

Divorce Mill In High Gear Monday In Superior Court

Judge W. I. Halstead Is Presiding Over Second Week of Term

After accomplishing very little in the first of a two-week term, the Martin County Superior Court cranked up its divorce mill, threw it into high gear and ground out ten absolute divorces in short order Monday.

Several other cases were also cleared from the calendar before the day was spent. None of the divorce cases was contested when the final show-down came.

Taking over the court when Judge Leo Carr, after presiding over the first week of the term, asked to be transferred to Tarboro to hear the contempt cases against 78 cotton mill workers, Judge W. I. Halstead, recently appointed to the bench by Governor W. Kerr Scott, set a pattern for his charges to the jury, and the divorces literally rolled out of the mill.

Divorces, all based on two-year separation grounds, were granted in the following cases. Lizzie Mae Carr against Leo Carr, Robert Tucker against Grace Tucker, Margaret C. Ruff against Robert Lee Ruff, Annie H. Ewell against Almas Thomas Uzzell, Gertha Powell against Linwood Powell, Edward Lefate Jones against Bertha Irene Jones, C. B. Allen against Vady Mildred Allen, and Orlander Rodgers against Beatrice Rodgers.

The case in which Mrs. Vady Mildred Allen was suing C. B. Allen for alimony without divorce, the plaintiff took a voluntary non-suit. It was announced Monday morning that the plaintiff would contest the divorce action brought by her husband, but the records show that later in the day the voluntary non-suit was taken and a divorce was granted Allen.

The case in which S. Gluck and Company was suing American Railway Express Company for several thousand dollars, an agreement was reached, the plaintiff accepting \$558.50 in settlement of its claim.

A consent judgment was entered in the case of Edward Matthews against Ernest Elton Harris, the plaintiff to recover \$300 damages allegedly resulting in an automobile collision.

With the divorce slate cleared and judgment entered in a few other cases, the court called the case of Albert Biggs against L. V. Fagan in which the plaintiff asked \$279.09 damages alleged to have resulted in a wreck on Highway 17.

Car Wrecked By Fire In County Saturday

Starting from a short circuit in the radio, fire burned out the interior of Will Ampley's 1941 Ford car shortly before midnight last Saturday near Robersonville, Patrolman B. W. Parker reported yesterday.

Answering the call to the car fire, Robersonville's volunteer firemen saved the engine and tires. While at the scene the firemen discovered a fire in a tenant house on Kenneth Roberson's farm, hardly one hundred yards away, and put it out in a hurry.

THRONGS No official estimates could be had, but several observers are certain that more people visited Williamston last Friday afternoon and evening than at any time in recent years.

Demonstrate Latest Potato Digger In County Monday

A new device for digging sweet potatoes will be demonstrated in this county next Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock, Assistant County Farm Agent J. W. Sumner announced this week.

The demonstration will be held on the Clyde Revels farm in Bear Grass Township, about one mile west of Highway 17 on the road to Bear Grass.

Inventors have been working on improvements to the rotary sweet potato digger, and the demonstration in this county will be one of the first on the schedule this season.

The improved machine, recognized as a long step ahead of the old conventional method of digging potatoes with a two-horse turning plow, lightens the work, saves labor and cuts fewer potatoes, according to advance reports.

In addition to the demonstration, Mr. Covington will gladly answer any question pertaining to sweet potato production and marketing. He appeared in the county a few weeks ago and discussed the timely topic at a meeting held in Bear Grass.

The public is invited and all sweet potato farmers are urged to witness the demonstration on the Revels farm next Monday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock.

LOOK FOR OWNER

Instead of looking for stolen tobacco, Sheriff M. W. Holoman and Deputy J. H. Roebuck are looking for the owner to claim about 300 pounds of tobacco believed to have been stolen.

