

Twenty-Six Cases Tried In County's Court On Monday

Several Road Sentences Are Imposed Along With \$405 In Fines

Handling twenty-six cases in its regular session last Monday, the Martin County Recorder's Court started switching from fines to road sentences. It is not yet quite clear whether the economic situation had anything to do with the shift or whether the court decided to try out the physical punishment in an effort to curb crime in the county. Anyway, one defendant drew six months on the roads for stealing chickens, and others were booked for work on the roads for fighting, fussing and feuding.

In addition to the road sentences, the court imposed fines in the sum of \$405 before quitting for the day shortly after 4:00 o'clock. Non-licensed motor vehicle drivers were again in the court, the word apparently having reached some that it is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle without a driver's license, that if caught, the fine is \$25, plus \$22.05 costs.

Proceedings: Pleading guilty of violating the health laws, James Russell Clemmons was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs. The defendant is to take prescribed treatments.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case charging Roy Hankins with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

The case charging Clyde Tynert with an assault with a deadly weapon was dismissed.

Lafayette Pearsall, defendant in a goodly number of criminal cases in recent months, was sentenced to the roads for assaulting Walter Freeman with a deadly weapon.

Adjudged guilty of bastardy, Russell Bullock, colored, was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs and \$3 a week for the support of his child during the next two years.

Pleading not guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, George Owens was found guilty and drew three months on the roads. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the costs and a \$25 fine. The defendant is to be of good behavior during the next three years. In a second case in which he was charged with assaulting a female, Owens was fined \$25, plus costs.

Jack Bridges was fined \$15, plus costs, for assaulting a female.

Charged with drunken driving, Willie Davis Hassell was found guilty of careless and reckless driving, failing to stop at a road sign and ignoring a siren. He was fined \$50, plus costs.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Junior Wynne pleaded guilty and was fined \$25, plus costs.

Pleading guilty of speeding, Cecil Bennett Savage was fined \$15 and taxed with the costs.

Willie Williams, pleading guilty of stealing chickens, was sentenced to the roads for six months.

Pleading guilty of operating motor vehicles without driver's licenses, Lester Brown, Jr., and Russell Armstrong were each fined \$25, plus costs.

Charged with allowing an unlicensed driver to operate a motor vehicle, Ben Wiggins pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 and required to pay the costs.

M. C. Lawrence, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was sentenced to the roads for three months. The road term was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs.

William Victor Andrews was fined \$15, plus costs, for speeding. James Turner, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Pleading not guilty, Clarence Bowen was found guilty and was fined \$15, plus costs, for speeding.

Robert Purvis was found not guilty of violating the liquor laws.

(Continued on page eight)

Sweet Potato Contest Winners



Declared top winners in the Martin County Yam Growers Association 1949 sweet potato growing contest, five Martin County youths, Jack Woolard, David Gurkin, Dallas Cox, William Hardison and Lewis Gurkin, with Messrs. Henry M. Covington, State College extension sweet potato specialist, Jesse W. Sumner, assistant county agent, and M. Levin, secretary-treasurer of the association, are enjoying a trip to the big cities this week. Pictured above, the potato champs are receiving trip expenses.

Fund For Paralysis Growing In County

LIMESTONE

The Martin County Production - Marketing Administration in the office of the farm agent is taking orders for limestone. The lime this year carries a price of \$2.40 per ton delivered to the farm or \$3.25 spread in the fields. No delivery date can be guaranteed on account of weather conditions and other elements beyond the hauling contractor's control, but immediate orders may be handled before spring plantings. Others will likely be handled after the fall harvest.

Facing A Second Assault Charge

Lafayette Pearsall, defendant in the various courts of this county at more or less regular intervals in recent years, is having assault charges pile up against him. After being sentenced in the county court Monday to serve sixty days on the roads for an assault on Walter Freeman, he was carried before Justice of the Peace Chas. R. Mobley to answer an assault and robbery charge. A retainer was attached to the commitment, and when the present sentence is completed he will be returned to face the second charge.

Pearsall allegedly waylaid Dossie Hinton just off Broad Street here last Friday night, and after beating him badly, robbed him of about \$13 in cash.

Winners Announced In 'March of Dimes' Contest

Excitement was high until the hour hand reached 12 to show that 11:00 o'clock had really come. Up until the very last we were afraid Mrs. Kimball's third grade was going to beat us in the March of Dimes contest. Our total money brought in, by big amount, but every boy and girl worked hard. We enjoyed a half-holiday on Wednesday as our prize for winning.

