

## Twenty-five Cases Heard In County's Court Last Monday

### Several Defendants Sentenced To Roads; Collect Over \$300 In Fines

Calling twenty-five cases, Judge Chas. H. Manning cleared the docket and adjourned the regular session of the Martin County Recorder's Court shortly before noon last Monday. Several defendants were sentenced the roads, and fines, amounting to \$335, were imposed. Proceedings:

Six defendants were in the court for operating trailers without having them inspected. Pleading guilty, the defendants were not fined but were required to pay the court costs. The defendants were, Ernest Andrews, John D. Lilley, James Willis Blanchard, Spencer Bullock, A. Otha House and J. Henry Sherrod.

Only three defendants were charged with speeding on the highways. Two, Hillery Todd, of Goldsboro, and Willie Thomas Davis, Jr., of Ojus, Florida, pleaded guilty and were fined \$15 each and taxed with the costs. Pleading not guilty, T. Scott Gilliam of Windsor, was adjudged guilty and he was fined \$15 and required to pay the costs.

Adjudged guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, James Sheppard was sentenced to the roads for ninety days.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon and gambling, Roscoe Moore pleaded guilty in both cases. On the assault charge he was sentenced to the roads for ninety days and for gambling he drew sixty days on the roads, the second sentence to begin at the expiration of the first. The court suspended the road term upon the payment of a \$35 fine and the costs.

Pleading guilty of carrying a concealed weapon, Ed Lee Salisbury was fined \$50, plus costs.

Adjudged guilty of assaulting a female, Joe Clark was sentenced to the roads for sixty days.

James Horton Smith was sentenced to the roads for sixty days for gambling.

Pleading guilty of gambling, Charlie Highsmith, Hudson Best and Bill Keel, colored, of Robersonville, were each fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with non-support, Albert Williams pleaded guilty and he was sentenced to the roads for six months. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the case costs and \$8 a week to Eva Jane Williams for the support of their five children.

Arrested the week before and held in jail in default of bond for drunken driving, David F. Brown, young soldier of Wallace, pleaded

(Continued on page five)

## County Board To Meet On Monday

In addition to their regular duties, the Martin County Commissioners are almost certain to hear liquor store profits discussed and to receive petitions for new roads and better roads. The board is to draw a jury for the March term of superior court.

New forms for submitting road petitions have been received in the county, and at least four are being prepared for submission to the board at the meeting next Monday. The new plan calls for the signatures of all owners whose property is on the road under consideration, and the petitioner must sign in the presence of a witness.

Declaring that law enforcement burdensome, citizens in the towns where no liquor stores are located plan to appeal to the board of commissioners for some relief. Officials in the store towns have discussed a plan, calling for a larger percentage of the profits. It was pointed out at a recent meeting that the county derived \$70,000 in profits from the stores last year and that there is \$18,000 in the law enforcement fund. "We believe the towns that have to contend with the drunks and maintain enforcement work should share in some of the profits," a citizen declared at the meeting.

## Fire Losses For The Past Twelve Months Are Listed

Although the calls were fairly numerous, the fire loss in Williamston last year was the smallest for any twelve month in a number of years, according to a report released a few days ago by Fire Chief G. P. Hall. There were no big fires, and only five where property losses were reported.

Volunteer firemen answered forty-four calls during the past year. Fourteen of the calls came from out of town, including several to fires just outside the town limits. A 45th call was a false alarm.

The loss on buildings was estimated at \$1,615, and damage to contents was placed at \$885, making a total loss of \$2,500. Few towns the size of Williamston had a lower property loss from fire during the year.

As usual most of the fires were confined to shingle roof tops, but even that type of fire is disappearing since building regulations call for fire proof shingles or roofing. The introduction of flue lining is also reducing the fire hazard, it was pointed out.

