

## Superior Court Held Final Session Friday

### Jury Gave \$7,500 To H. D. Taylor In \$25,000 Case

### \$3,000 In Judgments Re- corded In Case Against Wilber Cannon

Before quitting for the term late last Friday, the Martin County Superior Court recorded several sizable if inadequate judgments in damage suits, and handled quite a few other cases.

Judge W. I. Halstead of South Mills presided over the second of the two-week term, following Judge Clawson L. Williams of Sanford who presided the first week when the criminal cases were before the court.

Long trials featured the work of the court during last week. More than one case required all if not the greater part of a long day.

In the case of H. D. Taylor against J. S. Whitley, a jury was chosen late Thursday and evidence was completed before the noon recess Friday. Most of that afternoon was devoted to hearing the arguments and the judge's charge which lasted for an hour and twenty minutes. The jury, deliberating about forty-five minutes, returned a \$7,500 verdict in favor of Taylor. Permanently injured in a fall in the defendant's apartment house in Williamston nearly two years ago, Taylor asked for \$25,000 damages, alleging that a loose metal strip on the stair caused him to fall. He suffered a broken hip and spent months in hospitals and in bed at home and is now able to get around only by limping. It was reported that an insurance company offered to settle the action with an offer of \$1,000. The defense gave notice of appeal to the State Supreme Court and was allowed 60 days to perfect the appeal.

Mary Wiggins, who was badly injured in an automobile accident near Williamston on the McCaskey Road last March 7, received \$2,600 in settlement of her \$5,000 claim against Wilber Cannon. James Wiggins in his case against Cannon and which grew out of the same accident, was awarded \$400 property damages in his suit to recover \$450. The first plaintiff was permanently injured. The actions were settled by agreement.

A non-suit was ordered in the divorce case brought by Pesse Lee Daniel against Magnolia Daniel when the plaintiff failed to appear in court.

A judgment entered in the records earlier in the week and by default, was set aside when the plaintiff, Romulous Peel, declared that the action took him by surprise. The defendant in the case, filling a counter claim, was given a judgment in the sum of \$329. The case is set for trial at the November term.

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## Two In Court On Perjury Charges

Mary S. Wilkins of 805 Washington Street and Sarah Bryant, 813 West Main Street, were tried in Justice Chas. R. Mobley's court here a few days ago for allegedly attempting to evade the employment security law.

While filing claims for employment compensation benefits at the ed to report their whole earnings, they were found guilty in the judgment of the court. Both were given 30 days jail sentence, suspended upon the repayment to the Commission of \$4.50 by the former and \$84.00 by the latter and the costs of the actions.

There are further penalties attending such convictions. Not only is the claimant ineligible to receive any further benefits during the remaining of the benefit year, but all payments received after the week of the commission of the fraud are required to be repaid before any further benefits can ever be received in the future.

### ROUND-UP

Ten persons found their way into the county jail at the insistence of law enforcement officers last week-end. Six were booked for public drunkenness, and one each for drunken driving, driving a motor vehicle while his operator's license was revoked, operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and trespassing.

Nine of the ten were colored, the list including one woman. Ages of the group ranged from 21 to 53 years.

## Wm. Bowers Died At His Home Near Hamilton Monday

### Funeral In Church At Hamilton For Retired Farmer Wednesday

William (Billy) Bowers, retired farmer and highly respected citizen, died at his home near Hamilton Monday afternoon at 1:20 o'clock. He had been in declining health for eight years but continued faithfully at his tasks until four years ago when he was forced to retire. His condition had been critical following a stroke of paralysis suffered September 6. He failed to respond to hospital treatment, and his condition gradually worsened.

He was born in Goose Nest Township 81 years ago on August 8, 1871, and lived there most of his life, locating near Hamilton where he had lived and farmed for the past twenty years.

He was the oldest member of the Hamilton Methodist Church for a long time, and was faithful in attendance upon its services as long as he was able to be out.

