

Finish Trial Of Criminal Cases In Court Friday

Tribunal Handling Civil And Divorce Cases At The Present Time

Encountering unforeseen obstacles, including excessive heat and long, drawn-out actions, the Martin County Superior Court last Friday noon completed the trial of criminal cases, tentatively scheduled to have been cleared in two days. The tribunal is now working on divorce and civil cases with the prospect that adjournment will come before the end of the week.

All of one day and part of two others were spent hearing the conspiracy-arson cases against Clarence Taper and Edward Lee Lacy. The cases were called Wednesday afternoon and were given to the jury Friday morning when a not guilty verdict was returned. Commenting on the case Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, presiding, stated that Taper came mighty close to the penitentiary, that if the jury had found him guilty a prison sentence certainly would have been in order. Taper, learning the favorable verdict, did not tarry long around the courthouse, explaining as he left that he was leaving before the judge changed his mind.

Other proceedings not previously reported:

The aged case, charging Henry Lee Fred Shelby with violating the motor vehicle laws, was not prosed.

George Green and Ananias Thompson, charged with larceny were sentenced to the roads for twelve months, the court suspending the Thompson sentence on condition that he pay the costs and refund Sadie Ruffin \$85, the amount stolen from her in a Williamston beer parlor. The defense maintained that the prosecution entered the court with tainted hands, that it had sold the defendants beer after hours.

Charged with stealing an automobile, Alexander James pleaded guilty of temporary larceny and

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High School Band Going to Durham

Professor Jack Butler, director of the Williamston High School Band, has announced acceptance of an invitation to take part in a "Tobacco Jubilee" parade at Durham next Saturday.

Plans have been completed for transportation of the band members and instruments save for the matter of an extra car or two to carry some of the young musicians. A Trailways bus will carry some 40 of the band members and two cars have already been secured for transportation of the majorettes who will dress after they reach Durham.

The bus is scheduled to leave at 5:30 Saturday morning as the unit is supposed to be in Durham by 9 o'clock and the parade starts at 10. The youngsters will not have a part in the football program at Duke Stadium but will be guests of the city of Durham at the Duke-Tennessee game in the afternoon.

Drills are scheduled for mornings this week beginning Wednesday and a full scale drill and parade will be held on Smithwick Street Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock if arrangements can be made to clear the street. Two Army sergeants are to aid Professor Butler in polishing up the drill work of the band and he hopes to have them in top shape for the big event in Durham where they will march behind their own school colors for the first time away from home.

Professor Butler is asking that all band parents have their children eat as large a breakfast as possible and he is arranging to take ice water in jugs on the bus since he will not permit drinking of soft drinks en route to the parade for fear of some youngster's stomach going "tight" in the parade. He advised parents to prepare a few sandwiches for the children to take along. One of these before the parade would not hurt and they would come in handy on the way home.

CITIZENS OF TOMORROW



The Enterprise takes much pleasure in presenting another in a picture series of this section's "citizens of tomorrow". So far none has figured prominently in public affairs, but it is a future citizen they have a tremendous assignment to handle in a muddled world. Certain they'll do a better job than has been done or is being done, The Enterprise presents the youngsters as the one great hope for the future.

Top row, left to right, Dorothy, ten, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Herman Biggs, Williamston; Bobby, six, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Stalls, Oak City; Janet, eleven, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Harris, Williamston; Bottom row, Nancy, ten, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Ward, Williamston; Lee Burton, five, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Jenkins, Williamston; Evelyn, five, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Stalls, Oak City.

IMPROVING

Falling victim of a pneumonia attack rather suddenly last Friday evening, Mr. G. H. Harrison, Sr., local business leader, was removed to a Rocky Mount hospital late that night in a Biggs ambulance for treatment.

A report from the hospital this morning stated that he had a very restful night and that his condition was much improved. It could not be learned when he would be able to return. Mrs. Harrison and daughter, Mrs. Velma Coburn, are with him.

Loses Appeal To Supreme Court; Must Serve Time

Court Expected To Invoke Sentence In Eddie Wooten Speeding Case

George Eddie Wooten, Kinston taxi driver, must serve a 60-day road sentence for speeding on Martin County highways, the North Carolina State Supreme Court ruled last week. The defendant fought the action through the county recorder's court, the superior court and the high court and lost.

Just a little over a year ago, Wooten was caught speeding by local officers and was carried into the county court on September 8, 1947. He pleaded guilty and Judge J. C. Smith sentenced him to the roads for sixty days, suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs of the case and a \$25 fine. The court also directed that the defendant refrain from operating a motor vehicle for four months.