Seventeen sticks of graded tobacco were found by Farmer Daniel Knox in a vacant tenant house on his farm on the Butler's Bridge-Hassell Road last Saturday. He reported the find to the officers and they are looking for the owner who may recover the tobacco by contacting the sheriff's office and describing it.

Circus Attended By Large Crowds

Dailey Brothers' circus, the second railroad "big top" to come here in years, was attended by large crowds at both performances last Friday afternoon and evening. Although in competition with a high school football game that evening, the circus played to approximately 4,000 and possibly more people that evening.

The show, while hardly measuring up to expectations, was enjoyed by the little tots and those who had never seen a circus. Joe David Throver, Sr., and Dick Smith saw it once or possibly twice, and Arthur Revels, taking in his first circus, laughed at some of the acts until tears rolled down his face.

Old circus fans, including Wiley Burroughs Rogerson and Irving Smith of Robersonville, greeted the show in fairly large numbers at Roberson's siding just west of the town at 6:30 that morning. Mr. Throver, after keeping things straight all day, helped load up and turned the show over to the train crew shortly before 1:00 o'clock Saturday morning. The 25-car train pulled out of the station about 1:30 for Selma.

A record crowd moved away from the high school football field last night, to meet the circus crowd at the Washington and Haughton intersections, and a traffic tie-up resulted. Cars were blocked for half a mile, but after a few minor incidents the traffic snarl was unraveled and the streets were soon cleared.

Happenings In Oak City School

The senior class of Oak City High School elected its class officers for 1949-50 recently. They are as follows: President, Gladys Everett; vice president, Margaret Bryant; secretary, Lorene Oglesby; treasurer, Irvin Manning.

On September 19 the annual staff was elected. They are as follows: Editor-in-chief, Stella Mizell; associate editor, Mary Elizabeth Harrell; business manager, Lorette Oglesby; production manager, Dorothy Smith; art editor, Reatha Edmonds; literary editor, Kay Everett; sports editor, Elmer Davenport; advertising manager, Billy Worsley.—Lorene Oglesby.

Judgment Delayed In Big Civil Case By Jurist Friday

Judge Says He'll Entertain Motion To Set \$6,000 Verdict Aside

Following a one and one-half day trial, the \$15,000 damage suit brought by Grover Peel, administrator of Chloe Peel, against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company was left pending in the Martin County Superior Court late Friday afternoon when Judge Leo Carr, presiding, announced he would entertain a motion to have the verdict set aside.

Defense counsel with one of the attorneys called away before the jury reached its verdict made no immediate move to set the verdict calling for \$6,000 damage, aside. It was intimated, however, that at least three motions would be offered, and Judge Carr said that the motions would be entertained at the convenience of the court at any place inside or outside the district, possibly before the next term of the tribunal is held in the county.

It is fairly certain that the defense will ask that the verdict be set aside as being contrary to the weight of the evidence, or because the amount allowed is excessive, or, lastly, because of error in the proceedings.

The \$15,000 damage suit had its origin last November when Chloe Peel, two-year-old colored child, was struck and fatally injured by the defendant's train near Dardens. Her father away at work at the time and "deserted" by the mother, the child was in the care of a 9-year-old sister. The two girls, following a little path, started across the railroad ahead of the train. The older girl made it across, but the 2-year-old was caught in the middle, struck and knocked a few feet to the side. It was brought out by plaintiff's evidence that the engineer sounded the engine whistle, applied the emergency brakes and brought the train to a stop within eight or ten feet after the child was hit.

No evidence was offered by the defense and after argument and the judge's charge Friday afternoon, the jury took the case and rendered its verdict within a fairly short time.

Meeting in the auditorium of the elementary school immediately following the close of the regular session of the Parents-Teachers Association, the Williamston High School Band Parents Club last night named R. L. Welch as its president for the coming year and approved a reduction in dues from \$2.00 to \$1.00 per family.

D. C. McLawhorn was named as vice president and Mrs. J. D. Page was re-elected as secretary-treasurer. The new officers were nominated by a committee under the chairmanship of Walter Martin and were approved unanimously.