In early manhood he was married to Florence Everett who died in 1911. Two years later on December 23, 1913, he was married to Elizabeth Price.

Surviving besides his widow are a daughter, Mrs. Leland Hardison of Robersonville; three brothers, Jack and Fate Bowers of Rocky Mount and Charlie Bowers of Hobgood; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted in the Hamilton Baptist Church Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. W. R. Johnson, of Robersonville. Interment will be in the Hamilton Cemetery.

## Hamilton Native Dies In Hospital

Mrs. Pattie Sherrod Starr, 51, died in a Winston-Salem hospital last Friday. She had been in declining health for several months, but was thought to be improving following an operation performed in the hospital last Wednesday.

A daughter of the late B. B. and Pattie Hyman Sherrod, she was born in Hamilton in 1901, and spent her early life there. Following her marriage twenty-eight years ago to W. J. Starr, she made her home in Mexico and several states of the Union where Mr. Starr was employed as a highway engineer. They had made their home in Plymouth during the past three years. Mrs. Starr taught school prior to her marriage, and was a member of the Roper faculty last year, declining health forcing her retirement this term.

Surviving besides her husband are a daughter, Mrs. A. R. Willis, Jr., of Plymouth; a son, W. J. Starr, Jr., of Raleigh; two brothers, B. B. Sherrod of Richmond and Dr. W. N. Sherrod of Winston-Salem.

She was a member of Grace Episcopal Church, Plymouth, and the funeral was conducted there Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by the rector, the Rev. E. M. Spruill. Interment was in the Episcopal Church Cemetery at Scotland Neck.

## Williamston Furniture Company's New Home



Under the management of Messrs. Johnny Rawls and Cecil Leggett, the Williamston Furniture Company held its formal opening last Saturday morning. The company is located at the corner of Elm and Washington Streets, just across from the Carolina Warehouse.

## Forty Cases Called In Recorder's Court

### A RECORD

It has been said that the wheels of justice turn slowly but surely. Well, they turned slowly and surely and for the first time in years and years they turned from Monday through Friday during each of two weeks in the recent term of the Martin Superior Court.

Judge Clawson Williams got on the job a bit late for the morning sessions, but he remained late in the afternoons right on through Friday of the first week.

Judge W. I. Halstead reported here Sunday and was ready right on the minute for work on Monday morning of last week. He carried the work schedule right up until dark last Friday.

## Native Of County Died In Hospital Early On Friday

### Funeral Held In Ayden On Saturday Afternoon For Adolphus L. Griffin

Adolphus L. Griffin, a native of this county, died in a Greenville hospital at 1:00 o'clock last Saturday morning. He had been in declining health for a long time and was critically ill for about two months.

A son of the late William Jordan and Sarah Jane Coltraine Griffin, he was born in the Fairview community of Williams Township, this county, 86 years ago on December 1, 1865. He spent his early life there, engaging in farming and timbering operations and taking a leading part in church and community affairs.

When a young man he located in Pitt County and was married in 1897 to Miss Sarah Smith of Ayden. He retired from active farming about twenty years ago on account of failing eye sight and declining health, but he continued interested in the affairs of the day.

Funeral services were conducted in an Ayden funeral chapel Saturday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the Rev. Mr. Loftman, Baptist minister of Pactolus. Interment was in the Ayden cemetery.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Edward Brooks of Pactolus, Mrs. Ruel Jones of Greene County, Mrs. M. G. Bullock and Mrs. Alton Suggs of Ayden; four sons, Alfred of Willard, Henry of St. Louis, Missouri, Lloyd of Ayden, and David L. Griffin of Jacksonville, Florida; a brother, W. W. Griffin of this county; a sister, Mrs. George E. Roberson, also of this county; 46 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

### Completing Basic Training

Henry McCoy Taylor, Jr., 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Taylor, 207 Beach Street, Williamston, is completing his Air Force basic training at the Lackland Base down in Texas.

