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Twenty-Five Cases Slated For Trial In Superior Court

Judge Leo Carr Scheduled To Preside Over One-Week Term Here

Twenty-five cases appear on the criminal docket for trial during the one-week term of the Martin County Superior Court opening here next Monday with Judge Leo Carr of Burlington presiding. The list carries no cases of a sensational nature, and the sessions are not likely to attract much public attention. In addition to the criminal cases, a few civil actions, including some divorce pleadings, are to be heard during the term.

Quite a few of the cases were continued from previous terms, same of the actions having been pending in the courts for about a year.

The following cases appear on the docket:

O. K. Harrison, abandoning crop.

Geo. Mobley, embezzlement.

Bernice Douglas Adama, Harold Homer Cauncey, and Irving Reddick, drunken driving.

LeRoy Coffield is charged with having broken into the home of Joseph Slade and carried away a watch, bracelet and other articles, all valued at $40.

Charged with drunken driving in October of last year, Lollie Willims did not appear for trial and his bond was forfeited. The case is again on the docket.

Wilbur Sitton, bastardy.

Selling a mule to Chas. Dugger and claiming that no papers were held against the animal, Joe H. Mizelle is to face trial on a false pretense charge.

Cornelius Jones is charged with breaking into the home of Joe Johnson in Williamston on October 29, and Albert Green is charged with breaking into the home of Louis D. Ormond the same night.

Linwood Speight, deaf mute, is charged with breaking into the home of Lillie Berry on November 24.

Charged with seducing Mary Davis under promise of marriage last May 30, Andrew Lyons, Jr., si facing trial next week.

Fred Wilson is charged with breaking into the home of Ollie Whitley on December 4.

Stewart Edward Wiggins is charged with breaking into the Luke Harrell home on September 26 and stealing $60 cash belonging to Williams Chapel Sunday School.

Sam Gorham is charged with breaking into the home of Louisa Biggs and assaulting her.

Ernest Wilson Bunting, young Oak City white man, faces the court on a manslaughter charge. The defendant was driving the car that figured in an accident, costing Gus Bryant his life in or near Hamilton last September 14.

Paul Thomas is charged with forging the name of W. S. Mizelle to a $350 check and cashing it at a local bank on October 10.

James Willis Lloyd and N. S. Nichols are alleged to have held up and robbed John Clay of $12 on October 7.

Charged with drunken driving, [illegible] appealed from a county court judgment.

Sentenced in the county court to serve six months on the roads for non-support, John J. Trnacek appealed to the superior court and his case is slated to be called next week.

Admitting paternity and charged with non-support, Robert Jasper Rogers appealed from a lower court judgment.

John E. Walker, bad check.

James B. Hilleald and Donald Eugene Gaddis, two young white men, are booked for trial on a breaking and entering charge. They are alleged to have entered the home of Wm. H. Taylor near Williamston in December and car-

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Local Baptist Choir To Offer Christmas Program

The local Baptist choir will present a Christmas program in the church Sunday afternoon, December 18, at 5:00 o'clock, it was announced today by the pastor, Rev. Stewart B. Simms.

Plans Are Completed For Vote On Cotton Thursday

Plans have been completed for holding the cotton referendum in this county on Thursday, December 15, between the hours of 8:00 o'clock a. m. and 5:00 o'clock p. m., the Production and Marketing Administration office announces.

Polling places will be maintained in ten communities, and in addition to voting on cotton quotas for 1950, farmers will elect their triple A community committeemen and delegates to the county convention.

Approximately 700 farmers are eligible to participate in the cotton referendum, but all farmers are eligible to and should vote in the committee elections.

The polling places for the various districts will be maintained on December 15, as follows:

Bear Grass Township, Harrison's Garage in Bear Grass.

Cross Roads Township, Hardy's Store in Everetts.

Goose Nest Township, districts one and two, Ayers Store in Oak City.

Griffins Township, Manning's Store at Piney Grove.

Hamilton Township, Cherry and Edmondson's Store in Hamilton, and P. C. Edmondson's Store in Hassell.

Jamesville Township, districts one and two, City Hill in Jamesville.

Williams Township, County House at No. 90 Station.

Williamston - Poplar Point Townships, Agricultural Building in Williamston.

SUCCESSFUL

While the collections last Sunday was very successful, the Jaycee Christmas Cheer committee explained today that a few more toys could be used to a great advantage in meeting a somewhat increased demand coming from the less fortunate tots in the town and immediate community.