It did not take Wooten long to violate the provisions of the judgment and he was brought back into the county court and Judge Smith invoked the 60-day sentence. Wooten appealed to the superior court, bond having been required in the sum of \$200. At the following session of the superior court in March of this year, Judge R. Hunt Parker upheld the action of Judge Smith, and Wooten appealed to the State Supreme Court, bond having been required in the sum of \$300 for his appearance and \$100 for appeal costs.

The State court rendered a decision a few days ago, upholding the actions of the lower courts and billing the defendant \$26.25 for additional costs.

In the superior court last week, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn remanded the case to the county recorder's court.

Advised the jig was up, Wooten reported last week-end and asked that he be allowed to start serving the sentence. Judge J. C. Smith, contacted and advised of Wooten's wishes, complied and invoked the sentence which went into effect last Saturday.

The case was one of the first of its kind to reach the high court.

Cow Case Finally Goes Off Docket In Superior Court

Few Other Civil Cases Are Heard During First Day Of Second Week

After spending most of Monday morning tearing asunder the bonds of matrimony in twelve cases, the Martin County Superior Court tackled the civil calendar, clearing from it the bewhiskered cow case brought by A. W. Hardison against Bettie Williams, and several other actions when the litigants reached agreements or compromised their differences.

The cow case, hanging fire for about a year, went off the calendar when the plaintiff voluntarily accepted a non-suit, but not until evidence had been offered for more than an hour and one of the litigants and a witness engaged in a minor affray.

The case was a bit complicated, and all the litigants apparently were convinced they had foundations to support them in court. About three and one-half years ago, Oscar Jones bought a cow from Andrew Griffin for \$20. When the cow was delivered to the Jones home, Mrs. Jones explained to her husband that since he had sold her cow, she would claim the animal. The husband agreed.

About a year ago, the plaintiff contacted Jones and offered him \$200 for the cow, agreeing to take up a note for \$50 for Jones and pay the difference of \$150. Jones said that the cow belonged to his wife, that Hardison would have to see her. During the meantime, Mrs. Jones lent the cow to the defendant, Mrs. Bettie Williams, with the understanding that if the cow was to be sold, Mrs. Williams would be given first refusal.

The plaintiff, thinking the cow belonged to him, got out claim and delivery papers and entered the courts. While the judgment shows the case went off the docket by the non-suit route, it was reported that the plaintiff is to receive the \$50 advanced to retire the Jones note, that Mrs. Ada Jones is the rightful owner of the cow. One report stated that the cow had been sold to another party, but he was not involved.

A case sidlight developed through a misunderstanding, but not until a fisticuff resulted between Plaintiff Hardison and Witness Stuart Tetterton. Plaintiff Hardison, switching to the defense temporarily, received a bruise on the face but the fracas, taking place outside the courthouse, did not amount to much and did not reach the courts.

A voluntary non-suit was taken by the plaintiff in the case of K. B. Crawford against J. S. Peel. The damage suit, brought by T. S. Critcher against C. D. Pittman and growing out of an automobile accident, was compromised, the plaintiff receiving \$119.

A consent judgment was entered in the case of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company against R. S. Critcher. The plaintiff was admitted to be the owner of certain property between Williamston's Pearl and Sycamore

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Divorce Machine Rolls Full Speed Ahead In Court

Judge Delays Signing Decree Until Support Angle Is Investigated

Quitting the criminal docket last Friday, the Martin County Superior Court, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn of Jackson presiding, Monday cranked up its divorce machine and the bonds of matrimony were shattered in rapid order.

But all the divorces were not granted without close questioning by the jurist who delayed signing a judgment in one case until he could investigate "if the divorce will affect support allowed the plaintiff's estranged wife." The judgment was later signed.

In another case Judge Burgwyn rapped down on a plaintiff who played the case silently. Walter Godard, colored man, in his case against Delzora Godard, said he had five children, that he gave them some support when he happened to pass their way. "It reminds me of the tramp, who went to a home begging for a meal," Judge Burgwyn said. "The lady of the house suggested that the tramp saw some wood, but the tramp explained he was so weak he would have to eat first. Given the meal, the tramp was advised by the lady of the house that she had to go up town and expected to find the wood sawed upon her return. A note was found attached to the saw bench and it read, 'Tell 'em you saw me but did not see me saw.'" The little story apparently fitted Godard's case.

