

Twenty-Six Cases Called Monday In The County Court

Fines Amounted To \$775
In Session Lasting Until
1:20 In Afternoon

Twenty-six cases were called in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday. Judge R. T. Johnson held the tribunal in session until 1:20 o'clock in the afternoon and assessed fines in the amount of \$775.

Proceedings:

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, James Purvis was found not guilty. His brother, Levi Purvis, pleaded not guilty when charged with an assault with a deadly weapon. He was adjudged guilty of a simple assault and was taxed with the cost. His brother's landlord, James came down from Norfolk to settle farm accounts and they struck a difference. James said in open court he was still mad with Levi.

Charged with careless and reckless driving, William Henry Black was adjudged guilty of operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes and was fined \$10, plus costs.

Charlie William Ward, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with drunken driving, B. Conway Nelson asked for a jury trial, and his case was docketed for trial in the superior court. Charlie Mack Bullock was fined \$25, plus costs, for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Pleading not guilty, Jos. R. Williams was adjudged guilty of careless and reckless driving, and was fined \$20, plus costs.

Cleve Lawrence was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Charged with drunken driving, H. D. Griffin was adjudged not guilty.

Marie Briley, charged with larceny, was adjudged not guilty.

In the case in which Willie Joe and James "Buck" Bunch were charged with assaults with deadly weapons, the first pleaded guilty, and the action against the latter was not pressed. A ninety-day road sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine, plus costs, and \$25 for the prosecution witness's doctor's fee.

Adjudged guilty of non-support over his plea of innocence, Early Boston was sentenced to the roads for six months. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the court costs, and \$7 a week for the support of his family.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Josh Tayloe Rogers was fined \$100, taxed with the costs and lost his operator's license for a year.

C. L. Baggett of Windsor was taxed with the costs for speeding.

Pleading guilty of being public.

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Model Farm Exhibit Gets Much Attention

The model farm exhibit, displayed in the lobby of the Virginia Electric and Power Company office building here this week, attracted much attention.

The exhibit featured modern feed drying and storage, and the use of electricity in various farm operations.

COVERAGE

Williamston's fourth annual harvest festival was well "covered" by the press and radio yesterday afternoon and last night.

The News and Observer was represented by a special correspondent. The Greenville Daily Reflector and the Rocky Mount Evening Telegram had reporters and photographers here, and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company had a representative here to cover the event and take pictures for its publications circulating throughout the South. The festival was on the air over Stations WJAM here, WRRF, Washington, and WCPS, Tarboro.

Petition To Abolish School Segregation Answered By Board

GINNINGS

Cotton ginnings, after holding to extremely low figures for a number of years, are coming back into their own in this county. No records are being established, to be sure, but it is certain that the county is harvesting its largest crop in a number of years.

According to a report released a few days ago by Jos. R. Norwood, district supervisor of the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 310 bales of cotton were ginned in this county from the current crop prior to October 1. It is understood the ginnings have climbed considerably since that time.

Jordan Gray Peel Died At His Home Tuesday At 4:15

Funeral Service Is Being
Held At Smithwicks
Creek Today

Jordan Gray Peel, well-known farmer and citizen of Griffins Township, died at his home in the Piney Grove community there Tuesday afternoon at 4:15 o'clock. He had been in declining health for several years, suffering with a heart ailment. His condition had been critical for almost three weeks.

The son of the late Edwin and Melissa Camp Peel, he was born in Griffins Township 68 years ago on July 16, 1883. He lived and farmed there all his life. For several years he directed extensive farming operations near Creswell, maintaining his residence in this county.

In 1903 he was married to Bettie Manning who died in 1935.

He was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist Church at Smithwicks Creek for a long time, and his walk through life, although humble, exemplified noble characteristics and fine ideals. Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Ben Ira Hardison and Mrs. Perlle Roberson, both of Griffins Township, and three grandchildren.

Funeral services are being conducted in the Smithwicks Creek church this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by his pastor, Elder P. E. Getsinger. Interment will be in the family plot in the Tice Community Cemetery. The body is being moved to the church one hour before the service.

Big Traffic Snarl Follows Festival

Traffic on local streets was virtually paralyzed for more than an hour following the big harvest festival parade here yesterday afternoon, and it was almost 4:30 o'clock before travel was back to normal flow.

Cars were parked all over town, the vehicles crowding the parking lots and streets way out in the residential areas.

Despite the crowded condition, only one minor traffic accident was reported. A car driven by Miss Lorraine Clark of Ahoskie and Johnny Gurkin of near Williamston figured in a minor crash near the bus station on Main Street.

As far as it could be learned no one was hurt during the festival or in the mad traffic snarl that followed it.

Through traffic, moving off Main and traveling on North Watts, Church and Haughton Streets, was delayed little during and after the parade.