Last Saturday we held a rummage sale for the March of Dimes. Since we were still behind after that, the class voted to bring sandwiches to school for lunch Tuesday so that we could give our lunch money to the drive. No one person in our room brought in any big amount, but every boy and girl worked hard. We enjoyed a half-holiday on Wednesday as our prize for winning.

150 Dimes Raised During the Drive By Little Victim

Five Schools and Direct Mail Contributions Account for \$1,820.43

After getting off to what appeared to be a slow start, the annual drive for the Infantile Paralysis Fund really started gaining momentum during the past few days, according to a report released yesterday by Fund Chairman L. Bruce Wynne. The goal of \$5,000 possibly will not be reached, but five schools and direct mail contributions accounted for \$1,820.43, the chairman said.

A heart-rending event marked the drive this week when Little Miss Mills, a victim of the disease, turned in 150 dimes for the cause. The little girl whose family lives in Poplar Point, is still receiving treatment, reports stating that her condition is improving. As far as it could be learned, her illness was financed without outside help. Well aware of the meaning of the disease, the little child went all out in support of the drive in behalf of others who have fallen and others who might fall victim of infantile paralysis.

Another high spot in the fund drive was reached last Tuesday when pupils in the local school ate sandwiches and contributed their lunch money to the March of Dimes.

Pointing out that it will be sometime next week before all reports can be submitted and handled, the fund chairman declared he was well pleased with the preliminary reports.

Williamston's high school, mostly the grades located in the high school building, raised \$506.37, including a \$100 contribution made by Mrs. J. G. Staton and added to the fund by Student Bunting. Despite the \$100 handicap, the little folks over at the primary and grammar schools forged ahead with \$521 for the fund. The Hassell school reported \$18.45.

Williamston's colored school raised \$121.25, and the White Oak-Springs colored school contributed \$10.86.

Direct mail contributions to date amount to \$643.50, the chairman explaining that some of those to whom appeals were directed, apparently had overlooked the appeal and had not responded.

Chairman Wynne would not offer an estimate on the total amount the drive would raise in this county, but he was well pleased with the preliminary reports.

Mrs. Taylor Dies Tuesday at Home Of Her Daughter

Born and Reared Near Williamston, She Lived for Years in Robersonville

Mrs. Mamie Taylor, 66-year-old Robersonville resident and wife of the late John L. Taylor, died Tuesday, January 31, at 12:20 p. m., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bruce Everett. Her death followed several months' declining health and a week of critical illness.

The daughter of the late Bill and Sallie Gray Riddick, she was born and reared near Williamston on the Washington highway. For the past 25 years she resided in Robersonville where she was a popular, well loved member of the community and a member of the Missionary Baptist Church. Both she and her late husband were members of prominent Martin County families.

Funeral services were held in the Robersonville Baptist Church Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock with Rev. Ralph Ferguson, her pastor, and Rev. J. H. Worthington of the Methodist Church, officiating. Interment was in the Taylor Cemetery near Williamston.

Surviving are one son, Jeff Taylor, of Norfolk; one daughter, Mrs. Bruce Everett, of Robersonville; one sister, Mrs. W. T. Lamm, of Wilson and six grandchildren.

North End Group Petitions For Vote On Annexation

A petition, carrying the names of 102 citizens, has been presented to the town, calling for a vote on the proposal to extend the town limits to include what is known as "North End". The paper was not returnable until February 20. The proposal is being considered further in West End.

No Extension Likely For Listing County Property

While final action will await a discussion in their regular meeting here next Monday, the county commissioners are not expected to extend the time for listing property for taxation in this county for 1950, according to information coming today from unofficial but reliable sources.

It was indicated that about 95 percent of the properties had been placed on the books, that the list-takers would place the names of the late listers on the books during the next few days or before they start work on the new scroll books. Listers after that time are subject to penalties as provided by law.

In their second meeting of the new calendar year, the county

Beloved Citizen Dies In Sleep At Farm Life Home

Funeral Services In Griffins Township Today for Mrs. Buck Roberson

Mrs. Maggie Getsinger Roberson, beloved citizen of Griffins Township, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Asa Hardison, in the Farm Life Community yesterday morning at 6:30 o'clock. She had been in declining health for several years, but was able to be up until about three weeks ago when she suffered an attack. Her condition had been serious for several days, and death came peacefully in her sleep.

The daughter of the late Conrad and Sarah Brown Getsinger, she was born in Griffins Township 78 years ago and lived there all her life. In early womanhood she was married to Buck Roberson who died about ten years ago. She had made her home with her daughter since that time.

