

Thirty-Four Cases Are Heard Monday In County's Court

Six-Month Prison Sentence Invoked Against Woman Defendant

Handling thirty-four cases in less than two and one-half hours, Judge Chas. H. Manning meted out several road sentences and imposed fines in the sum of \$585.00 last Monday in the Martin County Recorder's Court. Thirteen of the cases charged defendants with speeding while several others were in court for allegedly not having their vehicles inspected. And it is fairly apparent that some motor vehicle operators still think drivers' licenses are not needed in this state.

Proceedings: Russell Cullipher, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, had his case continued until February 28 under prayer for judgment.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, James Norman Hollis was fined \$100, taxed with the cost and had his driver's license revoked for a year.

Levon Stokes, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a license, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with assaulting a female, Willie Gorham was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs. His wife, the prosecuting witness, advised the court that she wanted to drop the whole thing, but the plea was not recognized.

Adjudged guilty of bastardy over his plea maintaining innocence, Lonnie Lee was sentenced to the roads for twelve months. The term was suspended on condition that he pay \$20 a month during the next twelve months for the support of his two children. Notice of appeal was given and bond was required in the sum of \$100.

Pleading guilty of non-support, Willie Boston was sentenced to the roads for three months, the court suspending the sentence on condition that he pay \$5 a week for the support of his children.

William B. Hudgin was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

In the case charging Walter Wilson Knight and William Henry Harris with assaults with deadly weapons, Harris was found not guilty. Adjudged guilty, Knight was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Robert Byther Vick was fined \$100, taxed with the cost and had his driver's license revoked for a year.

Elbert Modlin and Charlie Griffin, charged with being drunk and disorderly, were sentenced to the roads for three months when they were unable to pay \$25 fines and costs.

Pleading guilty of non-support, Robert Louis Davis was directed to pay the costs and \$25 a month for the support of his two children.

In the court last October on a fornication and adultery charge, Cora Bennett was at that time sentenced to woman's prison for six months. The term was suspended on condition that she remain in the county for and serve the county. Last Monday she was in court on an assault-with-deadly-weapon charge. The court suspended judgment on that charge and invoked sentence pronounced in the first case.

William Jones, acting a bit indignant, was sentenced to the roads for sixty days for issuing a worthless check.

WARNING

A last warning has been issued to motor vehicle owners that they will make themselves subject to prosecution in the courts if they display old license tags on their vehicles after next Monday.

Those owners in town who do not display town license tags on their vehicles after Monday will also be subjected to prosecution in the courts.

"Look! I can walk again"

Join the **MARCH OF DIMES**

JANUARY 14-31

FIGHT INFANTILE PARALYSIS

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS

URGENT APPEAL

With contributions falling considerably below expectations, Chairman L. B. Wynne today directed an urgent appeal to all Martin County citizens, urging them to support the infantile paralysis fund during the last few days of the drive.

So far only \$610. has been received by direct mail, an amount well under the contributions received a year ago. To help carry the drive over the \$4,700 goal, contributions by mail will have to approximate \$1,200 or \$1,500.

The Hamilton colored school, the first school in the county to make a report, submitted \$36.60. The contribution from that source is encouraging, the chairman said, but in some of the high schools the drive has hardly been mentioned and the pleas, unfortunately, have been treated very lightly, it was declared.

Insurance Death Benefits Greater

American families received \$118,358,000 in life insurance death benefits from their life insurance companies in November, 17 percent more than corresponding payments in November of the previous year, the Institute of Life Insurance reports. This brought to \$1,315,378,000 the total death benefit payments in the first eleven months of the year, 8 percent more than in the corresponding period of 1947.

Greatest gain in the payments other than death benefits was in policy cash surrender value payments, which were \$36,133,000 in November, up 37 percent from the corresponding month of the previous year. The eleven month figure for such payments was \$419,052,000, up 24 percent over the previous year. These payments are still running materially lower than pre-war, however, with surrender payment for the entire year 1948 expected to be one-third less than 1940 payments.

To Stage Vaudeville Next Thursday Night

"The Home Town Revue," an old-fashioned vaudeville, will be presented Thursday evening, February 3 at 8:15 in the High School auditorium. The musical, whose cast is made up mostly of PTA members, will be directed by Mrs. Beecher Patterson and sponsored by the Junior and Senior Glee Clubs.

Adult tickets are 75c and children will be admitted for 35c. The proceeds from the Revue will be used to buy vestments for the Glee Clubs. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Nine Cases Heard In Justice Court

Justice John L. Hassell and R. T. Johnson handled nine cases in their courts here recently.

Tried by Justice Hassell, LeRoy Brewington, charged with disorderly conduct, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Thomas Mason was bound over to the county court under \$100 bond.

Drunk and disorderly, James Willis Lloyd was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, Justice Hassell suspending the term upon the payment of \$7.50 costs and pledged good behavior for one year.