Those who have toys they can spare and did not get them in the last Sunday collection are asked to deliver them to the city hall or call Thad Harrison or Junie Peel for spot collection service.

Eight Cases In Justice Courts

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

Drunk and disorderly at the Little Savoy, Chas. B. Taylor was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, Justice Hassell suspending the road term upon the payment of $11.50 costs.

Jim Gray, colored, was sentenced by Justice Hassell to the roads for thirty days for being drunk on Washington Street. The road term was suspended upon the payment of $10.50 costs.

Justice Johnson handled the following cases in his court:

William Hoggard, drunk, $5 fine and costs.

Charged with non-support, George Bonds was bound over to the county court under $100 bond. In a second case, Bonds was fined $10 and taxed with $6.85 costs for being publicly drunk.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of $5.85 costs in the case charging Cleveland Manning with operating a motor vehicle with improper equipment.

Charged with breaking into the home of Ollie Whitley, Fred Wilson was bound over to the superior court for trial next week. Unable to raise the $750 bond he continues in jail.

Jonah Clemmons was bound over under $150 bond to the county court for drunken driving.

Make Plans For Special Contest

Tentative plans are just about complete for advancing the 1949 holiday lighting or Christmas decorating contest, Chairman W. H. Carstarphen said today.

Three first prizes will be awarded for the best doorway or rooftop arrangement, the most original decoration, and the best yard or lawn scene. It is now planned to judge the decorations on Sunday, December 18 between the hours of 9 and 11 p. m. Judges will be recruited from the surrounding towns of Hamilton, Jamesville, Oak City, Everetts and Bear Grass.

Schemes for decorating local public buildings are said to be nearing completion.

The Jaycees are again locating the Nativity scene on the Presbyterian church lawn, and it is planned to play recordings during brief periods each evening.

Divorce Cases On Docket For Trial In Superior Court

All Plaintiffs Base Their Claims On Two-Year Separation Grounds

In addition to the twenty-five cases on the criminal docket, the Martin County Superior Court in the one-week mixed term opening here next Monday is scheduled to hear six divorce actions. All the plaintiffs are basing their claims on two-year separation grounds.

Judge Leo Carr of Burlington is to preside over the term, and the divorce cases are tentatively set for trial next Thursday after allowing three days in which to clear the criminal docket.

In the case of Wallace C. Moore against Annie E. Moore, the plaintiff says they were married in 1940 and separated in August, 1947, that no children were born to the union, and that the defendant left and is now believed to be living in Philadelphia.

Naomi Dixon Vick, in her case against Major Junior Vick, says they were married in Edgecombe County on February 11, 1939, and separated on October 6, 1947.

Asking an absolute divorce from Flossie Riddick Chamblee, the plaintiff, Spurgeon Chamblee states they were married in Hertford County on March 9, 1942, and separated on December 10, 1946, that the two children born to the union are living with him.

In the case of Raleigh L. McNair against Ethel McNair, the plaintiff says they were married in May, 1939, and separated on September 15, 1947, that the one child born to the union is living with him.

The case of A. J. Stark against Ouida Stark is again on the calendar, the plaintiff saying they were married on January 12, 1946 and separated the following July, and that no children were born to the union.

Martha Davis, suing Marion Davis for an absolute divorce, points out in her complaint that they were married on September 19, 1941, and separated on October 22, 1947, that three children born to the union are living with and [illegible]

Joins Personnel In The Local CAA Office

Mr. Ernest Baird of Anderson, South Carolina, joined the operating staff of the local Civil Aeronautics Administration a few days ago. He is making his home with the R. A. Critchers on Watts Street. Unable to find a home here, Mr. Baird left his family in the South Carolina city for the present.

He succeeds Mrs. J. H. Saunders, Jr., who resigned to join the local school faculty.

Will Name Committee Outside Convention

Instead of choosing a county committee for the Production-Marketing Administration within their own ranks, elected delegates to the county convention will have to go outside their group to get a chairman, vice chairman, regular member and two alternates, it was explained yesterday.

Fifteen Speeders In County Court Monday Morning

Hurry To Beat Cold Weather Is Costing Motorists Quite a Bit

The hurry to get to Florida and beat the cold weather is costing some motorists quite a bit. Very few deny the speeding charges, but nearly all of them can't understand why they should not be allowed to exceed the speed limits and fly low at eighty miles or more. The strangers, advised that State law fixes the amount of fines, complain about that and generally "hit the ceiling" when fixed costs are added to the bill.