## Fines Add Up To \$1,000 At Session Saturday Morning

### Only One Drunken Driving Case Appealed To The Higher Courts

Forty cases, including a goodly number of speeding charges, were called in the Martin Recorder's Court last Saturday morning when fines were assessed in the sum of \$1,000 by Judge R. T. Johnson.

Most of the defendants pleaded guilty and the court completed its work before the lunch hour. There were several drunken driving cases, but only one defendant appealed to the higher courts.

Proceedings: The case in which Vance Price was charged with an assault with a deadly weapon and being drunk and disorderly, was not pressed with leave. It was reported that a new warrant was issued against the defendant Monday.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Alfred Pippin is fined \$100, plus costs. He loses his driver's license for a year.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the court costs and the amount of the instrument in the case in which William James was charged with issuing a worthless check.

Henry O'Dell Modlin, pleading guilty, was taxed with the costs for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Pleading guilty, James Gus Hodges was fined \$25, plus costs, for an assault with a deadly weapon. He is to remain of good behavior for two years.

Horace Lyons, pleading not guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, was adjudged guilty and drew sixty days on the roads. The road term was suspended upon the payment of a \$10 fine, plus costs, and a \$20 doctor's bill.

The case in which James T. Mabry was charged with careless driving.

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## Multiple Trouble Follows Theft Of New Bern Auto

Amos Sykes, colored man who has since disappeared, merely pulled the stopper when he stole a 1939 Plymouth from a man named Smith over in New Bern last Friday. After he brought the car to this county and left it with Lee Timmons near Oak City with definite instructions to turn it over to only a white man, Sykes, departed saying he was going to Baltimore with a weak promise that he would return later for a visit with his friends.

Sykes had hardly cleared around the bend in the road before the trouble started. Timmons took the car to launch a week-end riding spree. Tiring of the wheel, Timmons turned it over to Andrew "Slim" Thomas in whose yard the car was found by Pa-

## Under Bond For Breaking Into Home Last Week

### Sylvester Brown To Face Trial In Superior Court Next December

Sylvester Brown, 20-year-old colored man, was placed under a \$1,000 bond by Justice Chas. R. Mobley at a preliminary hearing held last Thursday afternoon for breaking into the home of Major and Mrs. Herbert Whitley and attempting to break into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Burras Critcher, Jr., on West Franklin Street late Wednesday afternoon. Bond was arranged and the defendant is running loose.

At the Thursday afternoon hearing, Brown pleaded guilty of breaking into and entering the Whitley home, and not guilty of attempting to break into the Critcher apartment in the same home. Guilt was apparent in the second case, and \$500 bond was required on both counts.

Working on a lawn just across the street, Brown saw Mrs. Whitley leave home, and a short time later he quit his work, went to the back of the Whitley home and entered the back door. Tarrying there only a short while, he worked his way through the house toward the front where a sliding door separated the Whitley and Critcher apartments. Thinking it was one of the young Whitley boys trying to open the door, Mrs. Critcher started there to lend a helping hand. Just before reaching the door, she saw Brown.

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### GOOD SALES

A patron of the local market for years and years, Farmer Geo. R. Boyd reported another good tobacco sale here yesterday. Accompanied by his son, Lacy, Mr. Boyd sold almost 1,000 pounds for an average right at \$64.00 per hundred.

"Our quality is only fair, but the poundage is way off," the farmer said, joyfully adding that he was betting on making 60 bushels of corn to the acre this year.

## Another Accident Siege On Roads In Martin County

### No Injuries Reported But Property Loss Estimated In Excess Of \$1,200

Motorists, using the streets and highways in this county, apparently went on another accident siege last week-end. A preliminary count with members of the highway patrol and police departments listed eight wrecks. While no serious injuries were reported, the property loss was placed at \$1,270.

One of the victims, still wearing two stitches that closed a bad chin cut received in an accident several weeks ago near Whichard's Beach, went through his third record in about as many months. He was not hurt in his last ride, investigating officer said.

