

Thirty Cases In County Recorders Court This Week

Thirteen Cases Cleared Last Monday By Judge Chas. Hall Manning

With thirty cases on the docket, including one that was heard by a jury, Judge Chas. H. Manning held the Martin County Recorder's Court in session until after three o'clock Monday afternoon. Fines, amounting to \$560, were collected and road sentences, calling for thirty-five months, were imposed. The list including thirteen speeding cases.

Proceedings: Pleading not guilty of drunken driving, Herbert Oliver Peele was found not guilty by a six-man jury composed of C. P. Cullipher, Arthur Modlin, Lester Keel, S. C. Ray, W. B. Canon and John Arthur Revels.

Pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Allen R. Rascoe was sentenced to the roads for three months. Charlie Bell, pleading not guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, was adjudged guilty and he was sentenced to the roads for nine months. He appealed to the higher courts and bond was required in the sum of \$250.

The case charging Jesse Lee Jones with careless and reckless driving was not pressed, but is subject to be reopened.

Charged with careless and reckless driving, Ernest Wooten pleaded not guilty but was adjudged guilty of passing a car on a curve and was fined \$15 plus costs. Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Leslie Earl Simpson was fined \$100, taxed with the costs and lost his driver's license for a year.

Augustus Knight pleaded guilty of drunken driving and was sentenced to the roads for four months, the court suspending the road sentence upon the payment of a \$100 fine and costs. His license to operate a motor vehicle was revoked for one year.

Entering a plea of guilty of drunken driving, Charlie Grimes was sentenced to the roads for four months. The court suspended the road term upon the payment of the \$100 fine and costs and revoked his driver's license for one year.

Charged with violating the health laws, Jake Spruill pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. The judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs and on condition the defendant take prescribed treatment.

Pete Dolberry was found not guilty of assaulting a female. Russell Sherrod, pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, was sentenced to the roads for four months.

Levi Smith and Gordon H. Barnum, charged with operating a motor vehicle without drivers' licenses, pleaded guilty and each was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

In the case charging Joe Clark, Henderson Moore and Grover Peel with the larceny of a hog, Clark was sentenced to the roads for four months, and Moore and Peel drew three months each on the roads.

Charged with operating motor vehicles without inspection stickers, Roy Lee Dolberry, George Edward Leggett and Horace Willard Modlin pleaded guilty and judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in each case.

Fire Threatens Hamilton Home

Fire, starting from a spark from a yard fire, destroyed the smoke-house and woodshed and threatened the large Waldo home in Hamilton early yesterday afternoon.

When it looked as if the big house would catch on fire, a call was made to the volunteer fire departments in Robersonville and Williamston. Volunteers in Hamilton, using a garden hose and buckets, confined the fire to the outbuilding, but the paint on the rear of the home was burned off.

HELP CAME TOO LATE FOR SNOW-TRAPPED RANCHER



RUMBLING OVER THE FROZEN prairie lands of northwestern South Dakota, a U. S. Army "weasel" tows a sled carrying the body of a rancher who died in his snowbound home in the Buffalo, S. D., area. In the "weasels" are members of the dead man's family, accompanying the body to town for a delayed funeral. Practically the only vehicle which could operate over the terrain, "weasels" rescued many trapped families. (International)

Speedsters Have Another Day In County's Court

Fines Amount To \$560; Road Terms Add Up To Thirty-five Months

Alleged speedsters, most of them from out of the State who apparently are not acquainted with the speed laws, had another day in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday. Thirteen speed cases were booked that day before Judge Chas. H. Manning, all of the defendants pleading guilty.

Before the minutes of the Monday session were placed in the records, Patrolman Whitfield, stationed in Windsor, appeared in the clerk's office with three alleged speedsters. The officer trailed them from a point just this side of Windsor to the lower end of Williamston's main street where they were temporarily detained. The patrolman said the three operators had breezed along at 65 and 70 miles an hour. The leader of the trio declared he did not travel over 55 miles an hour, but the other two followed him when he got up to 65 and 70 miles an hour they declared. A witness said they zoomed by him when he was running right at 55 miles an hour. They posted bond and continued southward.