One speeder, a few days ago, admitted he was cruising along when a car came up and started "pushing" him, that he speeded right on up to 83 miles an hour. But he couldn't understand why he should be found guilty and fined.

Another of the speeders, accepting the verdict without complaint, explained that he was worried because his girl had "kicked" him, that he was hurrying along to try to make amends. At the trial Monday he explained that he had lost out, that he was looking around for a North Carolina girl.

The court handled fifteen speeding cases Monday, imposing fines in the sum of $315, plus approximately $330 in court costs.

John Edward Crawford of Griswold, Iowa, was fined $15, plus costs for speeding.

Traveling along in the higher speed brackets, William Common Schuster of Watertown, N. Y., was fined $50, plus costs.

Frank W. Steinle of Meadville, Pa., was fined $15 and taxed with the costs.

Pleading guilty, Hosea Vick of Rocky Mount was fined $15, plus costs.

Alice May Cox of Washington pleaded guilty of speeding and was fined $16, plus costs.

Major James Harry Phillips of Cherry Point and Philadelphia, was fined $50 and required to pay the costs for running along at 75 miles an hour.

Benjamin Hebrew Belcher of Plymouth, Herman A. Ehrlich of Albany, N. Y., Joseph Gilman of St. Albans, N. Y., Ferdinand Fred Balestrieri of San Diego, Calif., William D. James of RFD, Robersonville, Edward Nathaniel Hopkins of Robersonville, John Cooper of Wilson and Sam Jones of Robersonville each pleaded guilty of "slow" speeding and each was fined $15, plus costs.

Herbert W. Fisher of Hallandale, Fla., forfeited a $50 cash bond when he did not return to court and answer a speeding charge.

Fire Destroys Country Home

Starting around a defective flue, fire destroyed the country home of Leslie Jones on the old Ballard farm in Poplar Point Township last Tuesday, but neighbors and Williamston's fire truck kept the blaze from spreading to nearby buildings, it was reported.

Possibly [illegible] of the furniture and furnishings were saved.

No official estimate could be had, but the loss will approximate $3,500 or more with $2,700 insurance in force.

Continues Ill In A Washington Hospital

After experiencing a slight relapse yesterday when he hemorrhaged at the nose again, Mr. V. D. Godwin, local man, was reported this morning to be holding his own. He was planning to return home in a day or two, but following the relapse yesterday it could not be learned when he would be able to make the trip.

Reported Improving In Durham Hospital

Mr. Hoyt Cowan, local man, was reported improving this week following a major operation in Duke Hospital. If he continues to improve, he is expected home shortly.

Large Percentage County's Peanuts Placed on Market

Million Dollar Drop In The Value of Crop Recorded From Last Year

Unofficial but reliable reports coming from various sections this week maintained that at least 98 percent of the 1949 peanut crop in this county had been marketed, that the estimated 200,000 bags produced had a value of some over two million dollars.

Old-timers declare that the 1949 crop was harvested and marketed in the shortest time of any crop in modern times. The season was almost perfect and quality was maintained with some few exceptions.

Planting right at 20,000 acres, Martin farmers this year fell down on their production and took what has been estimated as a million-dollar beating. Right at 5,000 acres were lopped off by the control program, the acreage reduction accounting for about one-half million dollar loss, and the reduced yield accounting for about another half million and possibly more.

Peanut prices, holding to parity price levels at the start, gradually pulled away from the set figures and moved up to as high as thirteen cents a pound in at least one case. A 12 3-4 cent price was fairly common during the latter part of the marketing season, but the over-all average is likely to hold between ten and eleven cents per pound.

Handling well over half million bags of the goobers last year, the market here will hardly handle a quarter million bags from the 1949 crop, according to reliable estimates. The government alone stored more than 100,000 bags here last season, but did not store the first bag this year. Before all of the 1948 crop moved to market, just about every foot of available storage space was packed with goobers. Warehouse floors gave way under the weight, and mills were forced to limit purchases to the number of bags milled each day on account of space shortage.

The two mills have fairly large quantities stored in their own houses, but hardly more than one outside storage reports peanuts on hand. Following the short crop, a short milling season is in prospect.

Reports from the market today stated that a few peanuts were moving from one or two farms in the county, that purchases are being made by local firms in several other counties in the belt, quite a few moving in from Northampton.

Ministers Hold December Meet

The December meeting of the Williamston Ministerial Association was held in the parish house with Rev. Thomas Hastings. Officers for the coming year were elected. Rev. E. R. Shuller was elected president and Rev. James Lowry as secretary-treasurer. Plans were made for a Union Watch-Night Service in the Baptist church with Mr. Simms as program director. Plans were also made for a family night of the ministers of the county in January. Mr. Goff was made chairman. A report was made on the installation of a Church Directory in the lobby of the George Reynolds Hotel.

