

## Grand Jury Files Quarterly Report In Court Monday

### Recommend Improved Sewer System For Prison Camp Near Here

With few warrants placed before them, the Martin County Grand Jury completed its work and filed its quarterly report before court recessed late Monday afternoon. The report, more or less of a routine nature, recommended that the sewer system at the State Highway and Public Works Commission road camp near Williamston be improved.

Opening court Monday morning, Judge Chester Morris, presiding, explained that no charge was necessary, but instructed the jurymen to go about their tasks as guardians of the people's welfare. When the report was submitted and read in open court, Judge Morris thanked the jurymen for their services.

Nine of the eighteen men headed by I. Jessup Harrison as foreman, are retiring from the jury after serving a year. They will be replaced by nine new men at the September term.

The report reads, in detail: "We passed on all bills of indictment presented to us.

"We visited the office of the clerk of the superior court and found it to be in excellent condition, with all guardian accounts filed.

"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.

"We visited the office of the superintendent of schools and found it in excellent condition.

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

"We visited the county jail and found it to be clean and well kept and we found 1 white male and 5 colored male inmates.

"We found upon our visit to the prison camp that the kitchen and sleeping quarters were in a well kept condition. Upon further inspection, the grand jury recommends that the officials of the State Highway and Public Works Commission be advised of the sewage disposal system at Prison Camp.

(Continued on page eight)

## Youth Bitten By Snake At Ball Park Tuesday

Ben L. Stephenson, Jr., of Robersonville, was bitten by a poisonous snake while retrieving a foul ball at the ball park here late Tuesday night. Responding to treatment administered in the local hospital over night, the 12-year-old lad was able to return to his home yesterday afternoon.

The youngster was reported to have gone into a ditch for the ball, and hardly realizing what had happened to him he made no outcry until his leg started swelling.

## Responds To Treatment In the Hospital Here

From his home in Griffins Township this week, Mr. Sylvester Peel was reported today to be responding to treatment. However, he continues very weak.

## THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Possibly there's a recession in some lines of business, but the wrecking and maiming business on the highways of this county is holding up. There were four highway and street accidents during the past week.

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.

24th Week			
Accidents In'd	Killed	Dam'ge	
1949	4	1	\$ 1,050
1948	4	5	600
Comparisons To Date			
1949	53	25	\$13,255
1948	67	27	13,200

## Tobacco Curing Under Way; Crop Outlook Still Good

Hot and dry weather prevailing in this section for several days has set the stage for the tobacco harvest. Several barns were housed early this week and the task is rapidly becoming general over the county. The harvest is fairly certain to reach a climax by the latter part of next week, reports declaring that Martin farmers will have set a new record this year in the early harvest of a tobacco crop.

Heavy rains the latter part of last week damaged some tobacco, but the acreage where the leaves flopped was comparatively small. The hot sun yesterday caused the leaf to wilt slightly in some fields, but as a whole the outlook is still

good for one of the best crops in years in this county.

With the possible exception of peanuts, crops in the county, as a whole, are looking fine. The corn crop is most promising. Cotton, planted more extensively this year than in several, is responding to the hot weather. Peanuts, delayed by unfavorable weather at planting time, are doing fair, but in some sections where the rains were not excessive good stands are reported and the prospects are good. Other field crops are doing all right, too.

Reports indicate that there is ample labor available to handle the tobacco harvest with prevailing wage rates slightly under those of a year ago.

## WINNER



Miss Edna Ray Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Thomas, was chosen by Williamston Jaycees in a recent contest held here to represent them in the North Carolina Beauty Pageant to be held in Morehead City on July 9.

## Campers Enjoyed Stay At Manteo

The Martin County 4-H boys and girls had a very enjoyable camp week at Manteo June 13-18. The campers learned and saw much about the historic Roanoke Island and Camp Manteo. The mornings were filled with classes conducted by trained men and women. These included swimming, handicraft, recreation and tours. The afternoon program consisted of organized sports and swimming. In the evenings games were played and vespers ended the days schedule.

