

Grinding Out Few Cases This Week In Superior Court

Fribunal Expected To Be In Session Part Of Wednesday

Contrary to the way past schedules were handled, the Martin County Superior Court with Judge Susie Sharp on the bench, is currently holding close to afix-ed task, grinding out slowly but surely cases of a complicated and tedious nature. The court is almost certain to go into session again tomorrow, something that has seldom ever happened the day before Thanksgiving since the court was created by special act more than a dozen years ago for the trial of civil cases only.

The court, as far as numbers are concerned, is establishing no record this term, but up until today more conscientious and real hard work had been done than at any other sitting in recent years.

Cases, literally bent with tedious testimony and technicalities, have been the order of the day since the term was opened right on the dot on Monday of last week.

Only a few cases are to be considered during the remainder of the term, with the possibility that the cases of Cherry against Roanoke Tobacco Warehouse Co., Corey against Wallace and Evans against Brown will be called before adjournment is ordered.

Yesterday the court spent the entire day hearing the case involving a boundary line, brought by Critcher Lumber Company against Will Roberson and Robert J. Sydenstricker. All the evidence was completed at 4:00 o'clock and the attorney argued to the jury until 4:45 o'clock. Dismissing the jury for the day, Judge Sharp heard a motion in another case before quitting for the day. This morning the jurist charged the jury, but no verdict was returned immediately.

Last week, after the jury gave the plaintiff a judgment in the sum of \$250 in the case of W. R. Powell against Lelia Gainer, Attorney Paul D. Roberson moved that the verdict be set aside as being contrary to the greater weight of the evidence. The motion was granted, and a new trial was ordered. Powell was suing for \$1,400 damages alleged to have resulted in an automobile accident last May near Gold Point.

A greater part of last Friday was devoted to the trial of the case brought by Thurston Davenport against his former wife, Hattie Rodgers Davenport Reid. Davenport was asking for a share in the property held by the defendant, claiming that he had "worked hard" in helping amass the property. The jury found that the defendant "did not obtain money from the plaintiff by

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Wasn't Quite So Dry After All

This section had a mighty dry spell up until the rains came two weeks ago to lay the dust and interrupt the peanut harvest. But the season wasn't quite as dry as many pictured it.

Farmer C. D. Carstarphen reported he walked one hundred yards down the mouth of Sweet Water Creek when the dry season reached its peak. The old creek was mighty low, but Farmer Carstarphen was in Rattling Gut instead of the creek. Farmers Grady Godard and Lucian Hardison, hearing about the unusual exploit, checked and reasoned that Farmer Carstarphen was in one place when he thought he was in another. The creek and the gut are not very far apart and both empty into the Roanoke.

SERVICE

A special Thanksgiving service will be held in the Jameville Christian Church Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock, it was announced today. The pastor, the Rev. Harold L. Tyre, will conduct the service and a cordial invitation is extended to all to attend the service.

Thanksgiving Service Will Be Held In Local Church

The Reverend E. Gordon Conklin, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, will be the speaker at a Community Thanksgiving service at First Methodist Church on Thursday morning at ten-thirty. The annual event attracts hundreds of worshippers each year. The offering taken enables the churches through the Williamston Ministerial Association, to carry on worthy endeavors in keeping with the spirit and ministry of Jesus. A hospital bed is maintained for use in homes where temporary illness requires the use of such a bed. During the past year a wheel chair was purchased and has brought added comfort and convenience to several who have used it throughout the year.

More recently the local ministers have sponsored a Community Kindergarten. The fees paid by

the parents have paid the salaries of workers and helped with the daily running expenses. Some items of equipment needed in the kindergarten program have had to be purchased with funds which the ministers have obtained from other sources. This Thanksgiving offering is one of the Association's best sources of income.