Justice Johnson handled the following cases: Charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper lights, Richard Allen Reese was fined \$5 and taxed with \$5.85 costs.

James Williams, colored, charged with failing to stop at a road intersection, was taxed with \$5.85 costs.

John C. Grantham was fined \$5 and taxed with \$5.85 costs for operating a motor vehicle with improper lights.

Charged with disturbing the peace, Thurman James was found not guilty.

Publicly drunk in Jamesville, James David Lilley was taxed with \$6.85 costs.

Charged with an assault, Annie Purvis was fined \$10 and Eunice Oden was taxed with \$6.15 costs.

4-H Clubs Plan Annual Program

The Martin County 4-H Clubs will have their annual program on Saturday, January 29th, at 2:30 p. m. in the courthouse. At this time the awards for outstanding work in each project field will be made. The cups presented to the 4-H Clubs by the Williamston Lions Club, will also be awarded to the boy and girl in Martin County who has achieved most this year.

Reports on the special events during the year will be given by club members. There will be entertainment for the group given by fellow club members.

The public and parents of the boys and girls are cordially invited.

Make Application For Radio Station Permit

An application was filed this week by S. S. Adcock for a permit to open a radio broadcasting station in Williamston. Few details could be learned, but unofficial reports state that Adcock has opened one or more stations in other areas of the State.

INSTALLING PUMP

Pumping equipment is being installed for a new well here and the new unit will be in operation shortly.

State Specialists Here Tuesday for Livestock School

Farmers Urged To Attend School And Hear Timely Topics Discussed

An important livestock school will be held in the courthouse for Martin County farmer next Tuesday from 10:00 a. m. until 3:00 p. m. with an hour set aside for lunch at 12:15. It was announced this week by Farm Agent Tommy Brandon.

Offering the latest recognized practices in raising hogs, cattle and sheep, including their feeding, care and management, the school or meeting will be conducted by able specialists from the State Extension Service in Raleigh, Brandon said.

Opening the meeting at 10:00 o'clock that morning, Agent T. B. Brandon will briefly review the livestock situation in this county and introduce the specialists.

At 10:15 o'clock, John Whitfield, Market Specialist for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, will discuss the outlook for beef cattle, hogs and sheep in this section of the State.

Paul Swaffer, of the Extension Service, will outline feeding and management of beef cattle at 10:45 o'clock.

A thirty-minute moving picture, showing the latest methods of livestock feeding, will be run in time for the school to recess for lunch at 12:15.

Resuming the school at 1:15 o'clock that afternoon, Jack Kelly will discuss feeding and management of hogs.

L. I. Case at 2:00 o'clock will discuss feeding and management of sheep, and he will be followed by J. T. Conner who will talk about diseases and parasites in livestock.

Agent Brandon pointed out that it is very important that every farmer interested in livestock attend the school and get in touch with the latest in livestock raising. The farm agent is anxious to have a packed courthouse for the school. Very few schools of the type are being held in the State, and farmers are fortunate to have the opportunity to attend one at home.

Three Arrested In Peanut Case

Three young colored men, Joe Clark, Henderson and Grover Moore, were arrested in the Dardens section early today in connection with the theft of eight bags of peanuts from Farmer Dennis Coburn.

Leon Sykes, tenant on the Coburn farm, heard a noise around the peanut shelter about 4:00 o'clock and immediately notified his landlord. Officers were called and bloodhounds from the local prison camp picked up a track, leading to a spot in the woods about 300 yards away where the peanuts were found. The dogs then continued to a small house where the three were found. They denied the charge but their boot soles matched the tracks around the peanut shelter.

Corn Producing Champions Guests At Raleigh Banquet

(Robersonville Herald) At the regular group meeting of Agriculture teachers in Creswell on Wednesday, January 12, it was announced that Robersonville had the winning F. F. A. member in the Tyrrell-Washington and Martin County Group in the hybrid corn yield contest sponsored by the North Carolina Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., and the Extension Department. Robersonville was also credited with the winning veteran trainee in the three counties.

The winners, Benny Ross of the Robersonville F. F. A. Chapters, with a yield of 110 bushels per acre, and Vance Bennett of the Robersonville veterans groups, with a yield of 119 bushels per acre, accompanied by their instructors, Mr. J. E. Mullen and Mr. Carroll Whichard, attended a

James Edmondson Found Dead Here At Noon Tuesday

Funeral Yesterday In Hamilton for Retired Prison Camp Superintendent

James Ebenezer Edmondson, retired superintendent of the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission prison camp near Williamston, was found dead in bed at his home on North Elm Street here yesterday by Mrs. Edmondson when she returned home at noon from her work in the Proctor Shop. The apparent victim of a stroke of paralysis, he is believed to have died between 10 and 11 o'clock that morning.

