

First Recruits Sign Up For Guard Duty

Captain Spoke To Large Group Last Thursday Evening

Number of Ratings Available In Battery, Officers Point Out

The first recruits for the newly organized National Guard unit in this county signed up for duty last Thursday evening when Captain J. D. Reid addressed a large group of young men in the American Legion hut on Watts Street here. Tentative plans call for a completed organization within a short time. Captain Jimmy L. Harris, Jr., the commanding officer, announced.

Speaking to the young men, Captain Reid, coming to the county from Washington, explained that the National Guard was created back in the early days of the nation to provide immediate defense in emergencies, adding that there is little difference in time one would enter regular service regardless of what branch of service he was in. The officer pointed out that the new National Guard system stresses training, and that it offers young men splendid opportunities. "The guard can do a lot of good for the individual, but the guard, in return, expects sincerity and loyalty," Captain Reid said.

Going into details, the officer said that the lowest rate of pay is \$2.50 a drill, that the master sergeant receives \$6.60. The unit has an unusually large number of ratings because it is highly mechanical. There is now an opening for an ordnance man for full-time duty with an annual salary of about \$2,500, plus regular guard pay and allowances.

The enlistment period is three years, the officer explaining that it is possible for a member to withdraw if the service proves a hardship. Veterans may enlist for one year.

A pension plan is provided along with all necessary uniforms and equipment.

The officer said that a minimum of fifty men and at least three officers are necessary to activate a unit, that maximum strength is 124 men.

Designated as anti-aircraft battery, the unit will have four 90-millimeter guns, four large tractors, a bulldozer, twelve trucks, several jeeps, carbines and radio equipment. Preliminary plans have been made to house the unit in Williamston's old water plant. Captain Reid explaining that the construction of a building depends upon the interest shown by the men and community in the unit. He said that several new armories had been completed recently or are now under construction in North Carolina towns.

Answering pop questions, Captain Reid said that the two-hour weekly meetings are devoted to military training.

(Continued on page six)

Late December Buying Likely

New York.—A Merry Christmas for retailers? Most of them say "yes," if not too emphatically. They're hopeful enough, but don't want to indulge in wishful thinking after a disappointing fall season. There's little real gloom, however, and the majority look for a late-December buying spree that will help jack up overall sales for the year to something close to 1948 marks. Meanwhile, those who are fretting about prospects for the new year have little cause for worry, according to a current Dun & Bradstreet survey. Prospects for 1950's first quarter are definitely on the bright side, said most business men queried in the study. Forty-five percent of the executives look for a sales volume better than 1949's first quarter; 29 percent expect no change; and only 26 percent anticipate lower volume.

OPEN EVENINGS

Beginning Wednesday, local stores will be kept open each evening until 7:00 o'clock, the schedule to continue through Saturday. Local merchants are offering the largest stocks of merchandise this holiday season than in any other period in recent years, possibly in history. Prices have been found right by thousands of shoppers.

Deaf Mute Found Not Guilty Last Friday In Court

Several Defendants Draw Terms On The Roads During One-Week Term

There's no doubt but what Judge Leo Carr, presiding over the one-week term of Martin County Superior Court, Solicitor George Fountain, Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne and Attorney Robt. Coven of the private prosecution, were a bit baffled when the breaking and entering case was called against Linwood Speight, the deaf and dumb 42-year-old fellow many call "Black Dummy."

The solicitor and the clerk both looked at the judge, and the judge saw a difficult situation until it was learned that Lucille Roberson, young colored woman, would interpret the signs and help relieve what appeared to be a hopeless situation.

Lillie Berry, colored woman, charged that Speight forced his way into her home last month and put his hands on her, admitting that she was not harmed. When the interpreter explained to him that he was being accused of breaking and entering, he vigorously denied the charge with a shake of the head and the waving of his hands.

At times it was next to impossible to make heads or tails out of the questions and answers, but the defendant scored when he asked, through his interpreter of course, if she had not accused several other men of similar crimes, and that nothing was done to them. The record must have scored a hit with the jury. However, on the other hand, the prosecution came back with the defendant's record which was a little less than one yard long. He had encountered the law on numerous occasions over a period of years, and convictions were recorded in all but one of the cases.

The jury, finding the regular jury room occupied with twelve men deliberating the issues in a manslaughter case, repaired to the ante-room and reached a verdict in less than five minutes, declaring the defendant not guilty.

The interpreter was paid a fee of \$5 by order of the court. Not certain of the verdict immediately, the defendant stood before the bar a brief time, but upon learning the favorable verdict, smiled, turned and left the courtroom.

Methodists Will Present Program

A Christmas Cantata, "Carols of Christmas," by Ellen Jane Lorenz, is being presented by the choir of the Methodist church on Wednesday evening at 8:00 o'clock.