Two of the defendants in the court last Monday admitted they were racing to get to their homes in Mackeys. Evelyn Adair Klaus and Norwood Leonidas Spruill were each fined \$15 and taxed with the costs. One of the other eleven defendants was most pleasant when he appeared before the clerk of court to arrange bond, but another defendant, admitting a violation, acted down-right ugly when bond was being arranged for her, it was reported.

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Divorce Actions Filed In Court

Three divorce cases were filed in the Martin County Superior Court a few days ago, all of the plaintiffs basing their claims on grounds of two years of separation.

In the case of Blanch F. Barnhill against Paul R. Barnhill, the plaintiff says they were married on April 18, 1942, and were separated on January 30, 1947, that the one child born to the union is with her.

Asking an absolute divorce, A. L. Harrison in his case against Thelma Elizabeth Harrison says they were married on June 24, 1933, that they separated on September 1, 1946. Four of the six children, it was stated in the complaint, are with the plaintiff and the other two are with the defendant.

In his case against Gathy Harrell, the plaintiff, Paul Harrell says they were married sometime in March, 1921, that they separated on October 27, 1945, and that all children born to the union are now grown.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Motorists traveled through another week on Martin County highways and streets without serious injury to anyone and without doing too much damage to property. Two of three accidents reported last week were on town streets.

So far nearly half of the accidents has been reported in the streets of the various towns.

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.

Table with 4 columns: Fifth Week, Accidents Inj'd Killed Dam'ge, Comparisons To Date. Rows for 1949 and 1948.

John Davis Died Early Wednesday

John Thomas Davis, 51, died in the Martin County Sanatorium near here at 7:20 o'clock yesterday morning. He had been in declining health for many years and had been a patient in the sanatorium since last April. He had received treatment on previous occasions, but his condition had been critical most of the time during his last illness.

He was the son of the late John and Charlie Beach Davis, and spent most of his life in the Jamesville section.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Church Mobley and Mrs. Nellie White, both of Jamesville; one half-sister, Mrs. Margie Stevenson of Williamston; and three brothers, Willie, Chester and Dallis Davis, all of Williamston.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the home of his sister, Mrs. Church Mobley near Jamesville, by Rev. W. B. Harrington. Interment will be in the Modlin Cemetery near Cedar Branch Baptist Church in Jamesville Township.

Suffers Broken Leg In Accident

The 5-year-old daughter of Luther Chance suffered a broken leg when she was run down by a pock-up truck just west of the railroad on Highway 64 in Parmele about 6:00 o'clock last Monday evening. Reports reaching here stated that the child, after waiting for a car to pass, ran into the road and into the path of the small truck. She was dragged only a short distance, Patrolman B. W. Parker, making the investigation, explaining that the vehicle apparently was not being driven very fast.

The victim was picked up by the truck driver and carried to the Ward Clinic in Robersonville where she was treated and returned to her home.

State Board Asks Changes Be Made In Election Laws

Efficiency and Clarification Sought In Suggested Amendments

The State Elections Board is asking the legislature to straighten out North Carolina's muddled registration system, and to clear up the hazy statutes surrounding creation of new political parties.

The board also asked for five other changes in the voting laws, all of which it said were aimed "toward efficiency and clarification." At the same time, it announced that no complaints or protests were filed after the November elections, for the first time in more than 20 years.

Executive Secretary Raymond Maxwell said the lack of protests, with four parties in the race, was "all the more significant and seems to show that apparently the electorate is satisfied with the conduct of the elections."

Big Damage Suit Filed In Court

Dallas Ray Green, four-year-old colored youngster of Parmele, through his next friend, Clarence W. Griffin, is suing Roy Bowers, Pitt County man, for \$10,000 damages which he alleges resulted to him when he was run down by the defendant's truck in a Parmele street on September 15, 1948.

