

Commends Sheriff For Rounding Up Venire For Jury

All But Seventeen of the Venire Contacted In Matter of Hours

Judge Chester D. Morris, presiding over the current term of the Martin County Superior Court, appeared a bit surprised Tuesday afternoon when 183 of a special venire called for potential duty in the first degree murder case against John R. Coltrain either reported as instructed or were accounted for.

"It is as near a perfect record as I have ever seen," the jurist said in commending the sheriff and his deputies in searching out the special venire of two hundred members.

Aided by Deputies Joe Roebuck, Buck Holloman, and special agents Dallas Holliday, Alton Harris, Wiley Craft and Edmond Early, the sheriff had accounted for most of the 200 by midnight Monday, or about six or seven hours after the order was issued.

Only one case of mistaken identity was reported. J. C. Ross was summoned instead of his son, Jos. C. Ross. The father was excused.

The following were out of the county or state: Jeff D. Etheridge, Henry H. Corey, G. W. Sawyer, R. H. Alexander, Bruce Fagan, Carroll Brown, Mrs. Will Johnson, Thomas Crockett and A. W. Ange. The following could not be found and their whereabouts could not be determined: L. A. Bullock, Jesse Terry, William D. Hardison, Roy G. Manning, H. L. Whitaker, Roy Hardison.

The following were excused for reasons acceptable to the court, mostly on doctors' certificates: J. W. Green, V. G. Taylor, L. C. Brown, A. P. Purdy, Mrs. Harry E. Jarman, Mrs. Christine Bailey, Rufus Chance, W. O. Donald, Mrs. Wm. H. Gray, Marvin Peed, Mary Gray, A. W. Boyd and Joe H. Perry. Ben Whitehurst cut himself with an axe accidentally after he was summoned to appear and he, too, was excused.

In all, thirty-one could not be found or were excused, leaving 169 special veniremen or venirewomen plus the seventeen men called for regular jury duty to choose a jury to hear the murder case.

And when all the special venire (Continued on page eight)

Former Resident Of County Passes

Funeral services were conducted in Sanford's First Baptist Church last Monday afternoon for Thaddeus Mayo Lawrence, former resident of this county who died in the Lee County hospital in Sanford Sunday morning at 10 o'clock following an operation. Rev. Yancey C. Elliott officiated and interment was in the Buffalo Church Cemetery, Sanford.

The son of the late Tommy and Louise Salisbury Lawrence, he was born in Edgecombe County 68 years ago, and when a young man he came to this county, located in Hamilton. He was engaged in farming for a number of years and left for Sanford in 1924 to accept employment with a railroad.

Mr. Lawrence was held in high esteem in his adopted home, the Sanford Herald, stating, in part: "He counted his friends by the scores and probably knew more Sanford people by name than any other citizen. He always had a kind word for everyone and was interested in their well being."

"His lasting memorial is in the fine family of children he reared, all of whom hold places of respect in the towns in which they reside."

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Alice Pender, sister of Mr. Joseph Pender of Williamston; seven sons, Cecil of Durham, Aubrey of Washington, D. C., Roy and Joe, students at the University of North Carolina, Billy, Fred and Lee of Sanford; four daughters, Mrs. Gilbert Blue of Winston-Salem, Mrs. J. C. Jones of Richmond, Mrs. Bill Murray of Charlotte and Mrs. Gladys Botz of Sanford; and five grandchildren.

Discharge Venire In Capital Offense Case

REGISTRATION

Little interest is being advanced in the town's municipal primary election to be held on April 11. The list of announced candidates continues two short of a needed minimum, and Registrar John P. Pope said yesterday that the name of only one new elector had been added to the registration books.

The new elector moved into town since the last municipal election. Registration books for the primary on April 11 will be open on Saturday of this and on Saturday of next week.

One Case Remains On The Criminal Docket For Trial

Trial of Criminal Cases Is Certain To Continue Into Next Week

Sidetracked to give the Coltrain trial the right-of-way, one lone case remaining on the criminal docket in the Martin County Superior Court is almost certain to get no further attention before next week. Joe Clark, Henderson Moore, Grover Peel, Leman James and Dave Leonard James are charged with the theft of peanuts from D. D. and R. G. Coburn.

