

Nineteen Cases In County Court Monday Morning

Fines Imposed During The Short Session Add Up To \$310.00

Nineteen cases were handled in the Martin County Recorder's Court during a comparatively short session last Monday. The court, completing its work before adjourning for lunch at 1:00 o'clock, accounted for \$310 fines and several road sentences.

Proceedings:
Pleading not guilty of drunken driving, Arclender Stokes could not sustain his plea and was fined \$100, plus costs. He loses his operator's license for a year.

Edward Nathaniel Hopkins was found not guilty of careless and reckless driving.

Pleading guilty of issuing a worthless check, R. B. Spruill was sentenced to the roads for sixty days. The court suspended the road term upon the payment of the costs and the amount of the check.

Adjudged guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Lerverne Godard was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of a \$50 fine and costs. The defendant is to violate no criminal law during the next two years.

Charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Bryant Reason was found not guilty.

Pleading guilty of assaulting his wife, R. C. Rogerson was sentenced to the roads for six months. The road term was suspended upon the payment of a \$35 fine and costs. He is not to assault his wife during the next three years. Asked if he had a statement to make, the defendant said he went home for a meal, that he was tired, hungry and mad and that he beat and ran his wife away from home because the meal was not ready.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case in which Lena A. Gordon was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

James Taylor, Jr., of Oak City, RFD 1, was taxed with the costs for speeding.

William Raleigh White, Bertie young man, was fined \$20, plus costs, for speeding. It was Patrolman Johnny Ailsbrook's first case in the courts in this county since he went with the State Highway Patrol. The patrolman, stationed in Gates County, was on his way to the patrol garage when he picked up the speeder.

Simon Jenkins, going into court on a liquor law violation for the second time within a matter of a few weeks, was sentenced to the roads for three months, the sentence to begin at the expiration of a six-month term which was invoked. He appealed and bond was required in the sum of \$200.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the (Continued on Page Seven)

Mrs. Mittie Keel Dies In Hospital

Mrs. Mittie Keel, well-known citizen of Robersonville, died in a Durham hospital Tuesday evening at 10 o'clock. Mrs. Keel was associated with the Ward Clinic and Mrs. Vernon and Jesse Ward for many years before she retired several years ago on account of ill health.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete this morning pending arrival of children, one of whom lives in California.

HOLIDAY

After observing Confederate Memorial Day as a holiday, local banks will take another off to observe Mecklenburg Independence Day next Tuesday, it was announced this week. No other businesses will join the banks in observing the day as a holiday. But on May 30 the banks will have plenty of company when the nation observes May 30 Memorial Day as a holiday.

Four In Race For Three Places On County Education Board



Although there are more candidates in the race for the three seats on the Martin County Board of Education, the contest, so far, has attracted possibly the least attention of any. For the first time, a member of the opposite sex is out for a seat on the board. The terms of three of the five board members are expiring next April and only one of the three old members is a candidate to succeed himself. George Griffin, after ably serving as a member for almost twenty years, is retiring at the end



of the current term along with J. D. Woolard who has faithfully served as chairman of the body for sixteen years. The four candidates entering the Saturday, May 31, primary are, left to right, Mrs. Frances R. Lawton of Robersonville, LeRoy Harrison, Bear Grass business man and farmer; Urbin Rogers, Williamston business man and farmer; and Cecil Powell, farmer and business man of Gold Point.



Work Of Citizens' Group Making Progress In State

"The work of the Citizens' Committee for Good Government is making a deep impression and producing excellent results over the entire state," H. S. Johnson, chairman of the Martin County unit said today.

Through the efforts of this organization, citizens are being informed of the terrific influence wielded over the last General Assembly by the liquor lobbyists, the local county chairman asserted. "This time, voters are determined such disgraceful proceedings will not go on in Raleigh as was reported during the 1951 session. In an effort to improve this, they are going to support men who believe in decency and will not be influenced by these highly-paid lobbyists.

"The issue is not so much the merit, pro or con, of so-called legal control, but whether we will sit complacently by and permit these lobbyists to dictate to and completely control, the men we elect to represent us in the legis-

lature, thereby disfranchising every citizen in the state of his right to vote unless he favors legalized barrooms and roadside beer joints, Mr. Johnson continued.

"We appeal to the good citizens of every county to make a careful investigation of each legislative candidate, including the governor and lieutenant governor, and then go to the polls and support the men who have declared themselves willing for you, as a taxpayer, to vote your convictions," Mr. Johnson said.

Organizations have been formed in three-fourths of the state's 100 counties, the chairman said. Composed largely of ministers, active Christian laymen and women, members are giving of their time and influence without any remuneration whatsoever in order to screen each candidate regarding his attitude toward a liquor referendum. Then voters will be informed about the findings, the head of the organization in this county said.