The volunteer firemen are appreciative of the cooperation extended them by the public during the past year and ask that it be continued. The public is reminded that it is unlawful to follow fire-fighting apparatus, that spectators can help the cause by holding their proper distance in going to and at a fire. While there was only one false alarm received last year, quite a few people ring the department by mistake.

### PLANT BEDS

Scattered reports received here this week indicate that about forty percent of the farmers have prepared and sowed their tobacco seed beds in this county.

They are preparing and planting about the same yardage as they did a year ago. Many of them are using a special seed, some to combat certain diseases and others to conform to cigarette type demands.

For the first time on record, a few farmers are treating their tobacco cloth with the expectation that it can be used several seasons.

## Marked Decrease In Marriages In The Past Month

### Number Of Licenses Issued Is Smallest For Any January In Seven Years

Dropping from a January high peak of forty-one in 1947, the number of marriage licenses issued in this county last month was the smallest for any first month since 1942, the activities on cupid's front during the period being more in keeping with the record established back in depression days when the issuance fell below a dozen. In January of last year there were thirty-three marriages in this county.

Marriage license bureau attendants in the courthouse could offer no explanation for the tremendous drop in the number of marriages, but predicted better business for the current month.

Licenses were issued last month in the county to seven white and six colored couples, as follows:

**White**  
Alonza Manning and Essie Mae Briley, both of Robersonville.  
Thomas Everett Pollard of Robersonville and Nellie Weathersby of Bethel.

(Continued on page eight)

## Call Eight Cases In The JP Courts

Justices John L. Hassell and R. T. Johnson handled eight cases in their courts here during the past few days.

Publicly drunk, W. E. Rivenbark was fined \$10 and taxed with \$9.85 costs.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs and damages in the cases charging Jim Rodgers and Pete Mendenhall with allowing stock to run at large.

Drunk and disorderly, Navin Hawkins was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the jail term on good behavior for twelve months and the payment of \$5.85 costs.

Charged with "beating" taxi fare, Wm. Davis was required to pay the \$10 fare and \$5.85 costs.

Facing Justice Hassell in his court, Henry Johnson, colored, was fined \$5 and required to pay \$5.50 costs for disorderly conduct.

## Complete Plans To Observe Boy Scout Week Here

### Two Year Program Will Be Started During The Coming Week

Plans for observance of Boy Scout week here next week were completed this morning with arrangements for use of the Woman's Club for a Father-Son banquet Wednesday night as one of the main features. A parade for all scouts of the county will be held here Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock as another feature of the observance. K. P. Lindsley, in charge of arrangements, said today.

The theme of the observance this year is, "Adventure That's Scouting," while a two-year program to strengthen "the Arm of Liberty" is planned. The main objectives are outlined as: Leadership, Program, Membership.

The following program for Williamston has been laid out by Scout Master Little Bear for Scout Troop 27 and Cub Pack 29 and by Dr. J. A. Eden for Scout Troop 29:

Saturday, Feb. 5—Decorating of windows; demonstration in store windows throughout the day by Troops 27 and 29 and Cub Pack 29.

Sunday—In observance of National Scout Sunday, Cubs and Scout Troop 27 attend the Methodist Church. Troop 27 to attend the Christian Church.

Monday—Good turn at schools. Scouts at high school, Cubs at the grammar school.

Tuesday—Cubs have 10 minute chapel exercises at the grammar school. Joint scout meeting in Troop 29 Scout room, third floor of City Hall, 7:00 p. m. Visitors invited.

Wednesday—7:00 p. m.—Father and Son Supper at Woman's Club. All Scout fathers requested to come with their sons. All members of Jaycees, Lions and Kiwanians are requested to attend to act as hosts to Cubs and Scouts, each being responsible for the meal of one Cub or Scout. Price of meal, 50c.

Thursday—Clean up Woman's Club as Good Turn for sponsoring institutions.

Friday—Community Good Turn. Visit to County Home by Scouts and Cubs, with gifts, leaving Scout hall at 6:30 p. m.