Proceedings in the criminal court not previously reported follow:

Jimmie Watts, the young colored boy who was sentenced earlier in the week to serve eight months on the roads for larceny of overcoats from parked cars, had six months added to his sentence when it was pointed out that he was on probation. The youth, convicted on a larceny charge, was sentenced a year ago to serve six months on the roads for larceny. He was placed on probation at that time.

The case charging Charlie Bell with an assault with a deadly weapon was continued until the June term.

Pleading not guilty in the case charging him with robbery of the person, Charlie Griffin was found not guilty.

Charged with larceny, Walter Hebrew Purvis pleaded guilty of receiving goods knowing them to be stolen, and was sentenced to the roads for two years. The road term was suspended and the defendant was placed on probation for two years.

In the case charging Frank Fowell, Wiley Lyons and Columbus Marrow with violating the (Continued on page eight)

Red Cross Fund Drive Near Goal

A report from the chairman late yesterday stated that the annual Red Cross Fund Drive in this chapter is nearing the \$2,700 goal. While reports are not yet complete in several districts, approximately \$2,200 had been raised and reported late yesterday.

An encouraging report was submitted by Willis Williams who canvassed the colored citizenry in Poplar Point. Given a \$15 quota the little area raised and reported \$22.75.

Williamston, up until late yesterday, had raised and reported \$1,753.16, and the other districts reported \$393.99 in hand at that time.

Chairman Woolard is still confident that the approximately \$534 due on the quota can and will be raised. The colored citizens in five townships with a quota of \$450 have not yet reported and the canvass is not yet complete in the other areas. If the momentum can be maintained just a few days longer, the goal will be reached, the chairman declared. (Continued on page eight)

First Try To Get A Jury Costs The Taxpayers \$1,200

Abandoned Hope of Getting Jury After Examining 55 of Venire

Examining fifty-five persons and finding only two acceptable for jury duty in the first degree murder case now pending against John R. Coltrain, Judge Chester Morris in the Martin County Superior Court yesterday morning at 10:15 o'clock announced that the selection of a jury from within the county appeared hopeless and that it would be useless to continue the interrogation. The prosecution, suggesting at the time the defendant was arraigned in open court Monday that it would be almost useless to try to get a jury within the county, and the defense, maintaining when the case was first called that a jury could be had in the county, both agreed yesterday that it was useless to continue the interrogation. Judge Morris immediately discharged the venire, and following a conference with counsel for the defense and members of the prosecution ordered the withdrawal of the two jurors that had been selected.

The first man selected was Clinton Jones, colored farmer of Williams Township. He was a member of the regular jury called for service during the term, and the first to be examined. Confusing answers were offered at times by the man, but at the end of about twenty minutes he was accepted with the possibility that he would have been excused before any evidence was offered.

Nine others were questioned before a second man, Henry A. Haislip, farmer of near Hassell, was accepted. The two men were placed in the custody of a special jury officer, Chas. R. Mobley, and kept together until the venire was discharged yesterday morning.

After Jones had been questioned eight or ten minutes, one of his answers caused laughter in the courtroom and Judge Morris rapped for order, warning that serious business was being handled and that the court would tolerate no further demonstrations.

The state exercised its right to dismiss a potential jurymen for announced cause only once. The defense, allowed to reject as many as fourteen without announced cause, did not exercise that prerogative in a single instance. Most of those questioned for jury duty declared they were conscientiously opposed to capital punishment and were automatically dismissed. Several said they had already formed an opinion that the defendant was guilty, and one or two said they had formed the opinion that the defendant was innocent, automatically disqualifying themselves for jury duty. Several said they had formed opinions and were opposed to capital punishment.

Several of those questioned gave confusing and sometimes evasive answers, but C. W. Forbes expressed the feelings of most of those in the venire when he said that while he would serve as best he could and render a verdict accordingly, he did not think it right that he should be called when he knew the defendant and members of his family. It was also pointed out that he had served as a juror in a capital offense case (state against Otis Ragland about two years ago), and that he believed he had fulfilled his obligation to the state.