A spokesman of the Ministerial Association pointed out, however, that many churches take special offerings at Thanksgiving for the support of chosen denominational projects and stated that envelopes containing such offering may be placed in the plate Thursday morning. These envelopes will be given to the local church treasurer indicated on the envelope.

All ministers in town for the day will participate in the service. The public is invited to attend.

CARLOAD OF CORN

Martin County farmers, supported by cash contributions in the various towns and communities throughout the county, shipped a solid carload of corn last Saturday noon for overseas relief under the Christian Rural Overseas Program.

Although the crop is mighty short in the county this year, Martin farmers shared liberally of what they had, and when no corn was available, cash was offered, County Chairman Mayo Hardison explained.

A detailed account of the project will be announced later by Chairman Hardison who declared the undertaking was successful beyond expectations and quite timely for the Thanksgiving season.

Former Resident Dies In New Bern

Andrew J. Roberson, native of this county, died in a New Bern hospital at 6:00 o'clock last Sunday morning. He was 79 years old and left the county about fifty years ago, locating in Craven County where he farmed until declining health forced his retirement.

Funeral services were held at the graveside in the Pine Tree Cemetery near Askin Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by the Rev. B. F. Ringold, Free Will Baptist minister of Bridgeton.

Mr. Roberson was married to Sallie Purifoy of Craven County in 1904, and she survives him. Also surviving are four sons, Chester W. and James R. Roberson of New Bern, and Samuel J. Roberson of the home; a daughter, Esther Bell Roberson of the home; two brothers, H. G. Roberson of Raleigh and Samuel R. Roberson of Rocky Mount; and a sister, Mrs. Edith Phillips, of Pollocksville.

Turkey Shoot Well Attended

The first in the two-day shooting matches planned here by the local Kiwanis Club attracted a goodly number to the lot next to the Standard Fertilizer Company plant last evening.

Master David Modlin, using his grandfather's gun, took one of the prizes when he hit the target squarely on the nose. Only one or two of the goodly number of professionals qualified for prizes, it was declared.

The second match is scheduled for this evening, and the public is invited to participate, and help support the club's Scout program.

Marriage Licenses Are Issued In The County

Three marriage licenses were issued in the county over the past week-end to: Clarence Mayo Weathersby of RFD 1, Bethel, and Dorothy Harrell of Palmyra. Samuel Mansfield Fishel of Vaughan and Dorothy Ruth Everett of Robersonville, and Julius T. Sadler of Tarboro and Beatrice Turner of RFD 1, Palmyra.

Plan Polio Fund Drive In County

The appointment of directors for the month-long 1953 March of Dimes, which begins January 2 was announced today by the Lions and Kiwanis clubs, who will direct the campaign.

W. Marvin Baker of the Lions club and L. Bruce Wynne of the Kiwanis club will co-direct the annual drive in Martin County and will be assisted by volunteer community leaders to be appointed later. Mr. Baker will head the county activities and Mr. Wynne will lead the town's collections.

In making the announcement the two clubs emphasized the drive will need volunteers, both men and women, throughout the county and urged every citizen to offer his help in the campaign. This, they said, is because of the unparalleled need of carrying the March of Dimes appeal to every business organization and individual in the county.

Upon his return from a zone meeting of March of Dime campaign leaders held recently in Greenville, Mr. Baker said, "What happened to the nation last summer and fall was more than a violent upsurge of polio incidence. It was a national calamity that wiped out all previous standards of comparison.

"For months and years to come, thousands of men, women and children will require the skills that money and modern knowledge can muster to help restore them to useful lives. Add to this the total of those stricken in other years and it becomes apparent what an enormous financial burden is now carried by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis."

Represent County At E. C. College

Among the 797 members of the East Carolina College freshman class are a number of students from Martin County. The largest enrollment of first-year students in the college's history come from 71 North Carolina counties, from New York, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Cuba.