It was estimated that more than five thousand cars were in town during the festival, exclusive of the through-traffic which moved in large volume, as usual.

Colored Schools Favored In Plan Already Started

Small Percentage Believed
In Favor Of Petition's
Segregation Issue

Herman L. Taylor, Negro attorney of Raleigh, and twenty-one Martin County Negro men and women who signed a petition, alleging discrimination in facilities in the Martin County school system and demanding that segregation be abolished, are receiving an answer from the board of education.

The answer, filed over the signature of the board clerk, and county attorney, E. S. Peel, gives much factual information and goes on to explain that a program had been planned as far back as 1945 to equalize opportunities for all children in this county.

The segregation issue is recognized as being the work of a very few and is without support of the vast majority, notwithstanding claims advanced by the Negro press and some who claim to be "friends" of their own race.

The answer read, in detail:

The Board of Education of Martin County, answering the Petition filed by Herman L. Taylor, Attorney at Law, Raleigh, N. C., and signed by Mrs. Alice Taylor, Parmele, N. C., Rollie Perkins, Parmele, N. C., Rev. W. H. Briley, Parmele, N. C., Moses Carr, Parmele, N. C., Lonnie Roberson, Robersonville, N. C., Narcissus Roberson, Robersonville, N. C., Charlie Lanier, Jr., Robersonville, N. C., Oscar Briley, Robersonville, N. C., L. G. Chance, Robersonville, N. C., James Pitt, Robersonville, N. C., Charlie Dugger, Robersonville, N. C., Booker T. Wynn, Matthews, Robersonville, N. C., Jimmie Belle, Robersonville, N. C., Lelia E. Gainer, Robersonville, N. C., J. B. Parker, Robersonville, N. C., William J. Andrews, Robersonville, N. C., James A. Roberson, Parmele, N. C., Johnnie Mizelle, Robersonville, N. C., J. O. Clay, Parmele, N. C., and C. C. Clay, Parmele, N. C., sets forth the following facts, to-wit:

In 1949-1950, the school census of the children in Martin County between the ages of 6 and 21 was 9,203. Of these 45.2 per cent were white and 54.8 per cent were Negro. There were enrolled in the schools the same year 7,969 pupils, of which 45.9 per cent were white and 54.1 per cent were Negro. The average daily membership for that year was 7,229, of which 46 per cent were white and 54 per cent were Negro. The average attendance for that year was 6,604, of which 48.7 per cent were white and 51.3 per cent were Negro. This is a statement of facts found from the statistical report of 1950.

In 1945 a group of Negro citizens came before the Board of Education and presented a petition for the segregation of the Negro children in the public schools.

The petition was referred to the Board of Education and the Board of Education, in its answer, stated that it was the policy of the Board to provide equal educational facilities for all children in the county, regardless of race.

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Missing Man Has Not Been Found

Ransom Whitehurst, 37-year-old local colored man, missing from his home since last Saturday morning, has not been found, and it is fairly certain that he lost his life in Sweet Water Creek between the old Watts landing and the bridge over the creek on Highway 64 near here.

Searchers traced the man to the edge of a deep hole in the creek late last Monday night. His shotgun was found leaning against a tree with two empty shells on the ground nearby. His clothes were found carefully piled near the gun. It is thought that Whitehurst shot a squirrel and that the man pulled off his clothes to recover the animal from the water.

The creek has been thoroughly dragged but no trace of the body has been found.

New Jamesville Church Will Be Occupied Sunday

Homecoming Will Be Observed
In \$20,000 Building
Just Completed

Jamesville's new Christian church, just completed at a cost of approximately \$20,000.00, will be occupied for the first time Sunday when three services are held during the day in addition to the Sunday school that morning at 10:00 o'clock.

Homecoming will be observed at the scheduled 11:00 o'clock morning worship service, followed by a picnic dinner. That afternoon at 2:00 o'clock there'll be a fellowship service, it was announced by the pastor, the Rev. Harold Tyer. The Rev. John L. Goff, pastor of the Williamston Christian Church, will preach the first in a series of revival sermons that evening at 7:30 o'clock and continue each evening through Friday of next week at the same hour.

Many former members who have moved away down through the years and other friends of the church in two or more states are expected there for the first service in the new church and the homecoming-day program. Invitations have been extended all churches in the town and community to attend the event.

The opening of the new church Sunday climaxes years of planning and saving and is an important event in the religious history of the town and section.

Some years ago, possibly ten or more, a few members saw the need for an expansion program, and repairs and alterations to the old structure were considered. Gradually, the trend moved toward the construction of a new church, the ladies of the church during the meantime having instituted a saving plan. As a result of the interest and support given the building fund and with additional aid being pledged, the congregation of nearly 100 members moves into the new building with right at three-fourths of the cost liquidated and the remainder well considered.

