

Judge Smith Hears Thirty-Four Cases In County's Court

Fines Imposed At Session Monday Exceed \$1,000; Four Go To Roads

In a long session of the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday, Judge J. Calvin Smith called thirty-four cases, imposed fines amounting to \$1,075 and meted out road sentences total 27 months and six days. The court was in session until well into late afternoon, and attracted an unusually large number of spectators during the early hours.

Nearly one-fourth or eight of the cases charged drunken driving. Solicitor Paul D. Roberson scoring convictions in all of them. Officers declare that drunken driving is no more prevalent now than it was, explaining that the patrolmen are just catching more of them. It is apparent that the drunken driver now stands a good chance of being caught.

Proceedings: Adjudged guilty of larceny, Lee Rollins was sentenced to the roads for twelve months. He appealed and bond was required in the sum of \$300.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Aaron Council was fined \$100, taxed with the costs and had his license revoked for one year.

Pleading not guilty, William L. Hollis was adjudged guilty of drunken, careless and reckless driving and was fined \$100, taxed with the costs and had his license revoked for twelve months. He appealed and bond was fixed at \$100.

Charged with careless and reckless driving, Lee Person was adjudged not guilty.

Ralph Gene Gardner was found not guilty of reckless and careless driving.

Pleading guilty of assault, Emanuel Stancill was fined \$15 and required to pay the costs.

Fred James Calloway, charged with simple assault, was fined \$20 and taxed with the costs.

Papers were issued for his arrest when Little Bud Pittman failed to appear and answer in the case charging him with an assault.

The case charging Lindsley Earl Spruill with bastardy was dismissed.

Adjudged guilty of non-support over his plea of innocence, James Ramsey, Jr., was sentenced to the roads for six months. The court suspended the road term upon the payment of the costs, \$25 now and \$5 a week for one year for the support of his family.

Frank Moore was fined \$100, taxed with the costs and had his driver's license revoked for one year for drunken driving.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Archie Hardison, colored, was fined \$100, required to pay the costs and lost his operator's license for one year.

Dallas Taylor and Richard Edmondson, pleading guilty of being publicly drunk, were each fined \$20 and taxed with the costs.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case charging Lloyd L. Anderson with careless and reckless driving. The defendant pleaded guilty.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Lewis Perry pleaded guilty and was sentenced to jail for five days, fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

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RAINFALL

For the second straight year frequent rains have interrupted the peanut harvest in this area during October and the early days of November. Last month 5.55 inches of rain fell here and during the first ten days of this month nearly three inches were recorded at the river weather station. In November last year 7.33 inches of rain fell, playing havoc with the peanut harvest.

Unusually warm weather has accompanied the heavier-than-usual rains, aggravating the bad conditions surrounding the peanut harvest.

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Peanut Festival Junior Queens And King



Gathered around their prize—twenty-six pounds of choice quality tobacco donated by Rossell Rogers—Little Miss Jackie Leggett (left), one of the Peanut Festival junior queens, Kenneth Manning, junior king, and Little Miss Emma Peel, another junior queen of the festival, take time out for a picture before the tobacco is sold at auction. Mr. Norwood Thomas purchased the tobacco paying an even dollar a pound for it. The event attracted much attention.

Albemarle Church Passes Following Conference Is Held Here This Week

Over Two Hundred Delegates From Two States In Attendance

By Booker T. Medford
Conference Reporter

The 38th session of the Albemarle Conference of the A. M. E. Zion Church opening here yesterday at Williams Chapel Church on Rhodes Street, was welcomed by Mayor Robert Cowen of Williamston. The mayor was applauded as he entered the church and was soon presented by Bishop H. T. Medford, presiding Bishop of the Conference. The mayor expressed his delight with the fact that an assembly of religious intent selected Williamston for its annual meeting.

In his welcome remarks, the mayor said: "This type of meeting with a religious motive and intent should be held more universally, for if such were the case, our world would not be in its present state of confusion." The mayor expressed his firm belief in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and commended such to us all for daily practice and not just one day a week. The mayor further stated that "the crux of all the religions that he had ever read about could be boiled down to the words: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you' and that the violation of this rule has been the cause of all our social and religious ills; for, as the mayor concluded, 'God created all mankind out of one blood.'"

The opening session of the conference was convened Wednesday at 11 a. m. and was largely attended by ministers and laymen, Bishop H. T. Medford, presiding. The Rev. M. F. Gregory, of the A. M. E. Zion Church of Sunbury, N. C., delivered the morning message. Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Bishop and more than 150 from two states participated.