Professor Jack Butler reported that the Green Wave Band has accepted an invitation to play a concert at Jamesville, N. C., Oct. 24 and is considering an invitation to appear at ECTC in Greenville on October 28. He asked and received permission to charter a bus for the football band to travel to Ahsoskie on November 11 for the football game between the Indians and the Green Wave. He said that was the only out of town game the band would attend.

Three graduates of the 1948-49 band have moved into places on college musical units it was reported last night. Julian Mason is now a drummer with the University of North Carolina band, Sally Bet Hardison is with the Duke University concert band and Edna Rae Thomas has joined Lucy Robertson as a majorette at ECTC.

Retiring President John Henry Edwards was given a vote of thanks for his services during the past year and the group voiced its deep appreciation of the support the town gave its recent drive to raise funds for instruments.

Rehearsal hours were listed by Professor Butler as from 7:30 to 9:00 on Monday nights and 7:30 to 9:30 on Thursday nights.

HOME FASHIONS

Local furniture dealers announced today that "Home Fashion Week" would be observed in Williamston next week with a program of promotion similar to that being held in Raleigh and other cities of the state this week.

Prizes will be given and an essay contest conducted, it was said. The program was postponed a week here so as not to conflict with the Booster Day program of sales promotion. Details will be announced to the public Thursday of this week.

Crop Conditions At Quick Glance In North Carolina

Bright and Dark Spots Are Found In Estimates Of September 1

Crop conditions are offered at a glance by the North Carolina Farm Report, as follows: The flue-cured tobacco crop is now estimated at 747 million pounds, or an increase of about eight million pounds over the 1948 harvest.

The State is just about ready to harvest a record corn crop of 71,247,000 bushels, a gain of about 3.2 percent over 1948 production. Until recent rains, the peanut crop prospects were fairly bright. Acreage has been reduced from 295,000 last year to 242,000 acres this year, and the crop is now estimated to yield 266,200,000 pounds. The crop in the nation is estimated at a billion and 338 million pounds.

There has been a drop of 30,000 bales in the estimated yield of cotton in this State, and in this county the outlook is gloomy. The nation is estimated to yield 14,943,000 bales as compared with 14,805,000 bales last year.

Egg production was up four percent in August. There were 6,472,900 layers on Carolina farms at that time. The hens produced 777 million eggs in the State during August.

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Leaving his home last Tuesday morning, Strickland went to a Williamston garage to have his car repaired. He said that he would return and get it in about two hours. Nothing has been heard from him since that time.

A team on the Salsbury farm, Strickland had met all his obligations, had more crop to sell and had about \$100 in cash on his person when he disappeared.

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Band Parents Club Elects New Prexy

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SOCIAL SECURITY

A representative of the field office of the Social Security Administration will be in the offices of the Employment Security Commission, Tar Heel Building, Williamston, each fourth Wednesday at 11:00 o'clock to receive claims for old age and survivors' insurance. The representative, it is pointed out, does not handle claims for old-age pensions. He will also correct records of earnings under the Social Security Act and issue Social Security account numbers.

State Law Holds Youngsters Late

State school regulations are responsible for the holding of the first and second grade pupils in the grammar school until after 3:00 p. m. instead of the former 2:00 and 2:30 deadline. Principal B. G. Stewart told the members of the Williamston Parent-Teachers Association assembled in the auditorium of the Elementary School last night for their first meeting of the fall. He said he had released the youngsters early since taking over his duties here as he had in other schools before but that state school authorities had called his attention to state regulations which set up a minimum of six hours per school day.

The annual fee per member for the association was raised to 50c from the previous 25c in order to provide more funds for operation of the local unit after deduction of state and national dues. The action, taken by the executive committee prior to the meeting, was proposed to the group last night subject to a vote at the next regular meeting on October 24.