During the last evening camp superlatives were elected, followed by a very impressive candle lighting ceremony. The camp superlatives were: most popular boy, Corrone Bryant, Williamston; wittiest boy, Jerry Williamson, Williamston; best all-around boy, Corrone Bryant; most bashful boy, Joe Williams, Williamston; best boy camper, Jimmy Knowles, Jamesville; cutest girl, Leiwana Edmondson, Oak City; wittiest girl, Caroline Wallace, Jamesville; and most bashful girl, Barbara Harrell, Oak City.

Saturday morning was spent packing and saying goodbye to old and new friends.

## Bookmobile In County Delayed

The Friday schedule for the county bookmobile is being eliminated this week on account of a delay in having repairs made to the truck, it was explained yesterday by the librarian.

The bookmobile will make its other stops in the county next week, and readers who miss the schedule tomorrow are invited to meet the traveling library at the nearest stop next week, beginning Monday.

## Adult Night At Local Pool Friday

The swimming pool has been one of the busiest places in town during the past week. Director of Recreation John L. Goff, Jr., reports. Large crowds have been enjoying the chance to take a cool dip.

Swimming lessons began last week for the younger children. Bill Corbett reports that his charges are making a great deal of progress. Lessons are offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10 to 11 o'clock, with the only charge being the regular pool admission.

Plans are being made for an adult night swim this Friday, June 24th. At that time the pool will be closed to everyone except "those of voting age." Regular hours and prices will be maintained for this swim—from 7:30 until 9 p. m.

On Saturday night a swimming party will be given for the teenagers, it is announced by Louise Griffin. It is understood that these were very successful last year, and the recreation department hopes that they will be even more so this year. This swim will begin at 9:30—after the regular hours of the pool.

Quite a few boys' are playing baseball in the mornings at the high school field. It is hoped that more interest can be aroused in this sport and that enough boys will come out to make up several teams.

The director feels that the recreation program is getting off to a good start. The cooperation of young and old has accounted for a large part of the program's success. Future participation and support will be greatly appreciated.

## Falls Dead At Mill In County

Lloyd Jordan, 47-year-old employee of the North Carolina Pulp Company at its plant in the lower part of this county, fell dead there at 11:30 o'clock last Tuesday evening, the apparent victim of a heart attack.

Superintendent of the building housing the paper-making machine, Mr. Jordan observed operations there until about 11:15 that night when he was relieved. As he was leaving the building he told someone he wasn't feeling well, that he could hardly get his breath. He explained further that he thought he would be all right. After leaving the building he walked about 100 yards and sat down on a box, toppling over on his face a few minutes later, fatally stricken. He died before medical aid could reach him.

Jordan, a native of Sicily, came to this country some years ago and worked in the Richmond pulp plant in West Virginia before coming to this section about ten years ago to work in the plant near Plymouth. He was a popular employee, and is survived by his widow and two children.

Deputy Coroner Billy Biggs and Deputy Sheriff M. W. Holloman investigated the death and finding no sign of foul play ruled an inquest unnecessary. An autopsy was performed in a Rocky Mount hospital later, but no report on the findings was made public.

## Funeral On Friday At Macedonia For Mrs. Mamie Corey

### Well-Known Resident of Bear Grass Died at Home Wednesday Afternoon

Mrs. Mamie Elizabeth Coltraine Corey, well-known resident of Bear Grass Township, died at her home on the Washington Highway at 4:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon after a long period of declining health. She underwent an operation some months ago and returned home the early part of April after undergoing treatment in Duke Hospital, Durham, for two weeks. She had been confined to her bed and her condition had been critical since that time.

The daughter of the late John W. and Millie Ann Woolard Coltraine, she was born in Bear Grass Township on February 16, 1882, and spent all her life in that community.

She was married in 1917 to Noah J. Corey who died May 4, 1939. Surviving are one son, Perlie, of California; four brothers, Daniel and Joseph Coltraine, both of Streator, Illinois, Charles A. Coltraine of Williamston, and Oliver Coltraine of Bear Grass; one sister, Mrs. Susan F. Peel of Bear Grass.