In the annual address this morning, Bishop Medford stressed the importance of education for his race and the need of the church to take its place as an active factor in the promotion of such. Said the Bishop: "The church has not used all its power for the promotion of good until its influence is felt in all the areas

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Months of Illness

Sam Bennett, two and one-half years of age, died at the home of his parents, James and Odell Fagan Bennett, in Poplar Point Township last Saturday evening following months of declining health. Funeral services were held at the home Tuesday afternoon and interment was in Poplar Point Cemetery.

The child was taken ill early last summer and was treated by members of the medical profession in this county and later removed to a Washington hospital. While he had the symptoms of poliomyelitis, attending physicians in the county and at the hospital did not diagnose the disease as polio. The little fellow was later carried to Duke where his ailment was first diagnosed as polio, but about ten days or two weeks later, the doctors said the child did not have polio, that he was suffering with leukemia. He continued in the hospital for a while and was returned home some over two weeks ago.

Last Thursday the child's condition became worse, and, as a last resort, the parents are said to have carried him to a "faith doctor" in or near Robersonville. Last Saturday afternoon he was said to be getting along very well, but was taken worse suddenly that afternoon, dying several hours later at 9:00 o'clock.

Besides his parents he is survived by a sister.

Joins Woman's Auxiliary Corps

(Miami Herald)

Second girl from this area to join the Women's Army Corps this fall is Miss Alberta Knox.

She was sworn in recently by Capt. Thomas Murphy and has gone to Camp Lee, Va., for her basic training.

Miss Knox has been an X-ray technician at Jackson Memorial hospital for the past year and will go into X-ray work in the WAC.

The daughter of Mrs. W. A. Knox, Williamston, N. C., whom she visited before reporting to Camp Lee, Alberta took her training at the Franklin School of Science and Art in Philadelphia, Pa., and interned at the Park View hospital, Rocky Mount, N. C.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

The number of automobile accidents on the streets and highways of this county reached a new high record for a seven-day period this year when nine wrecks were reported during the first seven days of November. The activities of the week shot the totals to new highs except for the death column figures which trailed by one the count made during the first 45 weeks of last year.

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.

45th Week			
Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge	1948	1947	1946
9 8 0 \$ 1,566	9	8	0
3 0 0 675	3	0	0
Comparisons To Date			
125 71 2 \$30,035	125	71	2
121 56 3 26,635	121	56	3

Name Committee To Appraise Land

Jim Gray, Vance Roberson and Jim Daniel were named recently by Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne to appraise five acres of land for a playground for the Robersonville schools. It could not be learned when the committee will make the appraisal.

The appointment of the appraisal committee was handled as a part of proceedings to condemn five acres of the Stevenson land for a playground.

Add Few More Dollars To Fund For Children

Twelve dollars were added to the fund for hungry little children yesterday when a friend donated \$2 and the Rhodes-Harris Clinic contributed \$10.

The fund, sponsored by the United Nations for starving children in war stricken countries, now has \$1,155.72 in this county, according to Mrs. N. C. Green, chairman.

It isn't too late to contribute to the worthy cause, but the treasurer is anxious to complete the drive and forward the total check to headquarters and those who would lend a helping hand are asked to forward their contributions as early as possible.

Hamilton Church Has Homecoming

The annual homecoming service in the Hamilton Baptist Church last Sunday attracted a large congregation, including former members from two states and several from as far away as Statesville, N. C., and Portsmouth, Virginia.

The Ross Baptist Church of Windsor sent its singers. Rev. J. K. Henderson of Scotland Neck was the only former pastor to return for the homecoming service. Revs. J. R. Everett and W. O. Andrews, former pastors, sent greetings.

The homecoming program climaxed a 10-day revival meeting which was conducted by the pastor, Rev. E. R. Stewart. Eighteen new members were added during the series of revival services.

A big picnic dinner was served and the free will offering amounted to \$961.50. Work on the new educational plant will be resumed soon, the pastor announced.

Little Activity On Peanut Mart

Picking operations delayed by rains and extremely warm weather, the local peanut market has seen little activity in the past few days. About all the marketable peanuts picked before the recent rains have moved to market, leaving a few scattered lots here and there in the county.

The first real "peanut weather" struck here last night and with its continuation picking operations can be resumed possibly the early part of next week.