Following the opening preliminaries, Mrs. Urbin Rogers, vice-president, was asked by President J. C. Eubanks to bring up the matter of earlier release of the first two grades and in turn Mr. Stewart explained the reason for the change. Mrs. Abernathy's room was found to be the winner of the attendance prize of \$1.00 and is to hold the pennant for the month.

Breaking up the assembly in the newly decorated and attractive auditorium the parents joined the teachers of the various grades up through the fifth in a visit to the classrooms where the teachers explained and illustrated in detail the methods of teaching and what other activities were enjoyed during the school day. The parents, generally, enjoyed this phase of the program very much. Parents having no children in the grammar school toured the rooms with the parents who did and took an interest in the proceedings.

Refreshments were served in the lunchroom in the basement under the supervision of Miss Margaret McDaniel, home economics teacher.

Homecoming At Hassell Church

Next Sunday, Oct. 2, is annual homecoming day at the Hassell Christian Church. All the old members and friends are invited. The morning program will begin with Sunday school at 10:00, the worship service at 11:00. There is to be special music and dinner on the church lawn. A large crowd is expected.

The pastor, Rev. Olin Fox is anxious that those who come try to be on time for the morning worship at 11:00. "It will be a wonderful day of fellowship," he declares.

Minor Accident In This County

No one was hurt but a 1937 Ford coach was wrecked beyond repair last Friday morning a few hundred feet this side of the Pitt County boundary on Highway 64. Isaac G. Whitley of the Gold Point section started to slow the vehicle down when he saw several children beside the road. The tires skidded on the wet pavement and the car tore into a telephone pole. Patrolman B. W. Parker, making the investigation, said the damage was about \$75.

BARGAINS

Real bargains and very timely ones, too, will reign in the merchandising field here on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week when nearly every business firm in town will support the fall booster days.

It is no little trade event—it's colossal. Attention is directed to a part of the bargains listed in the advertisements appearing in this paper.

Court Ends Trial Of Criminal Case Thursday Morning

Judge Makes Dollar-A-Year Man Out of Defendant Herbert Thompson

After clearing fourteen cases from the criminal docket, the superior court for some reason or another switched to the civil calendar, leaving seven criminal cases to be carried over to the December term. Only one civil case was called, Grover Peel, administrator of Chloe Peel, two-year-old colored child who was killed by a freight train last November, against the A. C. L. Railroad Company, before Judge Leo Carr recessed the court late Friday afternoon. At that time Judge Carr said that Judge W. I. Halstead who was recently appointed to the bench, would take over on Monday of this week while he (Judge Carr) moved to Tarboro to hear a case in which 78 mill workers were to report and show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court.

During the four-day criminal sessions last week the court handled seven jury cases. Two defendants were found not guilty of drunken driving, and two defendants in another case were freed of rape charges. Eight defendants were found guilty of larceny or breaking and entering and larceny. One case was dismissed, and no true bill was found in another by the grand jury.

The court made a dollar-a-year man out of Herbert Edward Thompson, colored man. Thompson is alleged to have broken into the room of Oscar Frazer in a rooming hall and stole a dollar. Found guilty by the jury, he was sentenced to the roads for a year.

Sentenced to serve eight months on the roads for allegedly stealing several cases of gun shells, David Mayo and Wheeler Boney got a break when the court placed them on probation for two years. The action was prompted by the prosecution. The two men are to pay the costs of court and about \$14 for missing gun shells, the total cost approximating \$70.

Former Resident Of County Dies

Mrs. Thurston F. Davenport, Sr., died at her home in Rocky Mount last Saturday morning at 9:25 o'clock after a long period of declining health. Her condition had been critical, however, for only a short time.

She was born in Mildred, Edgecombe County, 63 years ago and following her marriage she made her home in Scotland Neck for a while before locating in Rocky Mount. The family lived in Hamilton about six years, returning to Rocky Mount about sixteen years ago.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, and burial was in Scotland Neck.