Mrs. Corey was a faithful and devoted member of the Macedonia Church for 55 years and services will be conducted there Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by her pastor, Rev. Preston E. Cayton, assisted by Rev. W. B. Harrington. Interment will be in the Tice Cemetery in Griffins Township. The body will be carried to the church one hour before the service.

## Hold Funeral For Former Resident

Services are being held in a Philadelphia chapel this afternoon at 2:00 o'clock for Mrs. Arthur Bertolet, former Williamston resident. Cremation rites will follow there.

The former Miss Margaret Richardson, she was born in Rhode Island 42 years ago. Following her marriage to Mr. Bertolet, she made her home in Richmond, coming to Williamston about 1936. Before war was declared in 1941, Mr. Bertolet volunteered for service as an officer in the army, and the family made their home in Bermuda for some time. After the war they located in Philadelphia where they had since made their home.

During recent months she had suffered with high blood pressure, but was thought to be getting along very well under the care of the family physician. She suffered a cerebral hemorrhage last Saturday, death following early the next morning in a Philadelphia hospital.

Surviving besides Mr. Bertolet are two children, a son, Craig, and a daughter, Paige Bertolet, and a sister, Miss Willet Richardson of Connecticut.

While in Williamston Mrs. Bertolet made many friends and was held in high esteem by all who knew her. Mr. Bertolet was employed by the Virginia Electric and Power Company during their stay here.

## Twenty Cases On Court's Docket

About twenty cases have been placed on the docket already for trial in the Martin County Recorder's Court next Monday, Clerk L. B. Wynne announced today.

Six are booked for drunken driving, five for speeding, three for operating motor vehicles without drivers' licenses, the others being involved in assault and non-support cases.

One defendant is charged with assaulting his wife and their two-month-old baby with his fists and causing serious bodily harm.

Four of those charged with drunken driving are calling for jury trials, and twelve citizens have been drawn to hear the cases.

## Hold Service For Former Resident Of Martin County

### Lt. Thomas J. Meeks Killed In Flight Over Germany June 13, 1943

Funeral services were conducted at the graveside in Greenwood Cemetery at Greenville on Wednesday at 3:30 p. m. for Lt. Thomas J. Meeks, formerly of near Robersonville, who was killed in action over Kiel, Germany, on June 13, 1943. Rev. D. W. Alexander, Free Will Baptist minister, conducted the last rites. Full military honors were accorded by the Charles Gray Morgan Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Meeks of Pitt County, he was born between Parmele and Bethel in 1921, and spent his early life in that community. Following his graduation from the Bethel schools, he attended and received his bachelor of arts degree from East Carolina Teachers College in Greenville in 1940, and taught school the following term in Ahoskie.

In August of 1941 he volunteered for service in the U. S. Army Air Corps and received his commission as a second lieutenant a year later. In April, 1943, he was sent to England as a navigator on a B-17 bomber, completing a number of missions before he lost his life about two months later.

He was awarded the Air Medal with Oak Leaf cluster and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

(Continued on page eight)

## Hears Six Cases In Justice Court

Justice R. T. Johnson heard six cases in his court during the past few days while Justice John L. Hassell suspended all activity in his court possibly because of the extreme heat.

Charged with failing to give right of way to an approaching vehicle, Robert Fleming was taxed with \$5.85 costs.

Calvin Hodges, publicly drunk, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of \$8.85 costs.

Charged with operating a car on the wrong side of the road, Harry P. Roberson was fined \$10, taxed with the cost and required to pay the prosecuting witness' doctor's bill.

Julius James Shappard, charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes, was fined \$5 and taxed with \$5.85 costs.

Charged with failing to give right of way to an approaching vehicle, B. F. Perry was fined \$15 and taxed with \$5.85 costs. Notice of appeal was given.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly and disturbing the peace, Grady Thomas was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the road term upon promised good behavior for twelve months and the payment of a \$10 fine and costs of \$5.85.

## Band Concert To Be Given Next Week

Professor Jack Butler is busy this week-end brushing up on the final arrangements for the open air concert to be given on the Williamston Grammar School playgrounds next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock by the Green Wave Band of Williamston High School. Special lights are being provided under the direction of Bill Glover and Blue Manning is to arrange for a platform for the band by driving two of his large trucks up close by the building.