Hamilton Exceeds Quota In Current Cancer Fund Drive

Mrs. Henry Johnson, Jr., Reports \$127.13 Dur- ing The Drive

Headed by Mrs. Henry S. Johnson, Jr., the cancer fund drive has been completed in Hamilton with funds running in excess of the quota. Assisted by Miss Mildred Everett, Mrs. Johnson reported \$127.13, an amount \$2.13 in excess of the goal. Hamilton is the second district in the county to go over the top in the current cancer fund drive.

Contributions are acknowledged as follows:

Frank Clark, \$1; Dallas Lynch, \$5; Whit Davis, 50c; Robert Edmondson, \$2; Mrs. Ruth Ewell, \$1; Bud Thomas, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Roebuck, \$5; Hamilton Theater, \$5; Mrs. Jasper Harrell, 50c; Frank Stokes, \$1; Bruce Chesson, \$1; B. B. Taylor, \$2; J. O. Stokes, \$1.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. House, \$5; Joe Cherry, \$1; Alvin Everett, \$1; Wade Everett, Jr., 20c; Mrs. Susie Douglas, 10c; Cash, 40c; Roy Beach, 55c; Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Everett, \$2; P. E. Manning, 50c.

Hamilton School (colored) \$20, solicited by Prof. Honeyblue.

Hamilton School (white) \$15.
Mrs. Helen G. Davenport, \$1; Joe Haislip, \$1; Everett-Matthews Company, \$5; Frank Haislip, \$1; Mrs. Mary Johnson, \$3; Dr. W. J. Highsmith, Jr., \$5; Edgar Roberson, \$1.

Dewey Stalls, \$1; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson, \$7; Z. D. Cox, \$1; W. J. Beach, \$2; Mary Frances Weaver, \$1; Willie Knox, 25c; Mrs. George T. Ward, \$1; Bob Sydenstricker, \$5; D. G. Matthews, Jr., \$1; Pete Leggett, \$1; R. A. Edmondson, 50c; L. D. Harrell, 50c; Slade-Rhodes Company, \$5; Mrs. Jim Page, 25c; H. M. Peel

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CONVENTION

A cordial invitation is being extended to all Democrats "in good standing" to attend the biennial county convention in the courthouse here Saturday of this week at 12:00 o'clock noon. The invitation is being extended by Chairman Elbert S. Peel on behalf of the party's executive committee.

The party organization in this county will be perfected, including the election of officers and delegates are to be named to the State convention to be held in Raleigh next week.

Delinquent Town Taxes Advertised

The names of 138 property owners appear on Williamston's current delinquent tax list, representing unpaid taxes in the amount of \$2,698.63. The number of unpaid tax accounts is eleven less than it was a year ago, but the unpaid tax this year is \$2,698.63 as compared with \$1,452.43 last year. The number of white property owners whose accounts are listed as delinquent is double the eight listed a year ago. The number of colored property owners whose accounts are in arrears is nineteen less than the 130 advertised in 1951.

Last year the delinquent white list represented unpaid taxes in the sum of only \$185.09. This year the sixteen accounts represent \$1,246.20 in unpaid taxes. Last year the 130 colored owners whose accounts were in arrears owed \$1,468.08. The 111 unpaid accounts by colored property owners this year represent a balance due of \$1,452.43.

It is fairly certain that many of the accounts will have been cleared by June 9 when the property is to be offered for public sale.

PENDING

The consolidation of the Farm Life High School is still pending, following a visit with Controller Douglas of the State Board of Education in Raleigh yesterday by representatives of the district committee.

While he took no stand either way and offered little encouragement, Controller Douglas told the representatives he would be glad to arrange a hearing before the full State board early in June. Mr. Frank Lilley, a member of the local committee, is to discuss the matter with other members of his group before asking an appointment with the State body.

Mill Wrecked By Fire At G and H Plant Last Night

Planing Mill and Several Other Buildings Are Threatened

The lumber mill and all equipment were destroyed by fire at the plant of the G and H Builders' Supply Company at the edge of town on the Jamesville Highway about 10:30 o'clock last night. Several other buildings, including the planing mill and considerable equipment, were also threatened but the main fire was confined to the sawmill.

The origin of the fire could not be determined, one report stating that it could have been started by sparks from a burning trash pile in the yard. When discovered and before an alarm was sounded the fire was lighting up most of the mill yard. Luther Strickland who lives on the mill yard, was quoted as saying that the fire lighting up the area when he was awakened.

All the town's available fire-fighting equipment was carried there and two streams of water were directed on the fire for almost two hours before the fire was brought under control. Saw dust near the mill was still burning today.

The loss, including a large Diesel power unit, a comparatively new sawmill, wood saw, rippers and motors, will approximate \$18,000 to \$20,000. One report indicated that comparatively little insurance was in force.

No official statement has been released by Mr. Henry Griffin, owner, but plans are being made to resume operations as quickly as possible.