He was sleeping when Mrs. Edmondson left the home that morning and apparently was getting along very well. Neighbors saw him moving around the yard later in the morning, enjoying the summerday sunshine. He returned to his room and retired about 10 o'clock.

Mr. Edmondson had been in declining health for about eight years, suffering his first stroke at that time while serving as superintendent of the camp. He was able to return to his work after that stroke, but another one followed and he was forced to retire. He suffered a third stroke before he was fatally stricken Tuesday morning.

The son of the late Ebenezer and Cottie Martin Edmondson, he was born in Hamilton on February 28, 1884, and spent his early life there, engaging in farming as a young man and as an employee of the town for a number of years before going with the highway prison department. After serving at Scotland Neck and Greenville he came to Williamston fourteen years ago, later taking over the duties of superintendent.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Wilba Rogers; two brothers, William Edmondson of Portsmouth and J. H. Edmondson of Plymouth; three sisters, Mrs. P. H. Davenport, Mrs. Henry Johnson, Sr., and Mrs. Robert Roebuck, all of Hamilton, several nieces and nephews.

He was a member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Hamilton and funeral services were conducted there yesterday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Rev. Sidney Matthews, Episcopal minister of Washington. Burial was in the Hamilton Cemetery.

LAST CALL

While the work is well advanced, possibly more so than at corresponding times in past years, there are yet quite a few owners who have not listed their properties and poll for taxation in this county, according to information coming from the office of Tax Supervisor M. L. Peel. Next Monday is the last day for listing property, but it is possible for owners to make special arrangements with list-takers and get their holdings on the books without penalty. No extension for listing has been allowed.

Farmer Murdered In Farm Life Yesterday

W. Tom Roberson, Victim Of Attack, Dies In Hospital

John R. Coltrain, Facing Murder Charge, Surrendered Today

W. Tom Roberson, well-known county citizen and a leading farmer in the Farm Life section of Griffins Township, was fatally shot while working in the logwoods near his home yesterday morning shortly before 8:00 o'clock by John R. Coltrain, neighbor farmer. The victim, an entire load of buck shot in his right arm and right side, died a few minutes after he was entered in a Washington hospital for treatment.

Coltrain, weary after a hectic night spent in the woods a short distance from his home, surrendered to Deputies Joe H. Roebuck and Murray Holloman shortly before noon today in a woods just back of the house at the request of his boys and just before a posse started to move into the woods. It was reported that he had contacted members of the family late last night but warned them that he was not ready to surrender at that time. He spent the night just a few hundred yards from the house and told officers that he got mighty cold.

After he was taken into custody, Coltrain said that Officer Joe Roebuck had moved by him at a close distance twice yesterday, that he wanted to say something but just "choked up" each time. Deputy Holloman also passed within a few feet of him yesterday afternoon, Coltrain said.

Coltrain also stated that he saw Deputies Holloman and Roy Peel washing their hands and faces when they made ready to eat supper at his home last evening, and added that he was glad they could eat there even if he couldn't.

Officers met him a short distance from the house after two of his sons had contacted him and arranged the surrender, but Coltrain said he would not come out of the woods until all other officers and members of the posse had moved away. When he surrendered Coltrain carried much of the ammunition in his hunting jacket, but one of his sons was carrying the automatic shot gun.

It was said that Coltrain, while changing his clothes, stopped and opened his iron safe and divided what money he had with members of the family.

After firing on Tom Roberson, Coltrain turned his gun on Roberson's brother-in-law, Gabe Roberson, who sought refuge behind a tree. Coltrain then turned his gun on the victim's nephew, Henry Roberson, and advised him to get the hell out of there. During the meantime, the victim walked several hundred yards and collapsed. Help was summoned and the victim was placed in a car and carried to the hospital. When they reached Washington, Mr. Roberson told them to hurry, that he was falling fast.

Loading his automatic shot gun with buck shot, Coltrain left home shortly after seven o'clock and walked to the woods possibly a mile and one-half away. He stepped into the little logwoods path just ahead of the mules being driven by Roberson who was riding on the log wagon. Coltrain stopped the mules and asked who cut the logs the Saturday before. Roberson told him and Coltrain was quoted as saying, "Yes, g---d---you, you (so and so) and I'm going to kill you." Without further warning or words, Coltrain fired from a distance of about 12 or 15 feet. Nine of the shot entered the right arm, seven of them continuing into the victim's right side.

Seeing his father leave home with the gun, Joseph Coltrain, young man, said he suspected something was wrong and he followed a few minutes later. When he reached the scene, Roberson had already been shot, but it is believed that he was still alive.

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FUNERAL TODAY



Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon for William Thomas Roberson, prominent county citizen, who was fatally shot by John R. Coltrain in the Farm Life Community.