Two years ago last month construction work was started, the determined membership keeping a close attention on meeting the bills rather than rushing the project to completion. Untiring efforts of the building committee, composed of E. H. Ange, chairman, and C. C. Fleming, Mrs. F. C. Stallings, Mrs. Edgar Brown, J. R. Overton, R. E. Gurganus, Edward Lee Martin and Walter Brown, J. R. Overton, R. E. Gurganus, Edward Lee Martin and Walter Brown, and the loyal support of all the members helped give the town and section a creditable structure. It is of brick construction and its auditorium has a seating capacity of nearly 200, in addition to the Sunday school class rooms. Installation of new pews and the pulpit furniture is being completed today and will be ready for use Sunday morning.

A cordial invitation is being extended by the church to the public to worship with the members at any and all its services.

Funeral Saturday For Old Minister

Funeral services were conducted in the Willow Chapel Baptist Church, Gold Point, Saturday afternoon for the Rev. Julius A. Taylor, respected Negro minister, who died at his home in Parmele on Wednesday of last week.

He was born in Gold Point 77 years ago on June 10, 1873, the son of the late Abram and Betty Taylor. At an early age he became interested in religious affairs, and in later life served as moderator of the Middle Ground Association, president of the Sunday School Convention, and on the association's executive board. He was one of the organizers of the Higgs Roanoke Seminary at Parmele.

Surviving are his widow, the former Alice Teel; seven daughters, four sons, fourteen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, seven sons-in-law and three daughters-in-law.

Fifteen Thousand See Annual Harvest Festival Parade Here

Woman's Club Sponsoring Big Halloween Event Here

Sponsored by the Woman's Club, a big Halloween entertainment event will be held in the Planters Warehouse here next Wednesday evening, beginning promptly at 7:00 o'clock, it was announced by Mrs. Bill Abbitt, representing the sponsoring organization.

Extensive preparations for the big event are well advanced, and indications point to a great time that evening for both young and old. There'll be a small admission charge at the main door, and a food booth will be maintained.

Highway Post Office To Run November 1

Announce Official Schedule For Two Busses This Week

Highway Post Offices To
Replace Railway Mail
Service In Area

The official schedule for the two United States Highway post offices that are to operate between Norfolk and Raleigh was announced this week by Postmaster W. E. Dunn. The new service is to be inaugurated on Thursday of next week.

The mobile office will leave its eastern division terminal at Norfolk at 5:30 o'clock and reach Williamston at 10:40 a. m. It will leave Williamston at 12:10 for Raleigh, reaching the North Carolina capital at 5:55 o'clock in the afternoon. Only one other stop will be made by the No. 1 bus and that will be in Jamesville at 10:19 a. m.

The second mobile office will leave the western division terminal in Raleigh at 5:00 o'clock a. m. and reach Williamston at 10:36 o'clock. It will be held at this point until 1:50 o'clock in the afternoon to continue its trip to Norfolk, reaching there at 7:00 o'clock p. m. The No. 2 schedule includes one other stop in the county and that is in Jamesville at 2:13 o'clock in the afternoon.

The highway post offices, using two large busses similar in appearance to those operated on regular passenger schedules by common carriers, will run straight through from Raleigh to Norfolk and from Norfolk to Raleigh, and the operating crews will change busses at this point.

In addition to the post offices, it is understood that trucks will be used to handle parcel post matter, that the trucks will operate closely behind the post office.

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County Boy Gets Army Promotion

With the 7th Inf. Div. in Korea—Eli D. Harrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim C. Harrison, Route 2, Williamston, N. C., recently won a combat promotion to the grade of corporal for exemplary performance of duty on the battlefield.

He is fighting on the Korean central front with the 17th "Buffalo" Regiment.

During the recent U. N. offensive, Harrison and his buddies advanced over rugged terrain and secured limited objectives in the "Iron Triangle" area.

Harrison has completed seven months' Army service, and wears the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Korean Service Ribbon with one campaign star.

Paraders Braved A Drizzling Rain For Few Minutes

Sixty-two Units and Nearly
1,000 Persons In 45-
Minute March

Coming from all parts of northeastern North Carolina, a throng conservatively estimated at fifteen thousand persons, witnessed Williamston's fourth and possibly its best annual harvest festival parade yesterday afternoon. Cloudy skies possibly held a few persons away, but those reporting for the event combined to make the crowd the largest ever seen in the town on any previous occasion. Cars were parked as far as one could see on the main street, and bumper-to-bumper parking was the order on streets throughout the residential area, blocks from the parade route.

The Martin County Motorcycle Club, aided by representatives from other clubs, turned into the main street off Watts at the stroke of 2:00 o'clock and for forty-five minutes the paraders moved by a given point. After threatening the event for thirty-five minutes, a drizzling rain started falling, but the paraders braved the elements to carry the march to a successful end while many spectators sought shelter.