About the time that the 22nd man on the special venire had been examined and declared his conscientious objections to capital punishment, Judge Morris called a conference with defense counsel and members of the prosecution. He was quoted as saying, "they (the veniremen) had found a sure way out." It was suggested that the effort be continued, but by the time fifteen others had been questioned without success (Continued on page eight)

Twenty Cases On Civil Docket For Trial Next Week

Cases Believed To Be of Little Consequence Dominate the Calendar

Scheduled more than a week late, first on account of the Roberson murder case, and then to give right-of-way to a dozen divorce actions, the trial of civil cases will hardly get underway before the middle or latter part of next week in the Martin County Superior Court.

The calendar carries comparatively small number of cases and it is believed that just about all of them are of little consequence. Certainly, there are no big damage suits and the civil calendar trials are likely to get no more than passing attention from the public.

Several of the cases are built around referee hearings and final action is expected in possibly three of the actions of that type.

Some of the suits date back to 1938, and there is a possibility that some of the bewildered cases will be disposed of, at last.

The case brought by Standard Fertilizer Company to recover a \$225 account from J. S. McCullum and others was instituted just about eleven years ago.

Involving a tiny bit of land, the boundary line dispute case of H. H. Cowen against C. E. Jenkins will be called again, this time with a 50-page referee report.

A 46-page referee report is ready in the boundary line case of W. W. Griffin against Ada Jones and others.

The case of Willie Bullock against J. D. Wynne involves a boundary line.

The case of Thurston Davenport against Dorothy Taylor is again in the courts. The issue of ownership of certain land has been agreed upon, but the matter of the value of improvements is yet to be considered. Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn set aside a verdict in which the improvements were valued at about \$7,500.

In his case against M. E. Hyman, R. S. Critcher charged violation of a timber contract and is asking \$650 damages.

Suing S. T. Leathers over a farm contract, William C. Lawrence is asking \$1,802. A referee has heard the accounting and is to report his findings.

James Daniel is suing Jay Griffin (colored) to get possession of a 1935 Tudor Ford, worth at one time about \$100.

Alleging a farm contract was broken, James Everett is suing Claude Smith for \$556.86.

Louis Williams is suing King David Rogers for possession of certain property in Williamston and, at the same time, claiming damages in the sum of \$100.

Van Lee Reddick is suing Theodore Gurganus for \$482 damages, alleged to have resulted when the plaintiff's car driven by James Willis Reddick, and the defendant's truck figured in an accident last August 23.

In the case of Standard Fertilizer Company against B. J. McFarland, the plaintiff is seeking to recover \$207.27 on a note.

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Income Reported For Past Month

Martin County last month received a total of \$4,293.66 in fees, fines and forfeitures, the income from the county court for a period having approached a new record.

The register of deeds reported an income of \$545.05, including \$438.55 for recording papers, \$30.50 for issuing various certificates, and \$76 for marriage licenses.

The sheriff's office reported \$239.32 income received for serving nearly 200 papers during the period. Most of the income—\$3,509.29—was reported by the clerk of court. The report shows that fines in the county court in February amounted to \$1,803.00 and costs, \$1,369.75. Income from the superior court was \$21.85 and miscellaneous fees amounted to \$232.29.

Call Hundred Veniremen From Hertford County For Jury Duty In Coltrain Murder Case Here

Call Eight Cases In Local Justice Of Peace Courts

The Boys Are Opening The Fishing Season A Bit Early In County

Admitting that the big court was the main show, Justices of the Peace John L. Hassell and R. T. Johnson said that they were not pushed entirely out of the picture, that they had handled a combined total of eight cases in their courts during the past few days.

Two of the cases were carried into the courts when an attempt was made to open the fishing season a bit early.

Cases handled by Justice Hassell:

Drunk and disorderly, Clyde Silverthorne was fined \$5 and taxed with \$5.85 costs.

Harry Clinton Stokes, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. The road term was suspended upon the payment of \$7.50 costs.