The first in the series was reported last Wednesday afternoon at 4:15 o'clock while Geo. Henry Leggett, Hassell postmaster, was driving toward Hassell in his 1948 Chevrolet. Elic Powell of Oak City, driving a 1946 Pontiac just ahead of Leggett, pulled to the right shoulder and his car brakes caught quickly and caused the Pontiac to swerve to the left, striking the rear fender of the Chevrolet which was passing on the left side of the road. No one was hurt. Investigating the accident, Patrolman Travis Register estimated the damage to the Chevrolet at \$40 and that to the Pontiac at \$300.

Mrs. Eleanor Ballou and Ed Hackett suffered painful but not serious injuries when their car, a 1952 Willys, was forced off the highway in West End and into a telephone pole about midnight last Friday. Hackett, driving the car toward Everetts, said another car deliberately ran him off the road and into the pole. Investigating the accident, police estimated the damage to the car at about \$500. The victims were treated in Brown's Community Hospital and released a short time later.

Taking Benjamin Harrell's 1951 Ford while the owner was in the Scotland Neck jail, Nathan Staton was to go off and dig up a

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## Jamesville Fair, Bigger and Better, Opens On Friday

### Congressman Bonner Will Address Crowd Friday Afternoon

Jamesville's community fair, one of the largest agricultural events held in this county in recent years, will open its 1952 edition on Friday of this week with a varied program and with the promise of being bigger and better than ever.

The main exhibits will be housed in the high school gymnasium and there'll be machinery and livestock exhibits outside. The Woman's Club of Jamesville, ably supporting the Ruritan Club, the sponsoring organization, will open the lunch room at 10:00 o'clock when the fair formally opens and lunches will be served during the day.

A big street parade, led by the Williamston High School Band, will form at 1:30 o'clock and move from near the Coast Line Station down to Highway 64 and thence around to the gymnasium. There will be special floats in the parade, including one by the management of Whichard's Beach, and bathing beauties.

Congressman Herbert C. Bonner will make the main address that afternoon at 2:00 o'clock at the high school. The congressman will have some timely remarks and a large crowd is expected to hear him.

At 3:00 o'clock, the Jamesville "Red Terrors" will play the Central High School football team from Elizabeth City. That evening, a special entertainment program will be offered in the auditorium.

Considerable work has already been completed in preparing the exhibits in the main building which will be open to the public Friday and all day Saturday.

## Tobacco Sales Pass Seven Million Mark

### SPECIAL SERVICE

A special religious service, commemorating the introduction of the newly revised Standard Bible version, will be held in the high school auditorium here this evening at 8:00 o'clock. The new Bible will be shown at the service which is being sponsored by religious leaders throughout the county.

A special program has been planned and the public is invited to attend.

## Ends Life At Her Home Last Friday Near Williamston

### Funeral Conducted Sunday Afternoon For Mrs. Jas. V. Harrison

In ill health for years and terribly despondent for two weeks or more, Mrs. Laura Harrison ended her life by firing a .22 caliber pistol bullet into her right temple at the Harrison home not far from Old Mill Inn on the Griffins Township Road in Bear Grass Township about 10:00 o'clock last Friday morning. She is believed to have died instantly.

Investigating the tragedy, Coroner W. W. Biggs said that there were powder burns on her face and that a formal inquest was not necessary. It was pointed out that Mrs. Harrison had attempted to end her life by taking an overdose of sleeping pills about two weeks ago, and that more recently she had taken excessive quantities of other medicines. Failing in those attempts, she apparently planned early that morning to use the pistol which had been hidden by her in the home. Mr. Harrison got up early that morning and went to his work about 6:00 o'clock. Mrs. Harrison said she was not feeling well and that she would remain in bed. A sister, Miss Claudia Harris, who lives about two miles away, visited the home and found Mrs. Harrison in bed about 8:30. Mrs. Harrison explained that she did not feel able to go and help grade tobacco, but that she planned to get up and iron at home. She appeared to be fairly calm at that time, and did not in any way reveal her drastic plans. When Mr. Harrison returned home about 11:30 o'clock he found the body in the bedroom. Answering an urgent call to the home, the family doctor said she had been dead an hour and a half or possibly two hours.