The following are members of the choir:

Sopranos: Mrs. W. P. Brown, Miss Ruth Ward, Miss Mary L. Taylor, Mrs. Wyoma Allsbrook, Mrs. J. S. Whitley.

Altos: Mrs. D. E. Mayo, Mrs. Ruth Wheeler and Mrs. R. P. Monteith.

Tenors: Captain D. E. Mayo, Randolph Allen.

Basses: H. L. Swain, T. P. Wood and Jimmy Ward.

The cantata is being presented under the direction of Mrs. W. P. Brown, with Mrs. W. K. Parker, accompanist.

Boy Found Guilty In Manslaughter Case Last Friday

Court Adjourned Late That Day After Working A Full Week

Ernest Wilson Bunting, Oak City young man, was found guilty of manslaughter by a Martin County jury in the Superior court late last Friday afternoon, and he was immediately sentenced to the roads for twelve months by Judge Leo Carr. Hearing a plea for leniency after the jury recommended mercy, Judge Carr changed the sentence, declaring that while the judgment might seem severe, something has to be done to help stop the killings on North Carolina highways.

The judge sentenced the young man to prison for three years, execution of judgment to be suspended upon the payment of a \$400 fine and costs. Advised that the boy was making only \$27.50 a week, the court ordered that the fine and costs, both amounting to more than \$500, be paid at the rate of \$20 per month. Placed on probation for three years, the boy is not to drive a motor vehicle during that time. The court made it quite plain that if the monthly payments are not made and the terms of probation are not met, the boy is to serve the prison term.

Trial of the case was started late last Wednesday afternoon, the State offering its first round of evidence before a recess was taken for the night. The last witness was heard at 4:15 the next day, and the defense attorneys argued to the jury before court was recessed Thursday night. Solicitor George Fountain argued to the jury Friday morning, and Judge Carr, following his charge, turned the case over to the jury at 11:45 o'clock. A noon recess was called at 1:15 o'clock that afternoon, and the jury resumed its deliberations at 2:00 o'clock.

About 4:15 o'clock and after reaching no decision, the jury came out and asked if it could recommend mercy. Judge Carr said he had never heard of a mercy recommendation in such a case. Returning to their room, the jury deliberated about thirty or forty minutes and came out with the guilty verdict, recommending mercy.

Even though Judge Carr had an appointment in Durham that evening at 6:30 o'clock, he patiently heard the plea for mercy, shook hands with the defendant's father and quit for the term, saying to the father that such cases were embarrassing, no doubt, but that something had to be done about highway killings.

Autos Damaged Near Gold Point

No one was hurt and property damage, estimated at \$200, resulted when two autos were in a wreck on Highway 903 between Robersonville and Gold Point last Tuesday night at 10:30 o'clock.

Investigating the accident, Troopman B. W. Parker said that Clifton Matthews, driving a 1949 Plymouth toward Robersonville, passed a pick-up truck and started to pass that 1947 Chevrolet, driven by Bill James. Forced back in line by an approaching car, Matthews could not check his speed in time to avoid crashing into the rear of James' Chevrolet.

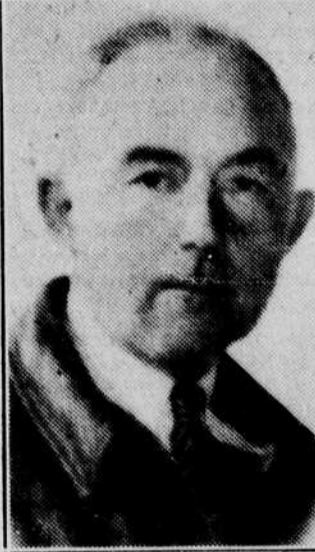
The accident was the only one reported by the patrol during recent days.

BIG TASK

Mr. Santa Claus has had a big task assigned him, but he is accepting the challenge, reports state. Master Herbert Whitley has deftly arranged to remove the toe from his Christmas stocking so it'll take a whole heap of good things to fill it up. There is a possibility, however, that the little fellow will compromise, resort to the more conventional plan and hang up two or three stockings with firm toes.

V. G. Taylor Funeral In Everetts Saturday

Prominent County Citizen Died In Hospital Thursday



Van Gilbert Taylor, one of this section's leading citizens, died in a Richmond hospital last Thursday afternoon. The funeral, held Saturday afternoon in the Everetts Baptist Church, was largely attended and the tremendous floral offering attested the high esteem in which he was held.

Coach Dole Of E. C. T. C. Speaks At Grid Banquet

List of Boys Receiving Football Letters Announced Saturday Night

The values a young man gains from playing football continue with him all his life and go further toward making him a better citizen than many people realize, Coach Bill Dole of East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, told members of the 1949 Green Wave football team and their invited guests at their annual banquet in the George Reynolds Hotel dining room here last Saturday night.