Mrs. Nan Bryant Dies In County

Mrs. Nan Bryant died at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Grover Knox near Hassell last Saturday at 2:30 p. m. In declining health for more than twelve months, Mrs. Bryant was highly regarded in the community in which she lived.

She was 85 years old and leaves one daughter, Mrs. Jack Stalls, of Hassell.

Burial was in the Wynn Cemetery on the Woolard farm near Robersonville Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Forty - Three Cases In Recorders Court

TO ADDRESS P.-T. A.

Miss Genevieve Burton, of Raleigh, will address the regular December meeting of the Williamston Parents-Teachers Association in the Grammar School auditorium Monday night at 7:30, with the members of the associations at Bear Grass, Jamesville, Farm Life and Everetts attending as special guests of the local unit.

Representing the State organization, Miss Burton is expected to bring a timely and interesting message to the parents and teachers.

Workers Handle Corn Collection In Martin County

Value of Donation Estimated To Have Been In Excess of $1200.00

Headed by Farmer Mayo Hardison, a group of workers, giving freely of their time and means, got busy last week and collected more than 1,000 bushels of corn for the needy in foreign lands.

The value of the county-wide donation of corn was placed last night at more than $1200.00 at the current market quotations and Chairman Hardison said it was one of the finest efforts ever made by the rural people of the county for such a cause.

Their work was so effective that Chairman Hardison declared they should be given public recognition, the chairman explaining that the workers received not one penny, not even expense money. He also stated that W. T. Ross, Bill Abbitt, Buck Ayers, Robersonville Milling Co. and Dewey Leggett handled much of the shucking and shelling of the corn at their mills without charge.

Those helping in the collection:

Griffins, Rev. W. B. Harrington and Staton Griffin.

Robersonville, Rufus Taylor, Jarvis Powell, Sam Everett and Reuben Everett.

Poplar Point, Dock Hollis and J. H. Lillard.

Hamilton, J. H. Lillard and W. H. Rouse.

Goose Nest, VanNoy Smith and C. C. Harrell.

Williamston, W. O. Abbitt, W. T. Ross, Luther Peel, Mrs. John Gurkin, Clyde Roberson, Maylon Price and Hewitt Edwards.

Jamesville, Linwood Knowles and Carl Griffin.

Cross Roads, Paul Bailey, Garland Forbes, Buck Ayers, Reuben Bailey and Fabian Barnhill.

Williams, C. L. Daniel, Grover Godard, J. L. Celtrain, Ernest Jones, Irving Roberson, Howard Tyre, Grady Godard, and R. J. Hardison.

Bear Grass, H. U. Peel, Chairman, Mrs. June Harris, Mrs. Roy Ward, Mrs. J. D. Wynne, Mr. [illegible] Mobley, Mrs. Bill Harrison and Delmus Rogers.

Mrs. Walter Wynne of Bear Grass was secretary to the county-wide drive and did yeoman service for the cause.

Delegates Go To Chicago Meeting

Representing this county, Messrs. Chas. L. Daniel, Edgar Harrell, Garland Forbes and Jesse Sumner will leave tomorrow morning for Chicago where they are to attend the annual Farm Bureau Federation convention. The State organization is allowing part of the expenses of one delegate, the county unit is paying part for two others, and the fourth is a guest of the other three men, it was explained.

The convention opens Sunday and closes next Thursday.

Martin County now has about 2,030 members in the organization.

Collect Fines At Monday's Session In Sum of $1,155

Death Beats Court To The Draw In Case Charging Drunken Driving

Its docket crowded with cases accumulated during a period of two weeks while the superior tribunal was in session, the Martin County Recorder's Court held two sessions last Monday when forty-three cases were handled and quite a few others were continued. The court Monday afternoon withdrew and will not meet again until December 19. The superior tribunal will operate next week for the trial of criminal cases and a few civil actions.

In the case in which Isaiah Roberson, 46-year-old colored man, was charged with drunken driving, death beat the court to the draw. His back broken in an automobile accident last October, Roberson died last week, and Judge Chas. Manning ordered the case off the docket.

Even though the punishment is fairly certain, quite a few persons appear before the court each week for allegedly operating motor vehicles without drivers' licenses, the law requiring a minimum fine of $25, plus costs. Speeders were also fairly numerous in the court records this week.