Charged with assaulting a female, Ed Pilgreen was bound over to the county court for trial on April 4. Bond was required in the sum of \$100.

James Barfield, charged with assaulting a female, was bound over to the county court for trial on April 4.

The following cases were handled by Justice Johnson:

Moses Lee Anthony and James A. Mazing, charged with fishing out of season, were each fined \$5 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with disorderly conduct, James Willie Thomas was fined \$5 and required to pay the costs.

Henry Wiggins, charged with public drunkenness, was taxed with \$6.85 costs.

Electric Meeting Held In Plymouth

Local electric appliance dealers and their employees were represented at a district meeting, sponsored by the Virginia Electric and Power Company in Plymouth last Tuesday evening.

Forty-eight dealers, representing Edgecombe, Martin, Pitt, Tyrrell, Washington and Halifax Counties, heard addresses by Mr. E. T. Moore, director of residential sales for the V. E. P. Co., of Richmond, and Mr. Tom D. Fulford, general sales manager for the company, also of Richmond. Mr. Moore addressed the group on "L. P. Gas versus Redy Kilowatt", a comparison of bottle gas and electricity for use in homes.

Attending from Williamston were Messrs. Jimmy Harris, K. D. Worrell, Lewis Pippin, Morris Roberson, Johnny Rawls, Ira Harrison, Ben Courtney, Hoke Brown, Jessup Harrison and Ed Powell and department heads from the local V. E. P. office.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

The accident record took a decided turn for the worse last week when the life of a young man was snuffed out on the highways of this county. At the end of the 11th week, the record this year is very little better than it was for the corresponding period in 1948.

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.

11th Week			
Accidents Inj'd Killed	Dam'ge	1949	1948
1	0	1	\$ 900.
2	0	0	0
Comparisons To Date			
1949	24	11	\$5,400
1948	30	13	5,875

P. T. A. MEETING

The regular meeting of the Williamston Parent-Teacher Association will be held next Monday evening at 8:00 o'clock in the grammar school auditorium. An interesting program has been planned and parents and other patrons of the school are asked to attend.

"One Great Hour" Program Planned For This Week-end

Over 75,000 Churches Will Participate; Nation-wide Broadcast Saturday

Over 76,000 churches representing every major Christian denomination and communion have united to take one simultaneous offering for world relief at Church services on Sunday, March 27, according to a joint statement issued from New York City by Bishop John S. Stamm, president of Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America and other church leaders.

Whole hearted, nation-wide support for this history making effort of churches in America was urged in the statement which quoted in full as follows:

"Never before in the history of the world have the churches of Europe and Asia been faced with greater problems and responsibilities. The fate of our civilization may lie in the ability of the churches and especially the churches overseas to meet their responsibilities in carrying forth the Christian ministry. That is why this nationwide united effort by America's Christians has an importance far beyond the practical goal of fund raising. For this great joint program will not only strengthen the vitally important relief and rehabilitation work of the churches overseas but will also prove to all the world just how great is the power generated when Christians unite in such a great common cause."

All the major denominations and communions are participating in this one great offering on Sunday, March 27. This inter-denomination promotion will culminate on Saturday evening, March 26, with a nationwide radio program—"One Great Hour"—which will be broadcast for the churches of America by the contribution of the full networks from 10 to 11 p. m. "One Great Hour"—written under the direction of the great playwright (Continued on page eight)

Will Participate In Talent Show

Several Martin County young people will participate in a talent show sponsored by the Roper Ruritan Club in the high school auditorium there Friday evening of this week at 8:00 o'clock, it was announced yesterday.

The contestants from this county are, Miss Geraldine Ange and Miss Jean Stevenson of Jamesville, and the Griffin Brothers, known as the "Ditch Diggers Quartet". Miss Stevenson enters the contest with three awards already earned in contests held at various centers in this section of the State.

Postmasters Will Meet on Saturday

Announcing the program today, Postmaster W. E. Durr, said that a large majority of the 117 postmasters in the first district are planning to attend the annual meeting of their chapter of the National Association of Postmasters in the American Legion Hut here on Saturday of this week.