The suit was filed a few days ago in the Martin County Superior Court by Attorney Chas. H. Manning. The plaintiff says in the complaint that he was riding with several other passengers in Nathaniel Thomas's car in Parmele, that Thomas stopped the car a little to the right of the center of the street. It is further claimed in the paper that Bowers, meeting the Thomas car, drove past on the left and just at the time the plaintiff got out of the car and started to the sidewalk.

It is claimed that the child suffered a broken pelvic bone, a punctured bladder and other injuries when he was struck by the defendant's truck. It is also alleged that the victim was treated in the Robersonville Clinic and later moved to a Durham hospital where he spent several weeks. It is claimed that the injuries are permanent.

To simplify the confused registration system. At present, primary registration books are kept in each precinct for both major parties, and a third book for the general election registrations.

The addition of the States' Rights party made the system need four books, and it will soon become "almost unworkable," the board said. The system was adopted nine years ago to prevent members of one party from voting in the other party's primaries, but "that practice has about stopped, we think," the board said.

Turning to the problem of new-party laws, the board asked that the steps for qualification of a party be cleared up. During the last campaign, the States Rights party took issue with the law requiring prospective parties to produce a petition signed by 10,000 persons, and taking the law into court only left it more confused.

Suffers Broken Leg In Accident

Farmer Sam Mobley of Bear Grass Township suffered a fracture of the small bone in his right leg and the ankle bone was shattered in an accident at the Lilley Brothers' mill in Griffins Township last Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Mobley was moving lumber out of the mill shed when a pile of boards back of him toppled over and caught his right leg. He was removed to the hospital here, late reports stating that while the injuries are painful he was getting along very well.

Handle Ten Cases In Justice Court In Past Few Days

One Defendant Bound Over To Higher Court In Road Accident Case

Justices R. T. Johnson and John L. Hassell handled ten cases in their courts during the past few days. One of the cases, involving a highway accident, was sent to the higher courts for trial.

Justice Hassell handled the following cases: Charged with being drunk and disorderly, Walter Lee Pacetty was fined \$10 and taxed with \$10.50 costs.

Drunk and down, L. W. Cobb was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the jail term upon the payment of \$9.50 costs.

Charged with assaulting Willie Moore, James H. Davis was fined \$10 and taxed with \$7.50 costs.

Willie Moore was sentenced to jail for thirty days for being drunk and fighting. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of \$8.50 costs.

Charged with beating a board bill, Frank Simmons was sentenced to jail for thirty days, the court suspending the jail sentence upon the payment of \$3.75 board bill and \$5.50 costs.

J. R. Brickhouse, publicly drunk, was taxed with \$6.50 costs. The following cases were handled by Justice Johnson during the period:

Charged with failing to give right-of-way, Sanford Gilliam was bound over to the county court for trial next Monday.

Charged with disorderly conduct, Walter McGowan was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the jail term on condition that he remain away from the home of Mrs. Della Cherry for twelve months.

Charged with improper car registration, Leslie Bullock was fined \$5 and required to pay \$5.85 costs.

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John Coltrain Denied Bond At Hearing Held Here Yesterday

INSPECTION LANE

A lane for the inspection of motor vehicles and trailers of all types is scheduled to be opened here tomorrow for operation through Thursday of next week. There is some doubt where the lane will be set up this time since the black top on Warren Street has been damaged by the equipment. One report stated, however, that it would be opened there or on some other street according to schedule.

Funeral Sunday In Robersonville For Pvt. R. F. Rawls

Young County Man Was Killed On Okinawa In the Pacific May 17, 1945

Funeral services for Pvt. Reginald F. Rawls, 19, who was killed in action while serving with the U. S. Army in the Pacific Theatre, on May 17, 1945, will be conducted Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock in the Robersonville Baptist Church by the Rev. Ralph Ferguson, pastor, assisted by Rev. J. M. Perry, Christian minister of Robersonville.