Speedsters Have Another Day In The County Court

Charges Are Bitterly Contested By Defendants In One Or Two Cases

Alleged speedsters had another day in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday when fourteen were called for trial.

The charges were bitterly contested by the defendants in one or two cases, but in most instances the defendants pleaded guilty, accepted the consequences and continued on their way.

Detained on a speeding charge, one of the defendants admitted he exceeded the limit, explaining that he speeded up to pass another car. The patrolman explained that a bond of \$37.05 would be necessary, and the defendant declared he did not have that kind of money. "Well, there's nothing left for me to do except put you in jail," the officer explained. "Go ahead and put me in jail," the defendant was quoted as saying. Newly made friends who felt sorry for the man offered to furnish bond, but the offer was not readily accepted and apparently little appreciated. Once in jail, the defendant talked about Hitlerian methods, fumed and fussed and abused just about everybody and everything below the Mason-Dixon Line. The bond offer was later accepted. The defendant and his wife were guests of their new friend overnight, and they continued south following the trial Monday morning and after paying a \$15 fine and costs.

Several other defendants maintained they were not speeding, but patrolmen declared they were in the case of the other defendant had clocked them for several miles at a speed in excess of 65 miles per hour.

The defendants were disposed of this week in the court, each of the defendants, facing speeding charges, being fined \$15 plus \$22.05 costs: Albert Kirchof of New York; Thomas Byrce Venable, Pocomoke City, Md.; Quinton C. Davis; Louis F. Dietz, Dumont, N. J.; Abraham Kessler, Brooklyn; Geo. G. Levy, New York; James Bruce House; Elzada M. Frost, Sheepscott, Maine; Sam Golden, Philadelphia hotel manager; Richard Mont Do-

(Continued on page eight)

Firemen Are Called To Cleaning Establishment

Volunteer firemen were called to a trash pile fire just back of the Horton Cleaners on South Sycamore Street last Tuesday afternoon at 12:45 o'clock. Cleaning fluid had been dumped on the pile of slush and blazed up, threatening near-by buildings. There was no damage.

Funeral At Maple Grove Church For W. Tom Roberson

Well-known Griffins Township Farmer Fatally Shot Near Home Yesterday

Funeral services are being conducted in the Maple Grove Church in the Farm Life Community of Griffins Township this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for William Thomas Roberson who was fatally shot in a woods near his home by John R. Coltrain early yesterday morning. His pastor, Rev. M. Luther Ambrose, is conducting the service and burial will be in the Hardison Mill Cemetery, near the home.

Mr. Roberson, well-known county citizen and a leading farmer in his community, was born in Griffins Township 55 years ago on August 11, 1893, the son of the late Noah and Martha Whitley Roberson. He lived and farmed there all his life except two years spent in the army during World War I. While in the army he spent much time overseas in France and Germany.

In 1921 he was married to Miss Minnie Roberson and she survives with three daughters, Mrs. Ray Gurganus and Mrs. Slade Peel Revels, both of Williamston, and Miss Rachel Roberson of the home. He also leaves seven brothers, Simon, Lewis, Ben, State, Archie and Arnold Roberson, all of Griffins Township, and George Roberson of Washington; four sisters, Mrs. Dawson Griffin, Mrs. Dock Hardison, Mrs. W. Jesse Griffin and Mrs. Dave Griffin, all of Griffins Township.

Mr. Roberson was a member of the Maple Grove Church for about thirty years, serving it as deacon for a long time and as an elder for about ten years. In addition to his interest in religious work he was active in the affairs of his community and county and his fellowman. He was devoted to his family and friends, always extending a helping hand to the needy and supporting the worthwhile things in life. Although his manner was unpretentious and humble, he contributed much to his community and its people. When the news of the tragedy was heard, just about all activities in the community were suspended, neighbors and other friends going to his family to do what they could.

He had ably served as tax list-taker for his township for several years and at the time of his untimely passing had just about completed the task for 1949. He also operated a lumber and grist mills with his brother-in-law.

Auto Inspection Law Defendants

No fines have been imposed as yet but defendants going into the Martin County Recorder's Court for allegedly not having their vehicles inspected are being taxed with \$12.05 costs.

Operating a borrowed trailer that had not been inspected, the man Peel was in court and was taxed with the costs which were reportedly paid by the owner.

Other defendants charged with operating vehicles that had not been inspected, include the following:

James Otis Boston, Nathan F. VanNorthwick, Jesse Allen Bell, Needham P. Wood, Dossie Williams.

Firemen Called To Home Here Yesterday

Firemen were called to the Biggs home on Biggs Street yesterday for the second time since last Friday when a chimney caught fire. There was no damage.

SUCCESSOR

No one has been mentioned as a possible candidate to succeed Mr. G. H. Harrison as a member of the local board of town commissioners. The remaining board members, charged with the duty of naming a successor, are not expected to take any action before the regularly scheduled meeting in early February.