Saturday—Parade starting at 2 p. m., front of Wier's Coffee Shop. All Scouts and Cubs in full regalia, march to Court House where demonstrations by Troops 27 and 29 on different phases of Scouting will be held. All Scouts in county invited to participate in parade.

Sunday, Feb. 13—Church Good Turn. One Scout and one Cub going to each Church acting as ushers, handing out programs or any other duty designated to them by the pastor.

## Ukrainian Seeks Work In County

Writing to Albert Smith, Goose Nest Township farmer, a few days ago, Mike Matushkin, a Ukrainian, asked the young man to forward him a contract so he could come to this country and work on a farm.

While young Smith was in the service in Germany, Matushkin assisted him in the kitchen, Smith declaring that the 30-year-old man was an efficient and willing worker.

Married and father of one child, Matushkin has been in Lengries, Germany, for some time, but he said in his recent letter to Smith that he was then out of work and would like to move to this country.

### Victim Recovering From Accident Injury

Badly injured when he was run over by a logging cart on his farm in Jamesville Township last month, Mr. Leonard P. Holliday, former county commissioner, was reported to be improving this week.

Mr. Holliday's shoulder was dislocated and his hip and leg were badly bruised in the accident.

## Last Appeal For Paralysis Fund Drive In County

### Drive \$925.88 Short Of Its Goal With Only Few To Report Donations

L. Bruce Wynne, chairman of the infantile paralysis fund drive in Martin County, today issued an appeal to all thoughtful citizens to redouble their efforts during the next few days and help wipe out a quota deficit of \$925.88. The chairman announced that \$3,774.22 had been collected and reported, that a few small colored schools in the county could not report before next Tuesday and that it was hardly expected they would boost the amount by more than \$150 or \$200.

It was pointed out that about the only source where the remaining amount could be raised is among those persons who received direct mail appeals. So far only \$894 has been received by direct mail, the chairman explaining that less than half of those receiving the mail appeals had responded, that the contributions in some instances were quite small. In other cases the donations were very liberal, ranging up to \$100 in one instance. The chairman appeals to those who have not answered the appeals to do so at once, and those who could possibly follow up their contributions with another are urged to do so without delay.

North Carolina, it was explained, owes a tremendous debt to the National Association and much of it should be repaid, to say nothing about building up a fund for any emergency that might arise.

The drive will be closed next Wednesday. If the quota has not been reached by that time, the chairman will have to report accordingly.

Reviewing the drive date, the chairman said that \$894 had been received by direct mail, that Mrs. Chas. R. Gray collected in Robersonville \$185.50 aside from the schools there, that the colored schools reporting at that time had raised \$421.95, that the white schools collected \$1,727.51, and that three theaters had raised and reported \$428.09.

A complete list by schools, etc., will be released when the final report is in, but it is fairly evident that the grammar school here will hold top place in the collections. Miss Ruth Manning, principal of the grammar school, announced that with a membership of 569 pupils the department raised an even \$600, that Iverson Skinner, Jr., certainly with the aid of his daddy, came through with the largest single collection and won the prize, a two-week pass to the Viccar Theater. Mrs. Abernathy's fifth grade led the grade collections with \$100. Other grade collections: Miss Rogerson's sixth grade, \$62.55; Mrs. Fronberger's second grade, \$61.15; Miss Manning's third grade, \$52.09; Mrs. Kimball's third grade, \$43.21; Mrs. Colburn's fifth grade, \$42.60; Miss Baker's first grade, \$36.07; Miss Jenkins' fourth grade, \$33.98; Mrs. Fussell's fourth grade, \$28.90; Miss Whitlurst's fifth grade, \$28.70; Miss Bailey's sixth grade, \$25.05; Miss Harrison's fourth grade, \$23;

(Continued on Page Five)

## Farmers' Meeting Largely Attended

The livestock school held in the county courthouse Tuesday was attended by approximately 250 farmers and was very successful, Agent Tom Brandon said. Included in the attendance were quite a few agriculture trainees.