Although the rain dampened the event, it was still one of the best ever held here and one of longest seen in this section of the State.

Nearly 1,000 persons, or 374, to be exact, participated in the parade itself.

The parade was built around twelve bands, including the rhythm bands from Farm Life and Hassell, fifteen princesses and twenty special floats. All the bands made a creditable showing for their towns and communities, the youthful musicians holding the throngs spellbound as they moved up Main Street and on out Washington to the warehouse area.

The floats, representing much time and work, were rated among the best ever seen here, and the princesses, riding in convertibles, represented the finest of young womanhood from fifteen communities in this and others throughout this section.

Visitors went out of their way to compliment the town and the sponsors for planning and holding the event.

The sixty-two parade units were checked in the following order:

Motorcycle club riders.

Town officials, followed by the town's water and street department's eight units and one of the town's fire trucks.

County officials were next in line.

Princess Williamston moved by.

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Old Refrigerator Derby Concluded

Mr. M. S. Moore of 140 Simmons Avenue has won the "Old Refrigerator Derby," a contest sponsored several weeks ago by Philco, it was announced recently by Mr. Dean G. Grogan of the Commonwealth Sales Corporation, Richmond, Virginia, in a letter to Mr. Garland Woolard, of Wollard Furniture Company, local contest sponsor.

The letter also stated that a new Model 1018 refrigerator was being shipped to the furniture company for delivery to the winner.

The contest, held in Philco dealer's stores, embraced Northhampton, Martin, Bertie, Hertford, Gates, Chowan, Washington, Tyrell, Dare, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Currituck and Camden counties. Entrants were required to register old refrigerators that were in good working condition.

Mr. Moore registered with the local sponsors, a Frigidaire refrigerator which he has had for about twenty five years.

Crown Local Girl Harvest Festival Queen Last Night

Thousands Attend Dance
In Street Tuesday and
Ball Last Evening

Williamston's fourth annual harvest festival was brought to a close last night with a dance and the crowning of the festival queen in the Planters Warehouse.

Miss Patricia Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Taylor of Williamston, was chosen queen from an imposing field of fifteen candidates. The princesses, Miss Ann Byrd of Windsor, Lynette Cotrain of Farm Life, Jean Culliter of Bethel, Dorothy Henninger of Edenton, Pat Mayne of Washington, Sarah Lee Smith of Robersonville, Patricia Taylor of Williamston, Betty Lou Rogerson of Bear Grass, Mary Lou Voirol of Plymouth, Martha Pearson of Ahoskie, Jean Ellis of Jamesville, Cherry Edmondson of Oak City, Mary Beth Perry of Perquimans, Nannette Upchurch of Scotland Neck and Dorothy O'Neal of Tarboro, filed across the stage individually, and then in groups. The field was narrowed to five, Misses Williamston, Washington, Windsor, Bethel and Bear Grass. The final selection was made from the first three.

Miss Jean Carol Griffin, retiring queen who returned home for the festival from Woman's College, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, crowned the new queen who was presented a Columbia diamond ring, courtesy of Peele's Jewelers. The princesses were awarded individual trophies with their names inscribed thereon.

Thompson Greenwood, executive secretary of the North Carolina Merchants Association, Raleigh; Tom W. Harris, past president of the Rocky Mount Jaycees, and Reece Bailey, director of the Rocky Mount Jaycees, judged the queen contest.

The princesses were entertained at the Dunning House with Mrs. Wheeler Manning as chaperone assisted by Mrs. J. L. Parker, Jr. Following the parade they were entertained at a coke party in the Manning home on School Drive and were the honor guests at a banquet in the Methodist Church annex.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 attended the festival ball and enjoyed the dance and music by Dick Levin, local boy, and his State College orchestra.

The festival ball last night was preceded by a big street dance on Washington Street Tuesday night. Dick Levin and his orchestra furnished the music for the round dancers and Otho Willard and his string band kept the square dancers busy until after midnight. Between three and five thousand persons milled in and out of the street during the dances.

Property Is Stolen From Government

The Federal Bureau of Investigation discloses that it has been making many arrests throughout the nation in connection with thefts of government property, much of it from military installations. Director Hoover said 120 persons had been taken into custody in many states charged with stealing government property worth a total of \$1,000,000 or more. More than a thousand other cases are under investigation. Both military and civilian employes are involved.

STARTER

Assisted by Dan Peel and Worth Mobley, J. O. (Blue) Manning did an able job in starting the town's fourth annual harvest festival parade yesterday afternoon. The parade moved off without delay and progressed according to plan, the threatening weather and even the rain during the latter part failing to disrupt the march.

The starters lined up nearly 1,000 persons and almost one hundred vehicles and fed them into the line of march without a discernible hitch.