Pvt. Rawls received his basic training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, and served overseas in Hawaii, Saipan and Okinawa. He was killed when the 77th Infantry Division, of which he was a member, was making a dawn attack on Okinawa.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Dora F. Rawls of Robersonville; four brothers, Dennis of Norfolk, Herman of Richmond, Wilmer of Stokes and Ben of near Robersonville; and three sisters, Miss Louise Rawls of Baltimore, Md., Mrs. Garland Matthews of Robersonville and Dora Rawls of the home.

Burial will be in the Robersonville Cemetery where full military honors will be rendered by the Murray R. Cargile Post of the American Legion in Robersonville. The body will remain at the S. G. Wilkerson and Son Funeral Home in Robersonville until one hour prior to the time of services.

Banquet Held For Boy Scouts Here

In observance of Scout Week the annual Father-Scout banquet was held in the Woman's Club here last night with more than a half hundred fathers and twice as many Scouts and cubs present.

District Committee Chairman K. P. Linsley presided over the banquet. He first recognized Wheeler Martin, a pioneer in Scouting in Martin County and an outstanding leader in all boys' activities over a period of many years.

Following the introduction of Scout Masters Dr. J. A. Edens and Little Bear, George Brown, field executive of Roanoke Rapids, was presented for the first time to the fathers and many of the Scouts. "This banquet tonight is the most wonderful demonstration of Scouting I've seen since I came to North Carolina," Mr. Brown said.

In his comments he pointed out that Scouting is a way of life . . . a good and wholesome life. Although the scout executive's remarks were brief he didn't fail to compliment Gene Kanball . . . preparing and serving the delicious Brunswick Stew dinner.

Troop 29 under the leadership of Dr. Edens had an enrollment of 16. Little Bear's number 27 group has 18 Scouts. With one or two exceptions they were all present and the Cub Pack was represented with a 100 percent attendance.

Fletcher Thomas, district chairman and Wheeler Manning, committeeman, were recognized and Exum Ward, representing the Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the Cub Pack, presented Little Bear with an award for outstanding leadership among the youngsters; the Cub Pack. Following the presentation of the award Little Bear congratulated Buddie Fussell, Eddie Hardison and Fred Chesson, Jr., for the cooperation they had given him in his work with the Cub Pack. "Without the assistance of these boys the organization of the Pack could not have been complete and successful," the Scout Master stated.

Little Bear also received a trophy presented by Field Executive Brown. He was credited with doing more for Scouting than any other person in the community in the year 1948.

Find Inmate Dead In the County Jail At Noon Yesterday

Effort Was Being Made To Get Selector Andrews Into A Veterans' Hospital

Selector Andrews, World War II veteran, died in the Martin County jail about noon yesterday while authorities tried unsuccessfully to get him into a veterans' hospital or into a state asylum for the insane. Doctor John W. Williams, who saw Andrews just a few minutes before he (Andrews) collapsed and died, said it was impossible to determine the cause of the man's death.

Showing signs of insanity, Andrews, 31-year-old Parmele colored man, was placed in the Robersonville jail Tuesday morning when he became violent and directly or indirectly threatened his wife. He was removed to the county jail about 7:00 o'clock that evening. Medical attention was summoned and officers were advised to prepare papers for the man's admittance to some institution. One report stated that there was no room in the government hospital at Kecoughtan, Va., and before contact with the authorities at the state institution could be established, the man died.

Andrews, who served with the army in Northern France during the recent war, was said to have purchased cheap wines by the case recently, and it is possible that death was attributable to overstimulation. However, it was said that the man was raving crazy, that he climbed the steam pipes in the jail, jumped up and down on his bed and ran into the brick walls in his cell. The injuries received when he flung himself against the brick walls are not believed to have caused his death, Jailer Roy Peel declared.