Surviving besides her husband are five sons, Ashley G., Herman K., George T. and William M. Davenport, all of Rocky Mount, and T. F. Davenport, Jr., of Williamston; four daughters, Mrs. Clinton Shearin, Mrs. Earl Turnage and Mrs. Allison Davis, all of Rocky Mount, and Mrs. Henry Williams of Roxboro; two sisters, Mrs. Mae Stancill of Winterville and Mrs. Susie Alligood of Washington; and a brother, Robert Knight of Tarboro.

Destroy Large Still In County

A large liquor distillery, equipped with a 200-gallon-capacity still of the submarine type, was destroyed in Griffins Township along the Martin-Beaufort boundary a few days ago. Heading the raid, Martin ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck, aided by Deputy Roy Peel and ABC officers from Beaufort and Pitt Counties, said that the plant was the largest wrecked in this county in recent months.

There were six 300-gallon and four 50-gallon fermenters, a 50-gallon doubler and a 100-gallon cooler. The officers poured out 1,950 gallons of beer and forty gallons of white liquor. The still was fired with oil burners, the officers stating they found a small quantity of fuel oil, a number of jugs and other equipment at the plant.

Tobacco Sales Near Eight Million Mark

Prices Continue At High Figure On Local Market

Average Here Last Week Is \$2.50 Above Average For the Belt

Tobacco sales on the local market today are pushing on toward the eight million-pound mark with prices holding well up in the high figures.

A new record for the season was reached last Friday when 302,293 pounds were sold for an official average of \$55.46, the figure topping by a few cents the \$55.17 average chalked up on the previous Monday. Yesterday the market sold 224,604 pounds for \$122,418, an average of \$54.50 for every thing offered.

Last week the market sold 1,170,698 pounds for \$632,850.00, and the \$54.06 average was \$2.49 per hundred pounds higher than the average reported for the belt. Through yesterday the market had sold 7,447,398 pounds for \$3,590,765, the \$48.22 average leading that for the entire belt by more than \$1.50 per hundred.

An agriculture department report, covering all the markets in the belt, follows: Eastern North Carolina flue-cured tobacco continued to be marketed at a rapid rate during the fifth week of sales. Average prices by grades held firm to higher than quotations of the previous week. General quality of offerings was the best of the season reports the Federal-State Market News Service.

The weekly general average moved to \$51.57 per hundred as gross sales totaled 47,689,143 pounds. This was \$2.72 above that established week before last and the highest of the season. However, volume was about 4 million pounds lighter. Gross sales for the season amounted to 270,433,949 pounds averaging \$46.63. Based on the September 1 crop estimate of 384,400,000 pounds and allowing for resales, slightly over 60 percent of the crop has been sold in twenty-five sales days. In some sections the crop is more than 75 percent sold.

A large number of grades moved this week at average prices from \$1.00 to \$4.00 above the previous week. The largest percent of increases fell in leaf grades and lower qualities of other groups. Better grades held steady. Although the practical top remains at \$65.00 per hundred, a few individual baskets of fine and choice cutters and wrappers brought from \$70.00 to \$93.00 per hundred. More fair to choice grades of smoking leaf, cutters, and lugs were sold this week. The proportion of leaf and nondescript was the smallest since the first week of the season. Most sales consisted of common to good leaf, fair and good smoking leaf and lugs, and fair cutters. The amount of tobacco in an unsound or damaged condition increased noticeably on some floors.

Receipts of the Flue-cured Stabilization Corporation, under the Government loan program, were under 3 percent of gross sales or (Continued on page eight)

ROUND-UP

An even dozen alleged law violators were temporarily detained in the county jail last week-end by local, state and county officers. Five were booked for public drunkenness, two for speeding and operating motor vehicles without drivers' licenses, and one each for non-support, drunken driving, larceny, investigation and a twelfth for being absent from the army without leave.

Six of the twelve were white and the ages of the group ranged from 19 to 58 years.