Mrs. Roberson was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Smithwick Creek for thirty years, adhering closely to the tenets of her faith and embodying those principles in her daily walk through life. Her life, while humble and simple, was marked by kindness and sympathy and goodness, and in it she set the example so worthy of others to follow.

Surviving besides her daughter are two brothers, Elder P. E. Getsinger and Martin County Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger.

Funeral services are being conducted at her daughter's home this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Elder J. B. Lee of Four Oaks and Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister. Interment will be in the family plot in the Roberson Cemetery in Griffins Township.

Youths Having A Big Time On Trip

No late reports could be had, but information coming from Congressman Herbert Bonner's office stated that Martin County's five winners in the recent sweet potato contest were having a great time in Washington day before yesterday. Leaving Washington that day, the boys, Lewis and David Gurkin, Jack Woolard, Dallas Cox and William Hardison, moved on to Philadelphia and were in New York this morning. They were tentatively scheduled to return home today, but the report from Congressman Bonner's office maintained that they were returning to Washington tomorrow to see the Senate in session and visit more points of interest.

Meyer Levin, with Jesse Sumner and Henry Covington, is along on the trip and he was to advise the progress of the tour, but possibly the ole man is finding it about all he can do to keep up with the boys, leaving no time for reporting.

While in Washington earlier in the week, the sweet potato growing champs heard part of the House debate on pending farm legislation.

The boys and their companions are traveling in two cars with special airplane trips included for some of them.

Enforcement Officer Files Annual Report

Wreck 126 Stills In Martin County During Past Year

Equipment and Materials Taken Are Valued At More Than \$13,500

An effective work was carried on against the illicit liquor traffic in this county last year, according to the 1949 report released a short time ago by ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck to the Martin County Alcoholic Beverages Control Board. However, despite a lower price trend and the certain risk, quite a few persisted in the illicit liquor manufacturing business and traffic, law enforcement officers declaring that the operations could hardly be justified economically, not to mention the moral equation.

The officer's report shows that 126 liquor stills were confiscated and destroyed last year, Officer Roebuck stating that about three-fourths of them were copper kettles with an average value of about \$25 each. The raiders poured out 37,650 gallons of mash or beer. The mash, if it is not too common or sloppy, is valued at 25 cents per gallon, the lot poured out being figured at \$9,412.50. The 200 gallons of white liquor poured out by the officers had an estimated value of \$6 per gallon or \$1,200 for the lot.

Sixteen persons were arrested and charged with violating the liquor laws. Thirteen were tried and convicted. Fines imposed in the county court amounted to \$1,700.00, and the road sentences counted up to eighty-four months.

Assisted for the most part by Deputy Roy Peel, ABC Officer Roebuck traveled 14,355 miles making his investigation and handling the raids.

While more stills were wrecked last year than in 1948, the gallonage of mash was less, the officer explaining that the business was advanced on a smaller scale. The figures for the past several years would seem to indicate that the business is about holding its own with a slight decline being noticeable. In 1947, 142 stills were wrecked, while the year before only 138 plants were destroyed. Approximately 120 plants fell before the raiders in 1938.

In addition to holding the illicit liquor business to a fairly low minimum, the enforcement division of the county's alcoholic beverages control system added a fairly sizable sum to the law enforcement fund reserve.

A report, having to do with the liquor business and racket in the nation, as a whole, was released a few days ago and reads, in part, as follows:

While many prices are dropping, don't be surprised if appliance prices moved back up again soon. The major appliance industry is still trying to keep prices down, but higher steel costs may force some increases.

Liquor levies are sparking a comeback for bootleggers. During the fiscal year of 1949, 8,008 stills and 3,661,432 gallons of mash were seized by authorities, compared with 6,757 stills and 1,710,333 gallons of mash seized in 1948. According to New York liquor administrators, these figures indicate that while consumers demand alcoholic beverages — and are willing to buy legal liquor at high prices when they can afford to — they will also buy illicitly produced, untaxed products when it comes down to a choice of abstinence or excessive prices.

Spinal Meningitis Victim Continues Ill In Hospital

Taken ill early Tuesday morning after attending the local school the day before, Earl Pate, sixth grade student and son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pate of near Williamston, continues in a serious condition in a Washington hospital, reports stating that he had fallen victim of spinal meningitis.

CHAMPION



Lewis Taylor Gurkin, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gurkin of Griffins Township, is the champion sweet potato grower in Martin County, having produced more than 400 bushels on an acre of land last year. It has not been definitely established, but it is possible the youth is the champion grower in North Carolina and the entire nation.