While the learning of coordination of body and mind is of great importance, Coach Dole said that some of the less apparent values are even more important. For one thing, he said, the football player learns that there are rules of play and conduct which must be observed if the coaching is strict and he learns that violation of the rules of the game brings a penalty just as in later life it will be found that the violation of the rules of society brings punishment. Then, there is the training in the art of giving and taking which teaches the young man to take his adversity as well as the luck that comes his way in life. No well trained football player ever gets into trouble as he goes about living and working with his fellowmen in the social and business world, the coach pointed out.

Another point mentioned by the coach was the training in teamwork, the development of the art of working with others, and of the least important element in this, he said, is training in the control of the emotions. Football players learn to control their tempers, to control their hands and feet, to control their emotions for the instant and then wait for their chance to hand back a good solid, but clean, block or tackle. Altogether, Coach Dole said, the discipline, the hard work, the muscular training and the mental training make for a better citizen.

Before discussing the values of football training and playing, the coach regaled the boys and their guests with some jokes that struck a responsive cord although one of them had to be explained to one of the guests after the banquet, the promising young man not having quite gotten the point of it. General opinion of the speaker following the banquet was that he has tremendous confidence in himself, in his school and in the boys of the south with whom he has been working for years in a remarkably successful manner. He believes the boys of the south, and specifically, of eastern Carolina, are the best in the world.

(Continued on page six)

Superior Court In Final Session On Friday Afternoon

Few Divorce Cases Cleared From Docket During One-Week Term

By continuing a few cases and after working five days, the Martin County Superior court held its final session of a one-week term and adjourned late last Friday afternoon. Several defendants drew terms on the roads while others were placed on probation. A few defendants were found not guilty, the records showing that more cases went to the jury during the term than in any other period in several years.

Proceedings not previously reported:

Charged with breaking and entering, Fred Wilson pleaded guilty of forcible trespass and was sentenced to the roads for eight months. The sentence was later changed, and the defendant is to work at the county home for five months with the privilege of having members of his family visit him only on Sundays.

Sam Gorham, charged with breaking and entering, was sentenced to the roads for not less than three and not more than five years.

The cases charging James Willis Lloyd and N. S. Nichols with robbery of person, Jesse Haywood Crisp with drunken driving and Robert Jasper Rogers with non-support, were continued until next March.

Charged with speeding, Claudius McGowan was allowed to withdraw his appeal from a lower court judgment, the terms of which he is to comply with.

Donald Eugene Gaddis, 15, and James B. Hillard, 34, charged with breaking and entering and larceny, were sentenced to jail for sixty days on the breaking and entering charge, and to the roads for twelve months on the larceny charge. The road sentences were suspended and the defendants placed on probation.

The case brought by Thos. J. Blount against his former wife, Edna C. Blount, for the custody of their nine-year-old son, was heard by Judge Leo Carr late Friday. He left little changed a previous court order, allowing both the plaintiff and defendant to associate with the child at reasonable times, but the son is to continue to make his home with his paternal grandparents in Jamesville except for two week-ends each month when the mother visits there and takes him to her mother's home. The child is to be allowed to visit his maternal grandmother.

In a second custody hearing, Judge Carr ruled in the case of Farnes Whitley against Jesse Whitley, colored, ordered the defendant to return the two children to Whitley's former wife with the understanding that he be allowed to visit them at reasonable times.

In addition to his extensive farming operations and dairying business, he was connected with the tobacco warehouse business in Robersonville for several years, operated a lumber mill, mercantile business and other enterprises. He had selected a hard schedule, and while it may have shortened his life, he seemed to enjoy his work and seldom, if ever, complained.

His last acts, advanced in keeping with his will to do a little more for the progressive march of his county and section, was the laying of a short time ago of the first brick for Williamston's new 44-bed hospital, in which he was greatly interested.

Funeral services were conducted in the Baptist church in his home town last Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. E. R. Stewart, assisted by Rev. James H. Smith, a former pastor now of Asheboro. Interment was in Williamston's Woodlawn Cemetery in Williamston. Mr. Taylor was a Mason, and Shriner, and members of the Skewarkey Masonic Lodge conducted the last rites at the graveside.

Surviving besides Mrs. Taylor, are a daughter, Mrs. Chas. I. Harris, Jr., of Williamston; two grandchildren, two nephews and three nieces.

Supervisor Appoints County List-Takers

GOING UP

After getting off to a late start, local amateur decorators are making splendid progress with their Christmas displays on roof tops, doorways, yards and porches. A goodly number was prepared over the week-end and definitely the Christmas season is being expressed in the decorations.

The theme is being advanced both inside and outside the town with possibly the John A. Mizelles in West End holding the lead with extensive house-yard decorations.

The decorations will be judged by outsiders Thursday night between 9 and 11 o'clock, it has been announced.