Following the registration at 11:00 o'clock that morning, the postmasters will discuss a business calendar and various topics. Lunch will be served at 1:00 o'clock.

D. Staton Inscow, former Williamston man, who is president of the North Carolina Chapter and Raleigh postmaster, Miss Pearl Linville, chapter secretary and national vice president of Oak Ridge, and Central Accounting Postmaster George E. Wilson of Charlotte will speak briefly, and the Honorable M. H. Ackerman, inspector in charge of the Atlanta Division, will deliver the main address.

Several district inspectors, led by J. M. Risley of Raleigh, will answer questions and discuss various phases of postal activities.

Youth Center Not To Be Opened Tomorrow Night

Due to preparations for a Postmaster's meeting in the American Legion Hut on Saturday morning and afternoon, the Youth Center will not be opened on Friday evening. The Center will be opened on Saturday and Sunday evenings as usual.

Grand Jury Files Quarterly Report In Court Tuesday

Recommends Repairs To County Home and Better School Water Supply

Completing their work Tuesday afternoon, members of the Martin County Grand Jury interrupted the proceedings in the Coltrain case long enough to submit their report in open court. Judge Chester D. Morris, presiding over the term, expressed his appreciation to the jury for its splendid work and commented very favorably on the report.

Nine new members were added to the grand jury this week, including W. R. Banks, J. W. Hollowell, Jr., William Hadley, D. Q. Weaver, Frank Holliday, Marion Cobb, Andrew Mobley, Nat Ellis, and Warner Bailey. They are to serve until next March. The nine other members of the jury who will complete their tenure six months from now, include Jessup Harrison, foreman; Thurman Roberson, Claude Keel, G. E. Coburn, Ernest V. Jones, J. H. Forbes, Leonard C. Bennett, S. D. Roberson and C. A. James. W. E. Early served as jury officer.

In addition to the regular report, the jury filed a supplemental record on the condition of the school buses. Judge Morris had warned that he would stop any that were not in good mechanical condition. The report showed that thirty-seven buses were O. K., that ten had minor defects such as faulty horns, cracked windows and so on. Nine buses were said to be dirty, five of them serving the Parmele school.

The regular jury report follows:

"We passed on all bills of indictment presented to us.

"We visited the office of the Clerk of Superior Court and found it to be in excellent condition, with all guardian accounts filed and recorded up to date.

"The sheriff's office and tax collector's office were visited and found to be in good condition with all records up to date.

"We found the register of deeds' office in excellent condition and all bonds in order.

"We visited the office of the superintendent of schools and found it in excellent condition. We inspected the certificates in this office and found that all school buses have proper licenses.

"We checked all justice of the peace reports and found them all filed with the clerk of the court and fines submitted to the treasurer.

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Hundreds Attend Cooking School

The two-day cooking school and Appliance Show, sponsored by the Thrower Hardware and Appliance Company, opened yesterday afternoon at 2:30 in the American Legion Hut with a capacity house of approximately 100 persons.

Electric appliances were demonstrated by the staff of the company. The school was prepared by Miss Mary Estelle Doyle, home economist of Walker-Martin, Inc., assisted by Miss Eleanor Hall, home economist for the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

Those attending registered upon entering the hut and following the school, names were drawn to determine winners of the prizes offered. Mrs. Reg Simpson was the winner of the oven meal; Mrs. Frank Lilley, sauceman meal; Mrs. John VanLandingham, speed meat loaf; Mrs. Jesse B. Everett of Hamilton, Spanish onions; Mrs. James H. Ward, toasted potatoes; Mrs. M. E. Hyman of Palmyra, Dutch apple pie; Mrs. L. L. Whitfield of Robersonville, hand iron; Mrs. T. E. Forehand, waffle iron, and Mrs. David Modlin won refrigerator cookies.

Two-pound bags of flour were given to each person attending. The flour was donated through the courtesy of Martin-Elliott Co. of Williamston and W. H. Bassinger of Chesapeake, Nescate coffee was served from a booth by representatives.