Hamilton Section Plagued By Fire During January

Several Fires Reported In Other Sections of The County Last Month

Hamilton and community as well as rural areas in other parts of the county have been plagued by fire recently, reports showing that three or more fires were reported last month in rural areas, including one near Hamilton.

The second home fire of the month was reported in Hamilton early this week when the home of Rhoden Green was burned. The family had finished the evening meal and were in the front part of the house when they heard the fire burning in the kitchen. Most of the contents were saved. No estimate on the loss could be had but it was said that \$1,000 insurance was carried on the property. Robersonville's volunteer firemen answered the call.

Shortly before noon Tuesday, fire burned the old home on the Biscoe Sherrard farm now owned by Jim Staton Ayers between Hamilton and Oak City. Starting when an oil stove went out of control in the kitchen, the fire could not be checked, and destroyed everything belonging to the family of Johnny Hoggard except the clothes they were wearing at the time. The loss, running well into the thousands of dollars, was partially offset by insurance, but the Hoggards had no insurance on their household goods. The old home, a two-story wood structure, was built by the Sherrards about 110 years ago, it was said. Robersonville and Williams-ton firemen were called there, but it was little they could do.

In addition to the fires in the Hamilton area, a packbarn burned on the Woolard farm on the Washington Highway early Sunday morning, and a tobacco barn and peanut picker was burned on the Keith farm owned by M. L. Peel near Williamston Monday.

SPECIAL MEETING

Representatives of the N. C. State Labor Department will discuss the new wage and hour law in the courthouse here this evening at 8:00 o'clock. The public is invited to hear the discussion.

Oak City School Issue Aired At Raleigh Hearing

Factions Plead Before State Building Committee; No Decision Immediately

Raleigh, Feb. 2.—(Special to The Enterprise).—The Building Committee of the State Board of Education devoted a good part of its meeting time yesterday afternoon to the matter of a requested high school for Negroes at Oak City.

One delegation, headed by C. C. Chance, principal of the Parmele Negro school, opposed the proposal on grounds it would draw so many students from the present high school, result in loss of teachers and otherwise depreciate efficiency so that instead of one good high school there would be two poor and understaffed units.

It was pointed out that the Parmele High School has an enrollment of 203. The proposed Oak City school would start with not more than 75, most of whom would come out of the Parmele enrollment.

S. G. Burnett was chief spokesman for the group of thirty patrons of Oak City, Jones, Whichard-James, Salsbury and Hamilton Elementary Schools, seeking establishment of the high school at Oak City. He was supported by Rev. R. L. Lynch, Amos Spruill, M. H. Hyman and Alma Purvis. They cited the long distance many of their children had to travel, having to walk several miles to catch a bus before daylight and getting home well after dark, the menace to both health and morals of the children under these conditions. The Purvis woman said she paid a dollar a day to have three children transported by Ricks bus because they could not get to the school bus route.

Questions by board members indicated interest in whether better school bus service would solve the problem. The patrons thought not, but insisted if they couldn't get anything else they wanted better bus service.

Enrollment in the elementary schools in the area, which is approximately 1,100 for Parmele and 800 for Oak City territory, is sufficient to justify two high schools, according to one report. However, the sentiment of the board obviously leans toward the new high school, although final action may not be taken for several weeks.

A state press report had the following to say, in part:

Pleads for Oak City S. G. Burnett said he was not interested in interfering with Parmele's progress, but rather was making a plea for a Negro high school in or near his community, which is some 35 miles by bus route from Parmele.

Burnett took the occasion to make a charge that Principal C. C. Chance, veteran Negro educator with nearly 40 years' service, promoted dissension instead of harmony between the races. Burnett asserted that Chance taught that any show of friendship by whites to Negroes should be regarded as hypocritical; that whites merely were "using" Negroes when they extended a helping hand. He accused Chance of trying to "mislead you gentlemen."

Burnett became emotional in pleading with the committee to recommend a high school for the Oak City area, declaring that the long hours girls and boys spend en route to and from Parmele school was a menace to their physical and moral health.

"Some of our girls have to get on these busses before daylight in winter months, and it's long after dark when they get home," he said, his voice breaking with emotion. "We ask you to help us change this situation."

Principal Chance, who was heard first, and before Burnett and his delegation were ushered in, was accompanied by only a few supporters. Burnett, on the other hand, had some 30 people with him, all supporting the move for a high school in or near Oak City. (Continued on page eight)