held in Kansas City, Mo., October 14-20.

J. L. Hassell, his instructor, will also be given \$125.00 to pay his way to the convention. This is the first prize of this sort ever to be won by a Martin County boy.

George is 17 years old, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Ayers, Sr., of Oak City, a rising senior in Oak City High School, and an established breeder of Duroc Jersey hogs.