The concert will be a full-length one containing many numbers to suit the taste of old and young alike.

## Continues Quite Ill In A Rocky Mount Hospital

Mr. Lon Griffin, Griffins Township farmer, continues quite ill in a Rocky Mount hospital, late reports stating that his attending doctors are certain the left leg will have to be amputated above the knee. It is likely the amputation will be effected tomorrow.

## Named Librarian Woman's College, Duke University

Miss Evelyn J. Harrison, daughter of Mrs. L. B. Harrison and the late Mr. Harrison of Williamston, has been named librarian of the Woman's College, Duke University in Durham, President Hollis Edens announced this week. Succeeding Mrs. Lillian B. Griggs, who is retiring, Miss Harrison will enter upon her new duties the first of July.

Miss Harrison attained the eminent position after many years of diligent work as a member of the library staff. She went with the library in 1930, and nine years later she was made head of the catalog department where she served until her appointment to the top position this week.

After completing the courses of instruction in the Williamston schools, Miss Harrison entered Duke where she was graduated four years later. She also studied at and was graduated from the University of Illinois Library School, making library service her life's work.

She is a member of the American Library Association, South-eastern Library Association and the N. C. Library Association. She was secretary of the latter group in 1937-38 and treasurer from 1939-43.

One of several libraries in the Duke library system, the Woman's College Library contains 80,000 volumes. Total holdings are about 950,000.

## Fifty Percent Of Deaths Traceable To Four Diseases

### More Than 8,000 Deaths In This State During First Quarter

By Wm. H. Richardson  
N. C. State Board of Health

Well over one-half of all the people who died in North Carolina during the first quarter of 1949 were victims of four diseases; namely, disease of the heart, apoplexy, cancer and nephritis. These four diseases killed 4,502 people during January, February and March of this year, according to reports compiled by the State Board of Health. Deaths from all causes totalled 8,081 which was 493 fewer than the 8,574 total for the corresponding period of last year.

The four diseases above referred to as the chief killers in North Carolina at the present time fall within the class of what is known as degenerative diseases, as they take their heaviest tolls among people of middle and late life. There is rarely a period in which diseases of the heart do not show an increase. However, there were 113 fewer deaths from heart disease in North Carolina the first quarter of this year than during the corresponding three months of 1948. Nephritis deaths also showed an appreciable decrease as did deaths from strokes, but cancer fatalities continued their upward trend.

Deaths from automobile accidents, according to the State Board of Health's method of computation, increased from 180 to 226 during the period under consideration. Deaths from accidents, other than those associated with motor vehicles, dropped from 405 to 349. All accidental deaths are classed as preventable by the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Sometime ago it was pointed out that there was an increase in the incidence of measles in North Carolina this year. This increase has been reflected in vital statistics reports from January through March of this year. Twenty-six persons died of measles, 16 of these deaths having occurred in North Carolina. No deaths from measles were reported during the first quarter of 1948.

Much has been said recently about North Carolina's case-finding program designed to eradicate tuberculosis, through early detection and treatment. Deaths from what used to be North Carolina's No. 1 killer, numbered 214 during the first quarter of this year as compared with 233 for the same period last year.

## BOOSTER DAYS

Getting under way here this morning, Boosters' Days—Thursday, Friday and Saturday—are attracting numerous visitors to local stores.

Parking meters, temporarily idle during the big trade event, are capped with bags and parking is at a near premium on the principal business districts.

Visitors are reported to be very favorably impressed by the bargains.

## PRESIDENT



Mrs. John A. Ward of Williamston was unanimously elected president of the North Carolina State American Legion Auxiliary at a convention held in Raleigh this week. Mrs. Ward has been active in auxiliary circles for several years, having effected an active work in the organization's several departments during that time.