Pete A. Cherry Died Saturday At Home Here

Funeral Service Conducted Sunday Afternoon At The Funeral Home

Funeral services were conducted in the Biggs Funeral Home here Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Pete Augustus Cherry who died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Vernon Hopewell on Plum Street at 7:00 o'clock Saturday morning. Rev. N. J. Ward, pastor of the Pentecostal Holiness Church, and Rev. Stewart B. Simms, pastor of the Williamston Memorial Baptist Church, conducted the rites. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Cherry was born in Williamston 70 years ago on February 16, 1879, the son of the late John Fate and Maggie Cherry. Until declining health forced his retirement several years ago he was a commercial fisherman and trapper and one who enjoyed the outdoors. His walk through life was humble and friendly.

He had been confined to his bed for almost a year, but accepted his fate with composure.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Claudia Virginia Wynne who died about twelve years ago.

Surviving are six sons, John M. Cherry, Pete Elic Cherry and William Cherry all of Williamston, and Haywood Cherry who is now a patient in a Rocky Mount hospital; J. R. Cherry of Savannah, Ga.; Leslie Cherry of Martinsville, and Jennis L. Cherry of the U. S. Navy; two daughters, Mrs. Vernon Hopewell of Williamston, and Miss Marian Ruth Cherry of Martinsville; two brothers, Claude L. and W. R. Cherry, both of Williamston.

Four Divorces In This County

Four divorces, all based on grounds of two years separation, were granted in the Martin County Superior Court last week, as follows:

Naomi Dixon Vick from Major Junior Vick, Spurgeon Chamblee from Flossie Riddick Chamblee, Raleigh McNair from Ethel McNair, and Martha Davis from Marion Davis.

The trial of the divorce actions were sandwiched in between cases on the criminal docket. Several other divorce cases were continued when it appeared that the court would not have time to hear them.

WARNING

Chief of Police John Roebuck today warned shoppers to lock their cars securely when placing packages in them. "Our men will patrol the streets as often as possible, but it is difficult to catch thieves lifting packages from cars," the officer explained.

Several packages were stolen from cars here last year.

Group Will Meet Next Week To Fix Scale Of Values

No Basic Changes Expected In Real and Personal Property Listings

Appointed last week-end by Supervisor M. Luther Peel, the county's ten tax list-takers will meet in the courthouse on Wednesday, December 28, to study new instructions and fix a scale of values for personal properties.

There is only one change in the listing personnel, Mr. S. Oscar Peel of Griffins succeeding W. Tom Roberson, who died while handling the task last year. Other list-takers are: O. W. Hamilton, Jamesville; Chas. L. Daniel, Williamsville; Wheeler Rogerson, Bear Grass; O. S. Anderson, Williamsville; G. G. Bailey, Cross Roads; H. S. Everett, Robersonville; L. G. Taylor, Poplar Point; L. R. Everett, Hamilton; and Jesse F. Crisp, Goose Nest.

Supervisor Peel, reappointed to the position by the county board of commissioners a short time ago, points out there'll be no basic change in assessed values for real estate holdings. Last year there was a ten percent horizontal increase in real property listings, but about the only changes to show up in the lists for 1950 will be based on new construction.

The farm census, dropped for several years, is back in the picture for 1950. The data sheets are being prepared and will be placed in the hands of the list-takers at the meeting. Farmers will aid themselves and the listing work by taking an inventory of all their holdings and making a study of their acreages planted to various crops along with cost figures and production yields.

Supervisor Peel made no comment about the schedule of values on personal property listings to be adopted. The list-takers generally discuss conditions and values and try to adopt a uniform rating for all types of personal properties. It is likely that motor vehicle listings will be based on values carried in what is known as the Blue Book, with the possibility that the values will be graduated downward a bit.

The official points out that the farm census will require much time, that property owners can help hold costs to a minimum by listing their holdings early. The work is tentatively scheduled to get under way the first week in January.

Martin Favors Cotton Control

Martin County, planting a comparatively small cotton acreage, went almost solid for control of the crop acreage in the referendum held last Thursday, according to the county clerk.

The vote, 467 for and ten against, was about 70 percent of the maximum voting strength.

The vote by districts follows: Robersonville, 12 and 1; Jamesville, 25 and 1; Williams, 3 and 0; Griffins, 6 and 0; Bear Grass, 4 and 0; Williamston-Poplar Point, 44 and 0; Cross Roads, 32 and 1; Robersonville, 12 and 1; Hamilton, 115 and 5; Goose Nest, 112 and 2.

North Carolina gave the cotton program a big majority for 1950.

India Gets New Constitution

The Indian Constituent Assembly, according to press reports from New Delhi, has adopted a new constitution under which the country will become a "sovereign democratic republic." The constitution is to go into effect on January 28, on which date India will be officially proclaimed a republic.