FINAL SESSION

The final session of the present school year will be held by the Williamston P.-T. A. in the grammar school auditorium Monday evening at 7:45 o'clock.

The main order of business will be the installation of the officers for the 1952-53 scholastic year. All members are urged to be present to give the new officers a good start.

Mrs. Vance Peele Died at Her Home In Griffins Today

Funeral Arrangements De- layed Pending Word From Son In Army

Mrs. Mamie Moore Peele, 65, died at her home in Griffins Township not far from Batts' Cross Roads this morning at 3:50 o'clock this morning. Suffering a stroke of paralysis on Tuesday of this week, she had been critically ill since that time. Just prior to the attack, she had experienced fairly good health.

The daughter of the late Jesse Augustus and Susan Swanner Moore, she was born 65 years ago on October 15, 1886, in the Old Ford community of Beaufort County. Following her marriage to Vance L. Peele in 1913 she located in this county, making her home in Griffins Township.

Surviving besides her husband are three sons, Jesse H. Peel of Griffins Township, Otis H. Peel of the home, and Vance L. Peel who is with the army in Korea; a daughter, Mrs. Susan Hux of Norfolk; two grandchildren, Ray Taylor Hux of his home, and Bobby Hux of Norfolk.

Mrs. Peel was a faithful member of the Old Ford Church for about forty years, and the funeral services are to be conducted there by her pastor, the Rev. M. Luther Ambrose. Interment will be in Washington's Oakdale Cemetery. Final funeral arrangements are being delayed pending receipt of word from a son in Korea.

Uncertainty Surrounds 1952 Plans For Marketing Peanuts

Few Participate In The Elections In Martin County

Study By Registrar Shows Only Thirteen Percent Voted In One Precinct

By Wendell Peel

No. 1 Precinct Registrar

In the 1950 Martin County vote paralleled that of Williamston Precinct No. 1, only 13 percent of the county's qualified voters exercised the privilege of the ballot in both the primary and general elections. One thousand and sixty citizens were listed as eligible to vote in Precinct No. 1 in 1950. One hundred and thirty-six of these voted each of the three times, 318 voted in both primaries only, 18 votes only in the first primary did vote the other two times. Two hundred and twenty-nine voters cast their ballots only during the first primary, 20 only at the time of the second primary while five others waited until the general election to pay active visits to the polls. Over all, 729 of the eligible voters in the precinct participated in the 1950 elections while 340 completely ignored the opportunity to actively voice opinion in the affairs of their government.

Of the 1069 citizens carried on the Williamston Precinct No. 1 Book in 1950, 350, or almost one-third of the total, were non-natives of Martin County. At that time, eligible voters in the precinct included natives of 50 other North Carolina Counties, of 17 other states, the District of Columbia and four foreign countries.

The adjoining counties of Pitt, Beaufort and Bertie were represented by 44, 41 and 33 natives, respectively in 1950. Neighboring Virginia held the lead among the states with 31 voters listing the Old Dominion as their birthplace. South Carolina followed with five, Mississippi, Tennessee, Illinois, Florida, Arkansas, Michigan, Georgia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, California, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, West Virginia, Indiana and Oklahoma were the other states represented in the precinct.

France led the foreign nation delegation with two eligible voters. Three more voters named the

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Expecting Crowds At "Skit Night"

Although two spots on the Kiwanis Skit Night show have not yet been filled, two solid hours of good clean entertainment are assured the public on Saturday night, May 17, at 7:30 p. m. at the local high school auditorium. Latest organization to enter the show are The Future Farmers of America from Oak City, and official entries from two other groups are expected immediately.

A report from the Jamesville Ruritan Club which is scheduled to present its act at 7:45 p. m. indicates that the participating units are going all out to win the cash performance prizes offered by the Kiwanis Club. Jamesville is entering a combination singing dancing and tap dancing show, and it is believed that at least part of the Jamesville participants will be school children. A novel act in the shape of a quiz program with adults dressed as children will be staged by the local Lions Club. The Bear Grass Ruritan Club is expected to enter a musical group. Other outstanding musical acts are expected from the local high school band and glee club. Other details will be announced over Radio Station WIAM at 6:15 P. M., Friday, May 16.

Stolen Oil Drums Found At Still

Four oil drums, stolen from Farmer Bill Abbitt's tobacco barn several months ago, were found at an illicit liquor still several miles back of the Sherrod farm in Hamilton Township Tuesday afternoon by ABC Officers J. H. Roebuck and Cecil Powell. No trace has yet been found of a 300-gallon capacity oil drum stolen from Farmer Mayo Hardison about the same time the Abbitt barrels were missed.

One of the four barrels was rigged up for use as a kettle, and the others were being used as fermenters.