Other divorces were granted, as follows:

John Long from Ada Long, Beatrice Ellis Rackley from Raymond Rackley, Samuel Clark from Ruby Clement Clark, Abram Jones from Lizzie Jones, Ben Frank Roberson from Annie Lee Roberson, James D. Bishop from Bessie Coffield Bishop, Elsie Bryant from James Edward Bryant, Carthine S. Daigle from Roman F. Daigle, Pattie Whitaker from Hubert F. Whitaker, and Daniel Webster Williams from Vinnie Bryant Williams. All of these divorces were granted on grounds of two-year separation. The divorce granted Ella Mae Northcutt in her case against Joseph M. Northcutt was based on adultery, the plaintiff offering depositions to support her case.

Seven of the plaintiffs in the

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QUITE ILL

Taken sick while conducting a series of special services in the Jamesville Christian Church the early part of last week, Rev. James M. Perry continues quite ill at his home in Robersonville. Reports reaching here stated that possibly he had suffered a stroke and that complications had resulted. However, the well-known and popular county minister was said to be a "little brighter" this morning.

Speeds Through State To Lessen Danger From Polio

Any number of excuses have been offered, but Humberto Medrano, 76-A, Third Avenue, Havana, Cuba, offered a new one to Patrolman M. F. Powers yesterday afternoon when he explained that he was speeding in an effort to get across North Carolina as quickly as possible and lessen the danger of being seized upon by polio. Medrano said he spent the night in Norfolk where he was told North Carolina was plagued by polio, that he was advised to go through in a hurry, Medrano admitting in broken English that he was trying to go like an arrow.

Said to have been traveling about 70 miles an hour when Patrolman Powers clocked him, Medrano admitted that he took chances in passing cars on curves, but he was fairly certain that any

danger he created was to be preferred to exposure to polio. The patrolman explained that the polio threat possibly had been over-rated, and Medrano without complaining retraced about five miles of the route to post bond in the sum of \$37.50. It was well understood that he'll not be in the county for trial next Monday in Judge Smith's court.

It was brought out during the friendly questioning by the officer that Medrano was a lawyer and a large plantation owner in Cuba, that his property had been damaged by the recent hurricane and he was in a hurry to get home from a visit in New York and survey his loss.

The speedometer on his car was geared for kilometer readings instead of the regular mileage figures.

To Work For Sweet Potato Market In Martin County

Holding a special meeting on Thursday, October 7, the Martin County Farm Bureau executive committee and membership canvassers will discuss plans for establishing a recognized outlet for the county's sweet potato crop. The group is calling on specialists to appear before the meeting for a discussion of the marketing problem.

It has been pointed out that Martin County sweet potato growers have been, more or less, dependent on itinerant buyers who come and go at random, leaving the producers without a stable market. The absence of a regular market is costing potato growers in this county considerable money, it was pointed out. It was also explained that this county produces potatoes in sufficient quantity to warrant the establishment of a regular market.

Reports maintain that the county is producing one of its best potato crops this year.

At a meeting of the Farm Bureau canvassers in the county courthouse last Friday evening, it was reported that the current membership drive is progressing very well. Only five canvassers reported their work at the time, but the secretary, Farmer Mayo Hardison, said that the membership count had been boosted to 461. The drive is very encouraging, Canvasser H. U. Peel stated that farmers, recognizing there is a determined fight brewing against agriculture, were rallying behind the organization and making ready to fight back, if necessary. Farmer Billy Cratt, anxious to do his part, bought memberships for himself, his wife and their five children. "If all farmers did that well, or half that well, there'd be no farm problem in this county next year or the next."

Tobacco Prices Set New Record for Year

Sales Pass Seven Million Pounds On Market Today

Between 75 and 80 Percent of Crop In This Section Been Marketed

Prices climbed to the highest point of the season on Williamston's Tobacco Market yesterday when 279,902 pounds of the leaf were sold for \$149,721.79, an average of \$53.49 per hundred pounds. The average was 35 points above the \$53.14 figure recorded on opening day, and about seven cents higher than the average for the season to date.

Reports from the market yesterday stated that the American company was unusually active, but that the others were furnishing some keen competition as prices climbed up to 70 cents. Averages well up in the sixties were numerous, but there were a few individual lots that held to the low side where the prices possibly were some stronger than they were at one time. Despite a few low individual averages, the market was really bullish, the patrons revealing prosperity smiles more readily than at any other time this season.

Sales through yesterday amounted to 6,936,704 pounds, averaging \$46.72. To date the market has paid out \$3,240,863.16. During the first 27 sales days of last season, the market here sold 6,525,802 pounds for a \$40 price average, the sales in the comparative period this year leading by about 400,000 pounds and the price average holding almost a 7-cent advantage. Sales today pushed the total for the season to date to over seven million pounds.