It is estimated that between twenty and twenty-five percent of the crop has been picked, a greater portion of which has already moved to market with prices averaging around \$0.75 per hundred pounds. Picked dry and properly handled, the remainder of the crop, said to be of better quality, is expected to average 11 cents or better.

Divorce Action Filed In Superior Court Tuesday

A suit for an absolute divorce was filed in the Martin County Superior Court last Tuesday by Lillie B. Ruffin against Larry T. Ruffin. The complaint states they were married in July, 1941, and alleged they separated in June of the following year.

Highway Workers Hear Convention Story Last Night

To Ask Legislature To Wipe Out Inequalities And Consider Salaries

Meeting in the Martin County Prison Camp dining room here last evening approximately 190 highway department employees heard a report on the N. C. Highway Employees' Association convention held in Asheville and heard talks by Association President Earl Crump, Representatives A. Corey of Martin and Wayland Spruill of Bertie and other visitors.

District Engineer J. C. Parkin was toastmaster and the group enjoyed a delicious meal paid for and prepared by the association forces.

Mr. Parkin recognized the guests, including Mr. Pope, vice chairman of Unit I of the association; C. F. Gore, chairman; Otis Banks, secretary-treasurer; Dr. V. E. Brown, prison physician, and others.

Mr. Banks told the meeting that the association now had 5,870 active members and that the count would exceed 6,000 soon.

The president, Mr. Crump, made a timely talk, stating that the association was interested in human machinery that makes the highway department tick. He pointed out that much had been said about care of equipment and material and how the work should be carried on. "But there is more than equipment and material to be considered; it is the human element that needs attention," Mr. Crump said. "One of the main things to be corrected is the cat and dog fights that are going on between the department heads and the director of the budget bureau," the speaker said, explaining that it would be to the advantage to the departments and the State to have these misunderstandings settled.

"We are not asking the Legislature to do anything that is unfair, unjust or unreasonable," Mr. Crump said in explaining the work handled by the recent convention. "In the personnel bill we are suggesting that a personnel department be established separate and apart from the budget bureau, for such a personnel department could eliminate some of the difficulties. The satisfactory employee, under the terms of the proposal, would receive salary increase annually until maximum is reached," the president said, pointing out that some workers had been with the commission 16 to 20 years and are not yet receiving the maximum allowed in their classification.

"We have mentioned no figures, but we think it only fair that salary increases comparable to the increase in living costs should be considered, and we think any salary increase should be made retroactive to July 1," he said, explaining that many workers were not now receiving enough to make both ends meet, that retroactive pay would help get them even.

Representative-elect A. Corey talked to the group, commented very favorably on the bill. He advanced the opinion that it will meet with favor and promised to do the best he could for it.

"It's time for every State employee to get relief," Representative Spruill said, advising the workers to go and ask for salaries commensurate with their work. Mr. Spruill told about a proposal advanced at a meeting in Raleigh a short time ago to spend several million dollars enlarging the State Fair. "I told them at that meeting, that while they proposed to spend three million for the State Fair, North Carolina has no place for a child chained to a bed in one of the towns I'll pass through on my home tonight. There are hundreds on the list, waiting to get into mental institutions. If you will first help get a place for our mentally ill and raise salaries of the underpaid school teachers and the state workers, I'll consider supporting the State Fair program," Mr. Spruill said.

H. G. Horton, talking briefly, said that the association had a good program, that it had been (Continued on page six)

Ask \$32,500 Result Of Highway Accident

BIG CHANGE

After holding to record high figures for several days, the mercury tumbled off its high perch last night and got down into the readings more in keeping with the season. The mercury dropped from 72 degrees reasonably late Wednesday night to 40 degrees early this morning.

The change was accompanied between 11:30 p. m. and 12:30 a. m. with fairly strong winds, the product possibly of a small hurricane moving off the Carolina Coast. The mercury drop is traceable mainly to a mass of cold air moving down from the north.

Fifteen Cases In Justices of Peace Courts This Week

Justices Hassell and Johnson Impose Fines In the Amount of \$110

Handling fifteen cases in their courts this week, Justices R. T. Johnson and John L. Hassell imposed fines amounting to \$110 and meted out several jail and road sentences. The docket included a varied list of cases, including hunting without permits and licenses, drunkenness.

Cases handled by Justice Johnson include the following: James Hardison and Essie Ruth Beacham, public drunkenness, were each fined \$15 and taxed with \$5.85 costs.