REGISTRATION

While there isn't much even there, interest in the current registration is possibly greater than in the approaching political primary, according to preliminary reports reaching here this week from the several precinct registrars.

Approximately 150 new names have been added to the registration books since May 3, and a fairly sizable rush is predicted for Saturday, the last day to get names on the books for the May 31 primary election. Williamston Precinct No. 2 precinct is leading the county with 46 new registrations.

Saturday at sunset is the last possible minute to register. Those whose names are already on the books do not have to register again.

Violator Breaks Down In Court Monday Morning

Youth In Court For The Fourth Time Since Last December

In the courts four times since last December for violating the motor vehicle laws, Jeston H. Gurkin, young Pitt County Recorder's Court last Monday.

Last December the young man lost his license to operate a motor vehicle when he was caught transporting a load of illicit liquor. Only April 6 he was caught or tried for operating a motor vehicle while his driver's license was revoked. The \$200 fine and warning apparently made little or no impression on the young man, for a day or two later he was booked on a similar charge. The fine was increased to \$225 that time, the court recommending that his operator's license be revoked for an additional two years.

Early this month he was charged for operating a motor vehicle after his license had been revoked. The good citizens of the Gold Point section said that the tracks of his car were still discernible where he had speeded up the machine back on May 4.

In court last Monday, Gurkin denied the charge, and his companion, Charles Alvin Allen, moved in to accept the blame. But too many reliable people saw Gurkin under the wheel, and he was adjudged guilty. Allen maintained he was driving at the time the car was involved in an accident and he, too, was adjudged guilty.

Gurkin appeared a bit nervous but when Judge R. T. Johnson sentenced him to the roads for nine months, the young man broke down and cried like a baby. With tears running down his

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Take Large Still Tuesday Morning

Raiding in Bear Grass Township Tuesday morning, ABC Officers Joe H. Roebuck and Cecil Bullock wrecked a fairly sizable illicit liquor distillery, but part of the equipment had been removed out of the reach of the officers.

The officers recovered a copper kettle of approximately 100 gallon capacity and wrecked five boxes having about 300 gallon capacity each.

Continues Very Ill In Local Hospital Today

Mr. Irving L. Smith, well-known Robersonville citizen and business man, continues seriously ill in a local hospital. However, a report released by members of the family shortly before noon today, stated that he rested normally about two hours last night and that his condition could be slightly improved. Mr. Smith suffered an attack last Saturday while spending a few days at his summer home in Nags Head.

Commodity Credit Not Expected To Open Warehouses

Excess Plantings Virtually Mean Suicide For The Grower This Year

According to a report reaching here this week a bit of uncertainty is surrounding the 1952 peanut marketing program which is fast becoming bogged down in confusion.

There'll be a support price, to be sure, but growers will have to get it by an indirect method, unofficial reports stating there'll be no receiving warehouses operated by the Commodity Credit Corporation this year. Shellers will not be given any financial assistance by the commodity credit corporation and will not be required to pay support prices. About the only sure way for a farmer to participate in the support program is by providing his own farm storage and using the loan or purchase agreement. Other methods of price support will include loans through the Peanut Cooperative Association and bonded warehouse loans.

The grower who plants in excess of his allotment and does not "hog them down" will be penalized at the rate of one-half the support price and he'll receive no guarantee.

All the implications in the marketing changes are not yet known, but it is fairly certain that some if not a great deal of confusion will surround the 1952 marketing of peanuts.

The latest plans, numbering four, for peanut price support has been summed up, as follows:

1. Farm Storage Loan: You may obtain a loan through your county PMA committee, and hold your peanuts in any committee-approved farm storage structure. You may sell them at any time if you find the price is to your advantage. Loans bear interest at 3 1/2 percent per year and mature May 31, 1953, with CCC accepting delivery of peanuts if the loan is not repaid by that date. There will be no recourse on you except for loss in weight and grade that may take place during the time your peanuts are under loan.

2. Purchase Agreement: This agreement, signed by you and a representative of your county PMA committee, guarantees you a market at price support. It may cover any quantity of eligible peanuts produced on your farm. The peanuts remain in your possession, may be stored either on or off the farm, and may be sold or disposed of in any manner you desire. No funds are advanced to you but you have the right to deliver these peanuts to CCC, although (Continued on Page Eight)

To Open White Cane Gift Shop

Sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club, a White Cane Gift Shop will be opened between Plymouth and Washington on Highway 32 on Saturday of this week, it was announced today.

Operated by Phillip Bowen in a building especially constructed by the Plymouth club the shop will carry articles made by blind persons throughout this section of the State, and the patronage of the public is earnestly solicited.

MEETING

Candidates for various political offices are being invited to participate in an open forum at the county courthouse tomorrow evening.

Various issues are to be discussed and the candidates are expected to state their positions on various questions. Details of the meeting have not been definitely outlined, but the meeting is open to the public.