Oliver Bunn, charged with operating a motor vehicle without a proper driver's license, pleaded not guilty, showing to the court that he had a license. Examination revealed that the license had expired and the defendant, adjudged guilty, was fined $25, plus costs.

Robert Aman, returned to the county from Fort Knox, Ky., to answer a bad check charge, pleaded guilty and judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs and $50 on the check. He agreed to pay about $130 expenses incurred for returning him to the county, running the bill up to about $200.

Charged with assault, Sylvester Wynne was sentenced to the roads for three months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs. He is not to use intoxicants during the next two years.

Drunk and disorderly, Elmer Whitfield, Jr., (colored) was fined $25, plus costs. The 17-year-old defendant pleaded not guilty.

Pleading guilty of bastardy, Robert Fleming, Jr., 16-year-old colored boy, was sentenced to the roads for three months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs and $2 a week for the support of his illegitimate child. The amount was mentioned by the 15-year-old mother.

Arlander Barnhill, another 16-year-old lad, was fined $50 and taxed with the costs for carrying a concealed weapon.

In the case charging Nathaniel Boston and Alvin Roberson with [illegible]

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THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

With another twenty-three days left, it looks as if motorists on the highways and streets in this county will chalk up the worst fatality record in about ten years. Already the record for 1946—a bad year for fatalities—has been equalled at seven-all.

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.

48th Week

	Accidents	Inj'd	Killed	Dam'ge
1949	2	1	1	$ 250
1948	0	0	0	00
Comparisons To Date				
1949	132	60	7	$29,050
1948	130	74	2	31,135

Historical Paper Read At Meeting Of State Society

Mrs. J. G. Staton Presents Data To Group In Raleigh Few Days Ago

As a member of the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, Mrs. James G. Staton read an interesting historical paper before a recent meeting of the group held in Raleigh.

Mrs. Staton, the only member of the Society in this county, explained that the organization, now only ten years old, is doing much to restore as many of the Colonial places as possible in the State, that one of the big projects now receiving attention is the restoration of Tryon's Palace in New Bern. While all the properties of the Colonial period have long since disappeared in this county, quite a few Martin citizens are interested in the work of the Society and they are invited to take membership. Life memberships cost only $50, and at the present time the Society has nearly 1,000 members in the State, headed by Mrs. Chas. A. Cannon, president, of Concord.

Commenting on the program at the tenth anniversary meeting, Mrs. Staton said that it was featured by an address by Warren T. White, director of public relations for the Seaboard Railway, and a portrayal of the Quakers of Guilford and Randolph Counties by Guilford College students.

The paper, based on data compiled by Warren H. Biggs and read by Mrs. Staton, follows:

From the first attempt at colonization made by the English on Roanoke Island in 1585, a party headed by Ralph Lane, the Colony's Governor, made a trip up the Roanoke River according to "Hakluyt's Voyages" one hundred twenty miles in search of gold as reported by the Indians to abound in large quantities. Moore's North Carolina History says "the party landed on the spot where Williamston now stands." They made camp for the night but were attacked and driven off by hostile Indians. Thus, the first inland landing of the English was made in what is now Martin County. This section was permanently settled about 1700 and was formed as Martin County from Tyrrell and Halifax in 1774. Williamston, the County seat, was incorporated five years later in 1779. The County according to the first native historian, John H. Wheeler, was named in honor of Josiah Martin, the last Royal Governor, and was never changed during the Revolutionary War, or after, on account of the popularity of Governor Alexander Martin. However, Wheeler does not qualify this by the giving of the source of information and as none can be found, it is more plausible to believe the County was named for St. Martin, Patron Saint of France, as the Act in setting up the County says "it shall be named Martin County and Parish of St. Martin."

The County has furnished its quota of all major wars of the country. During the Confederacy, Fort Branch was erected on Roanoke River at Rainbow Banks and is still in a wonderful state of preservation. The first attack by land troops on naval power was made on the river between Fort Branch and Williamston by Confederate troops commanded by Col. A. B. Andrews of Raleigh, driving off and sinking the Union

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Methodist Choir To Present Cantata Here

The Methodist Church Choir will present a Carol choir cantata, "Carols of Christmas," Wednesday evening, December 21, at 8 o'clock.

Rehearsals have been in progress for some time.

Improving At His Home In Oak City

Mr. Edmond Early is improving at his home in Oak City after undergoing a second operation in Duke Hospital for a broken hip. He returned home a few days ago from the hospital.