Hassell Warren and J. Hosea Bland, hunting without license, were fined \$10 each, plus \$5.85 costs.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper equipment, Hubert F. Leggett was fined \$5 and taxed with the costs.

Lazarus Williams was required to pay \$5.85 costs for public drunkenness.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of \$5.85 costs in the case charging Samuel M. Beacham with operating a motor vehicle with improper equipment.

James Calloway was taxed with \$5.85 costs for being publicly drunk.

Charged with public drunkenness, L. L. Britt was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the term for twelve months upon the payment of a \$5 fine and \$5.85 costs.

Justice Hassell handled the following cases in his court: Jasper Rogers, Jesse James, Sidney Lewis and Charlie Hoard, Jr., charged with hunting on land without permission, were each fined \$10 and taxed with \$6.50 costs.

Charged with being drunk and down, Clarence Pate was fined \$5 and required to pay \$9.50 costs.

Drunk and disorderly, Jesse Rascoe was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the term on good behavior for one year and the payment of \$9.50 costs.

Andrew Harmon was fined \$5 and taxed with \$9.50 costs for being drunk and disorderly.

Officers Destroy Plant In County

Believing that the illicit liquor business is on the wane in this county, ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck with his assistant, Roy Peel, nevertheless is able to find a crude manufacturing plant now and then.

Raiding in the Oak City section of the county last week, the officers found and wrecked a crude liquor plant, equipped with a 50-gallon oil drum still, three beer vats containing 150 gallons of beer, cooler and worm. The still, in operation the night before, was still warm when the officers found it.

File Damage Suits In Superior Court Here Last Tuesday

Robt. Cowen Named Administrator of James White Estate

Damage suits, asking \$32,500 and growing out of a truck wreck on the Roanoke River fill near here on November 1, were filed in the Martin County Superior Court this week by Robert H. Cowen, administrator of James White's estate, Josephine White, Annie Mae Bankston and Mary Elizabeth White by her next friend, Robt. Cowen, against C. Hudson, truck owner.

Cowen was named administrator by Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne when James White's widow, Josephine, renounced her rights to administer the estate.

In the complaints filed by Attorney Elbert S. Peel this week it was stated that the plaintiff's intestate, prior to November 1, 1948, was employed as a truck crop harvester by the defendant, C. Hudson. It is further claimed that according to the terms of a contract between White and the defendant, the defendant was to furnish White transportation to his home in Bell Glade, Florida, from the vicinity of Mount Vernon, Maryland. It is further pointed out in the complaint that White boarded a truck belonging to the defendant on October 31 for the trip home, that the defendant placed John Ross in charge of the truck. It is also claimed that the driver of the truck acted in a careless and reckless manner and while intoxicated ran the truck off the river fill and turned it over two times into the swamp, fatally injuring White, and that the man's death was caused by the carelessness and negligence of the defendant and his agents.

The estate is asking \$15,000 damages.

In the case of Mary Elizabeth White, 10-year-old daughter of the Whites who suffered broken ribs, crushed chest, numerous bruises and lacerations and shock, \$5,000 is being asked for personal injuries and hospital expenses.

Josephine White, the widowed mother who suffered a broken pelvis bone, internal injuries, numerous bruises and shock, is asking \$7,500 in her suit against the defendant Hudson.

Suffering injuries to her head and back, shock, bruises and lacerations in addition to internal injuries, Annie Mae Bankston, another passenger in the truck, is asking for \$5,000 damages.

Milton Sturgis, colored man of Virginia and driver of the ill-fated truck, is being held in the Bertie County jail where he is to face trial for manslaughter, drunken and reckless driving. He was given a preliminary hearing Tuesday and ordered held for Superior court in Bertie.

Hudson, owner of the truck, has, for some unknown reason, not been here to investigate the accident first hand. He was to have come here last Friday and then he said he would be here Tuesday of this week, but reports said he did not report to Red Cross officials or to the hospital that day. During the meantime the Red Cross acted to relieve the (Continued on page six)

NEW RECORD

Up until this week Farmer Joe Perry of Williams Township held the record for a late peanut harvest, but that record has been smashed. Late reports from Jamesville Township state that Farmer Monford Griffin there had four acres he was planning on digging this week. No late report could be had but it is likely that the rains this week delayed the operation.

The report stated that the quality of the "winter" crop was very good.