## Accident Victim Reported Better

Critically hurt in an automobile accident near Tarboro last Monday morning, Dick Miller, local man, was reported to be improving in a Tarboro hospital today. It was believed at that time that it would be possible to save his left arm. The limb, according to preliminary reports, was badly mangled and there were several fractures in the elbow. In addition to the arm injury, the victim suffered a sixteen-stitch cut on his head.

Woodrow W. Beard, riding with Miller in Miller's jeep and who suffered minor cuts and bruises, was able to return to Washington, D. C., Tuesday evening to continue his work there.

Miller, according to reports reaching here, was rounding the curve just this side of Princeville when the jeep, carrying him, lost control of his machine and sideswiped another car driven by Dr. J. A. Edens of Williamston. Dr. Edens, little hurt in the accident, was able to continue home.

## Member Added To School Faculty

Miss Leona Peterson of Delco, Columbus County, has been elected to fill the position of French and English teachers in the local high school faculty, it was announced yesterday by Principal B. G. Stewart. She succeeds Miss Sue Tilley who resigned to continue her studies at the University of North Carolina.

Miss Peterson who is now attending summer school at Wake Forest has taught for four years at Rock Ridge in Wilson County and at Meadows in Johnston County.

Only one position in the faculty here remains to be filled, and applications for that job are being considered, it was reported.

## Superior Court In Final Session Of Term on Tuesday

### Fine in Perjury Case Reduced From \$500 to \$200 By Judge Morris

The Martin County Superior Court, possibly influenced a bit by the extremely warm weather, folded its tent and stole away quietly Tuesday afternoon after clearing the criminal docket and entering judgments in a few divorce and civil cases. The court was scheduled to run for only a week, but early adjournment was made possible when voluntary agreements were reached in one or two civil cases, the trial of which would have required much time.

Judge Chester Morris, presiding over the term, dismissed the jury Tuesday afternoon and signed all judgments before repairing to his home in Currituck County by late afternoon.

Roy Boston, fined \$500 during the Monday session when he stretched the truth out of all proportions, got a break Tuesday when Judge Morris reconsidered the judgment and reduced the fine to \$200. Staring a 12-month road sentence in the face in the event the fine wasn't paid, Boston really started digging when the judge compromised the fine. Up until then the perjurer saw no way out except by the open road route.

Pleading guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Charlie Bell was sentenced to the roads for not more than twenty months and not less than fifteen months on the roads. Judge Morris suspended the road term for three years and placed Bell on probation for that length of time, requiring the defendant to pay a \$100 fine, the costs and \$25 to Kader Brown, Jr., prosecuting witness, for medical expenses. Ten dollar fines imposed upon Kader and Ida Brown for not appearing in court Monday were lifted Tuesday when the court was advised that subpoenas had not reached the witnesses in time.

The case charging Jake David Spruill with issuing a worthless check, was not pressed. It was reported that the defendant had settled the check issue.

Lawrence Idley, charged with drunken driving, withdrew his appeal to the superior tribunal and accepted the judgment imposed in the lower court.

The cases charging George Mobley with embezzlement were continued until the September term.

Divorces, based on two-year-separation grounds, were granted, Sarah Lanier against John Lanier; Mattie Evelyn Cherry against Oscar Mancefield Cherry, and Floyd Butler against Mary E. Butler.

(Continued on page eight)

## Firemen Called To Mill Here Late Last Evening

Volunteer firemen were called out at 10:30 o'clock last evening when a sawdust pile fire started spreading at the Williamston Lumber Company plant on the Washington Road. There was no damage.

## CORRECTION

In the Margolis Brothers' Booster Day advertisement in Tuesday's issue, prices on two items were inadvertently transposed. The price on Artemis slips was listed at \$8 when it should have been only \$2.95, and the price on early spring dresses was listed at \$2.95 when it should have been \$8.00. The correction is gladly noted.

## BREEDERS MEET

Dr. H. A. Stewart will speak to the Martin County Purebred Hog Breeders Friday night, June 24, at 8 p. m., in the Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is to give hog raisers, especially purebred breeders, information on increasing profits with hogs.

Dr. Stewart is in charge of swine research at State College. All purebred breeders and other farmers are invited to attend the meeting and learn the latest things in swine production.