What was believed to have been a suicide note was found along with some other papers under the pillow. It could not be deciphered and apparently was not written immediately before she ended her life.

Although she had suffered with migraine headaches and experienced poor health in general, Mrs. Harrison tried to keep going and contribute her part in maintaining the home.

Mrs. Harrison, daughter of Marina Lilley Harris and the late William Henry Harris, was born in Griffins Township 42 years ago on October 1, 1909, and spent most of her life in this county. Some time after her marriage to James Voner Harrison in January,

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## Pullet Sale In County Friday

Members of several Negro 4-H clubs in the county will hold their second poultry show and sale at the agriculture building Friday morning at 10:00 o'clock.

Seventy-seven choice birds, all from certified flocks with an average of more than 200 eggs per bird last year, will be offered for sale. The pullets will be offered at public auction, and interested parties are invited to attend.

Money received from the sale will be used to purchase chickens for other club members next spring. Agent R. M. Edwards said.

## Highest Sale Of Season Reported On Local Market

### Sales Holding Up Unusually Well Compared To Those Of Year Ago

After hovering around the 50-cent figure for several weeks, prices on the local tobacco market climbed beyond the 52-cent average yesterday when 285,578 pounds of tobacco were sold for \$148,743. It was the highest sale of the year, but trailed the corresponding 27th daily season of last year by about three cents a pound. Prices on the better grades apparently pulled up the average, reports stating that there has been little change in the prices paid for the inferior types.

Up until this morning, the local market had sold 6,977,382 pounds for an average slightly under \$50 per hundred pounds. The early sales this morning pushed the total for the season to date to a point beyond the seven million mark. During the first 27 sales days last season, the market sold 7,497,938 pounds, leaving the current season sales trailing by about half million pounds. The average price last year had about a two-cent advantage, on an average.

The crop is rapidly disappearing, many farmers having already completed their marketing. No reliable estimates are to be had, but some farmers declare more than 65 per cent of the crop in this section has been sold.

A report on the marketing activities in the entire belt as released by the State and U. S. Departments of Agriculture, follows:

Steady to lower average prices were paid for most grades of Eastern North Carolina flue-cured tobacco last week. Volume of sales was fairly heavy, according to the Federal-State Market News Service. Marketings improved in quality when compared with the week before.

Weekly gross sales amounted to 51,642,721 pounds and averaged \$51.01 per hundred. This was the highest weekly average so far this season and a gain of 36 cents over the previous week. Volume was around 3.7 million pounds less. Season sales through Friday, September 26, stood at 236,833,633 pounds and averaged \$50.30. For the same number of sales days last year, 259,760,927 pounds had averaged \$51.53.

Decreases in averages were shown for over half of the grades. Losses amounted to \$1.00 to \$3.00 a hundred pounds generally. Most grades of nondescript, lugs, smoking leaf and lower quality leaf declined. Gains were negligible. Season averages for smoking leaf and medium quality leaf offerings are mostly \$1.00 to \$3.00 higher compared with the season averages at this time last year. However, lower quality grades are mainly \$1.00 to \$3.00 lower. Most primings and better quality grades are about steady. From an overall standpoint, losses, gains, and grades remaining unchanged are about equally divided.

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## County Boy Gets Rating In Navy

Entering the Navy last June, James Walter Terry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Terry of Bear Grass, moved right along, a late report stating that he had earned the rank of Recruit Petty Officer, 2-C, and he had been made a squad leader.

Following a leave spent at home, Petty Officer Terry returned to San Diego last week and will attend an engineering school during the next six months. His record attracted the attention of his commanding officer, D. Thomas.

All but two of the Bear Grass boys in the 1952 senior class are now in the Navy or the Air Force. Young Terry was accompanied home on his leave by Deryle Peel, a 1952 volunteer from Bear Grass.