Specialists from State College led the discussions which attracted minute attention during both the morning and afternoon sessions.

### Minor Accident On The Main Street Yesterday

Damage estimated at \$75 by Officer Chas. R. Moore who made the investigation, resulted when the cars of John Gurganus, taxi driver, and of Leslie Coltraine crashed on the main street in front of the Viccar Theater yesterday about 1:00 o'clock. No one was hurt.

Coltraine was pulling into the street just as Gurganus was passing, the Coltraine Ford ripping in to the side of the taxi.

## Delay Election Of Town Commissioner

### Town Board Holds Regular Session Tuesday Evening

Meeting in regular session last Tuesday evening, Williamston's town commissioners delayed the election of a fifth member to fill the position made vacant on the board by the death of Commissioner George H. Harrison, Sr., and went on to discuss a varied program of business.

No name of a possible successor to fill the position on the board was officially mentioned, but it was pointed out that several citizens were interested. The appointment was delayed, it was explained, because the biennial town primary will be held in April and since there are only two more meetings before that event, the commissioners decided to recognize the will of the people and make the appointment immediately after the primary and before the regular election in May.

Out of respect for the memory of Geo. H. Harrison, Sr., the board instructed the clerk to prepare appropriate resolutions.

Favored by a vote of 67 to 5, parking meters are to be retained as permanent fixtures on local streets. A contract is to be signed with the manufacturers shortly. Business operators six months ago voted 67 to 9 to try the meters, and last week they voted 67 to 5 to retain them. Several business operators could not be contacted in the last survey, but it was evident that the meters are in better standing after the trial period than they were before they were installed. Incidentally, the board called for a strict enforcement of the parking regulations.

It has been suggested that the meters in front of the Presbyterian church and in front of homes be removed. No action was taken, but the request is being considered.

The board heard a request for a stop light at the Washington and Houghton Streets intersection, but no action was taken on the request after the board discussed the perplexing problem there.

A fairly extensive sidewalk paving program was placed on the agenda by petitioners on several streets, the board agreeing to proceed with the work as rapidly as possible. Petitions were offered at the meeting for a sidewalk on the south side of Franklin Street between Houghton and Smithwick Streets, and for a walk on the north side of Warren Street from Watts to Park Street. Already on the agenda are paving projects on Beech and North Biggs Streets, and curb and gutter on a part of School Drive.

The town was asked to take over and maintain the 16-foot public alley between the Roanoke-Dixie and Planters Warehouses.

Realizing that the maintenance of the motor vehicle inspection lane had damaged Warren Street, the board appealed to the inspection service to either build a lane or move to a new location. It is proposed to locate the lane either on Hassell or Grace Streets the latter part of next week.

The board passed a resolution urging the highway commission to pave the approaches to the local high school, and since the town has about a \$2,100 current allotment, some action is anticipated within the next few months.

Regulations, just before being adopted, for the control of taxicabs were discussed. A license fee of \$50 per cab was adopted, the town agreeing to furnish parking places for at least five cabs. A uniform rate charge of 35 cents plus ten cents for each additional passenger was also fixed within the town limits.

The transfer of a deed to the Halberstadt land for a cemetery has been delayed, but the instrument is expected to clear within

## Complete School For Bear Grass

A new \$52,000 building for the Bear Grass High School has been completed and will be used for the first time next Monday, it was learned yesterday. Construction work was completed some time ago, but radiators were not available until last Monday. The heating units were installed immediately after their arrival and heat was turned on yesterday.

Equipment, costing approximately \$6,500, including \$1,500 furnished by the district patrons, is being installed and the high school with the exception of the home economics department will occupy the new unit next Monday. The new building also houses a lunchroom.

A new lunchroom was opened in the Robersonville grammar school last Thursday.

Radiators, shipped on the 10th of last month from Buffalo, for the new high school unit in Williamston have not yet arrived. They are expected daily, but when the building will be ready for use no one knows at this time.