No sedatives were administered and it was thought that Andrews would soon tire himself down and that he would go to sleep. During the meantime, members of the family were making arrangements to go to see Andrews and be with him. A short time later, the jailer saw Andrews lying in the floor but before he could summon aid the man had died.

Andrews is the second man to have died in the new jail.

Pay \$4,798.98 To County Treasurer

Fees, fines and forfeitures, collected by the several county offices and in the courts and amounting to \$4,798.98, were paid into the county treasury last month, according to reports filed with the board of commissioners recently.

The county court reported an income of \$3,744.45 for the month, the amount including \$1,994.00 in court fines and \$1,750.45 in court costs. The clerk of court reported miscellaneous fees in the sum of \$220.21.

The register of deeds office reported fees in the sum of \$558.45, the greater part of the amount coming from recordings, certificates and licenses.

The sheriff's office reported \$275.87 income derived from serving criminal and civil papers during the period.

Cross Examination Points To a Plea Of Self-Defense

Only One Witness Questioned Before Justice Of Peace R. T. Johnson

Finding probable cause of guilt of murder in the first degree, Justice R. T. Johnson at a preliminary hearing held before a large crowd in the county courthouse here yesterday afternoon, denied John R. Coltrain bond and the defendant was returned to the county jail to wait until the week of March 21 when he will be called to answer for the murder of W. Thomas Roberson, prominent Griffins Township farmer, on January 26. Coltrain pleaded not guilty.

With Attorney Clay Carter of Washington and Clarence W. Griffin assisting in the prosecution, District Solicitor George Fountain called only one state's witness and at the conclusion of that evidence Justice Johnson announced that bond would be denied. No plans were announced immediately by the defense, and it is likely that no habeas corpus proceedings will be instituted to force the bond issue.

The evidence offered by the state's witness, H. Gabe Roberson, only elaborated reports gained shortly after the attack, but the cross examination pointed to a plea of self-defense. Suggestions advanced by defense counsel, Albion Dunn, Greenville attorney, that Tom Roberson carried a pistol on the morning of the fatal attack and that Tom Roberson moved against Coltrain were simply denied by the witness for the state. The self-defense plea was further developed, possibly very weakly, when the defense asked the witness if it were not a fact that the defendant trapped in the swamps in and around where the fatal attack took place.

After reading the warrant charging that Coltrain did with malice aforethought, willfully and maliciously did kill and murder William Thomas Roberson on January 26, 1949, Justice Johnson swore two witnesses, H. G. and Henry Roberson, but only one, H. Gabe Roberson, brother-in-law of the deceased, was called.

Answering questions asked by Solicitor Fountain, the witness said that he was with his brother-in-law the day he (Tom) was killed, that the two were together and cut seven trees on January 19, and on the 20th took a tractor and pulled the logs across a slough to a hill where they could be reached with logging carts, and that he did not see the logs again until he went there on the 26th with Tom Roberson and Henry Roberson, Tom's nephew.

"We went there with two logging carts," the witness continued. "Tom was driving the one in front and Henry was driving the second one. Tom was sitting on the tongue of the first cart with his feet hanging to the left side of the tongue and the right side of his body facing toward the front. Tom was holding the reins in his right hand," the witness said, explaining that he was walking about five feet behind the first cart.

The witness said he did not see Coltrain until Coltrain stepped into the little logging path, held up his hands and said "whoa" to the mules. "I looked up and saw Coltrain with a gun. The mules took two or three more steps and Coltrain stepped toward the mules, holding the gun in his left hand and holding his right hand in the air just in front of the mules.

"I want to ask one question," the witness quoted Coltrain as saying. "When Coltrain asked, 'Who cut those logs?' Tom said, 'me and Gabe.' Coltrain then said, 'Yes, g . . . damn you, I'm going to kill you.'"

"Tom dropped the reins, got off the cart and started walking away," the witness said. Roberson (Continued on page eight)