It is now estimated that between 75 and 80 percent of the crop has been sold in this immediate section, some observers declaring that hardly more than 15 percent of the crop remains to be marketed.

County Girl Wins 4-H Dress Revue

Miss Edith Rogerson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Rogerson, and member of the 4-H club at Bear Grass, won the district dress revue, it was announced here this week. She competed with county winners from Northeastern Carolina and will compete with winners in six other districts for state honors. If she is successful in the next competition she will get a free trip to the National 4-H Club Congress to be held in Chicago.

The winner modeled a gray chambray dress, making a hat and purse to match. She was complimented on the neatness, construction and suitability of her outfit.

Mystery Angle To Attack With Gun Aired At Hearing

Simon Jenkins Placed Under \$350 Bond For Attack On Kelly Wilkins

The alleged pistol attack on Kelly Wilkins by Simon Jenkins in Robersonville ten days ago entered the mystery realm last Friday evening when witnesses, testifying in Justice of the Peace R. T. Johnson's court at Williamston, denied seeing or hearing a pistol fire. At the same time, the victim of the attack displayed a scalp wound, glazed allegedly by a pistol bullet.

Taking the stand, Wilkins said he left Williamston to visit his mother in Robersonville, that he continued to the old park, presumably to buy liquor. Unintentionally he met his estranged wife. "We split a difference and Simon Jenkins said he would settle it," Wilkins said that he and two other boys bought two half-pints of bootleg liquor from Jenkins, that had it not been for Jute Hampton, Jenkins would have killed him.

The estranged wife, Emma Wilkins, reviewed the case and introduced a second woman, Mary L. Jones. "I caught the Jones girl and my husband shut up in a room at our house in Williamston. He did not have time to get on his clothes. A quarrel resulted and I took my baby and left about two weeks ago," she said. The wife took an apartment in Robersonville right next to Simon Jenkins. The husband went there, entered Jenkins' room, and came out fuming, the woman stating that when he attacked her she ran to a neighbor's home. Later he attacked her again, the wife declared, and she ran a second time, declaring that she saw no pistol and did not hear one fire.

Ann Wright said she was right there but saw no gun.

Willie J. Wright said, "All I knows is they were fighting," adding that he neither saw nor heard a pistol fire.

Jenkins denied the attack, declaring that he did not even own a gun.

Up until that point, Wilkins was the only witness who said

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Crusade Donations Are Acknowledged

After getting off to a slow start, the drive to raise \$2,500 in this county for the helpless, starving children of war-torn countries is gaining momentum, Mrs. N. C. Green, treasurer, reports.

Drive chairman, Mayor Robt. Cowen, expressed the opinion yesterday that the amount could be easily raised if the people of the county could only realize the urgent and pitiful need of the millions of little children. There has been some difficulty in getting canvassers to carry to the appeal to the people, but contributions will be gladly received by the treasurer and acknowledged.

The first contributions received by the treasurer are acknowledged, as follows:

Williamston Chamber of Commerce, \$12.13; Williamston Baptist Union Church School, \$66.06; Williamston Kiwanis Club, \$32.00; Mrs. A. R. Dunning, \$5.00; Holliness Church, \$35.08; Gaylord Harrison, \$5.00; Belk-Tyler Co., \$5.00; Mrs. Hugh G. Horton, \$1.00; G. G. Woolard, \$5.00; Mrs. G. H. Harrison, \$2; Mrs. Bob Cone, \$1; Mrs. L. B. Harrison, \$3; Mrs. Sallie Jones, 50c; J. Gurganus, 50c; Mrs. Harcum Grimes, \$1; Clark's Pharmacy, \$3; B. A. Critcher, Sr., \$2; Willard Shoe Shop, \$1; A. J. Manning, \$3.50; Whit Saunders, \$1; B. S. Courtney, \$3; R. L. Bolling, \$1; Geo. Reynolds Hotel, \$1; Bill Carstarph, \$1; Norman Harrison, \$4; Jim Staton Ayers, \$1; Ann's Specialty Shop, \$2; Bill Manning, \$2; F. M. Manning, \$5; Burras Critcher, Jr., 50c; V. E. P. Co., \$5; Sam Zemon, \$5; Pittman's, \$5; Guaranty Bank and Trust Co., \$5; Woolard's Hardware \$1; Branch Bank and Trust Co., \$5; Davis Pharmacy, \$5; Central Cafe, \$2; L. V. Baker, \$1; Miller's, \$1; collected at warehouse booth (Thursday), \$26.12. Total \$268.30.

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