(Continued on page five)

## Little Progress Reported So Far By Legislature

### Representative Corey Offers No New Local Bills House In Recent Days

Rounding out its fourth week in Raleigh, the State Legislature has made little progress as far as passing new laws and reaching final decisions are concerned. It is beginning to appear that the legislative group will be stopped in its tracks and that little progressive legislation will be enacted at the present session.

Representative A. Corey, introducing several local bills earlier in the session, has not tackled the proposal to legalize hog vaccinations by the county agent and agriculture teachers. He was the guest of the governor at breakfast Wednesday morning.

### Motor Vehicle Laws

The 1947 Highway Safety Act is under fire from two flanks in the General Assembly. Developments this week point to the House as the battle-ground where the motor vehicle inspection program must fight for survival. At the same time that SB 59, approved by the Senate after a sharp debate to provide for reduction in the number of annual inspections from two to one per year, was on its way to the House on Friday, an identical measure, HB 180, was being introduced in the lower chamber. Furthermore, if the sentiment revealed by several representatives on Raleigh radio programs in the past two weeks is an accurate straw in the wind, there is a strong movement afoot in the House for complete repeal, proposed three weeks ago in HB 5.

HB 171, introduced this week, attacks the 1947 driver's license reexamination law. It would require persons holding licenses prior to July 1, 1947, to secure renewal licenses without examination by January 1, 1950, and would continue to require simple renewal every four years.

Regulation of motor vehicles being towed is the object of HB 164 as introduced on Thursday to require that such vehicles be occupied by a driver and be equipped with brakes.

The Governor's recommendation that the gasoline tax be increased one cent to help pay for the proposed \$200,000,000 bond issue for secondary roads was submitted to both houses in bill form on Friday. The bills, SB 79 and HB 181, do not provide for a conditional increase, so that this revision

(Continued on page five)

## Reports On Seal Sale In County

The annual sale of TB Christmas Seals, recently completed in this county, exceeded its goal of \$2,000 by \$417.84, it was announced this week by County Chairman Charles H. Manning. The fund, amounting to \$2,417.84 will further control of tuberculosis.

Williamston led the county with seal and bond sales amounting to \$1263.86. Robersonville was next with \$308.00 followed by Goose Nest where the sales amounted to \$129.50. Griffins was fourth on the list with \$95.00 and Jamesville raised \$84.00. Other townships reported as follows: Hamilton, \$67.00; Cross Roads, \$51.00; Bear Grass, \$60.00; Williams, \$43.97 and Poplar Point, \$35.00.

The Williamston white grammar school purchased Santa Claus buttons and bangles in the amount of \$26.12 and the High School bought \$18.42 worth of bangles. The girl scouts added \$40.17 with the Bangle Day sales. \$12.67 was received from the Robersonville white schools. The following amounts were turned in from the colored schools: Williamston, \$35.62; Biggs, \$4.00; Rodgers, \$4.50; Williams, \$6.00; Burroughs, \$6.00; Parmele, \$16.50; Robersonville, \$22.14; Gold Point, \$8.00; Everetts, \$12.00; Oak City, \$10.00; Hamilton, \$11.63; Salisbury, \$7.90; White Oak Springs, \$8.00; Jones, \$4.00; Whichard James, \$7.00; Jamesville, \$6.00; Dardens, \$6.00; Smithwick, \$2.69; Bear Grass, \$4.15 and Cross Roads, \$6.00.

## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

No one was hurt but property damage jumped more than \$1,000 in the fourth week accident on the streets and highways of the county, according to reports coming from members of the State Highway Patrol. So far about one-third of the accidents have been on town streets.

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.

4th Week				
Accidents In'd Killed Dam'ge	1949	1948	1947	
4	0	0	\$ 1,015	
2	0	0	525	
Comparisons To Date				
1949	10	4	0	\$ 1,765
1948	9	2	0	1,925