Students from this county include William C. Barnhill, Robersonville; Alice L. Coburn and Jeanne Cullifer; Samuel S. Biggs, Peggy R. Cherry, Helbert L. Daniels, Gerald M. Elks, Robert F. Goff, Diantha E. Griffin, William F. Griffin, David C. Gurkin, George T. Hardison, Billie B. Harrison, Betsy P. Horton, Bery J. McLawhorn, James D. Page, Raymond A. Robertson, John R. Rogers, Patricia Taylor, and Benjamin A. Ward, all of Williamston; Doris E. Bullock of Palmyra; Lael S. Bunting of Oak City; Barbara J. James, John R. Matthews, Jean Ann Mobley, Ralph S. Mobley, Mariann Roebuck, Francis J. Smith, and William F. Taylor, all of Robersonville; and Thomas L. Kirkman of Jamesville.

Religious Services In The County Thanksgiving Day

Several special religious services are planned in connection with the more serious side of Thanksgiving.

Local Episcopalians will have communion at 9:00 o'clock that morning, followed by a union Thanksgiving Day service in the local Methodist church at 10:30 o'clock.

Smithwicks Creek is holding a community Thanksgiving service at 11:00 o'clock that morning.

Piney Grove is planning a community-wide service that evening at 7:00 o'clock, and the Jamesville Christian Church is holding a special community service at 7:30 o'clock that evening.

Twenty Cases In Recorder's Court Saturday Morning

No Session of the County Court Will Be Held On Saturday This Week

Judge R. T. Johnson and Solicitor Clarence Griffin handled twenty cases during the last Saturday morning session of the Martin County Recorder's Court. Fines, assessed during the morning, amounted to \$445.

Proceedings: Pleading not guilty of violating the liquor laws, Dorothy Fagan was adjudged guilty and drew six months in Woman's Prison. The prison term was suspended upon the payment of a \$100 fine and costs. She is to violate no liquor law or have illicit liquor in her house during the next three years.

Adjudged guilty of fornication and adultery, O. K. Harrison and Olivia Land were taxed with the costs.

In court for the second time within a few days on a charge of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Leon Taylor 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 motor vehicle law during the next twelve months.

Charged with non-support, George Davenport was found not guilty. Pleading guilty of non-support, Charlie Daniel, colored, was sentenced to the roads for six months. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the court costs and \$6 a week for the support of his children.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the cases in which George Reaves was charged with allowing an unlicensed driver operate a motor vehicle, and Mamie Lee Reaves was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Clarence Earl Taylor was taxed with the costs in the case in which he was charged with careless and reckless driving.

Pleading guilty, Miles Lester Goss was fined \$100 and taxed with the costs for drunken driving. He loses his license to operate a motor vehicle during the next twelve months. Charged with public drunkenness, Jesse James Leary pleaded guilty of not properly displaying a motor vehicle license tag, and was taxed with the court costs.

Pleading not guilty, Sam Riddick was adjudged guilty and was fined \$100, plus costs, for drunken driving. He loses his license to operate a motor vehicle for a year.

Exil Davis Harper of Plymouth was fined \$25, plus costs, for running 75 miles an hour. Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Thomas Victor Esters was fined \$25, plus costs.

John Smith of Jackson Heights, N. Y., was fined \$20 for speeding. Charged with driving 75 miles an hour, James Earl Purvis of Williamston was fined \$25, plus costs.

Dewey Robert Garguilo of Jacksonville, N. C., George Oliver Howard, Sr., of Jacksonville, Fla., Norman E. Herring of RFD 1, Greenville, Edward Lee Whitfield of Robersonville, George Edward Brooks of Village, Va., and Charlie Crofton Sexton, Jr., of Norfolk, were each taxed with the costs for exceeding the speed limits.

Employe Of Enterprise Suffers Heart Attack

Mr. Gilbert Hoskins, young High Point man who joined the mechanical staff of The Enterprise a few weeks ago, suffered a heart attack just before reporting for work last Friday morning.

Following treatment in hospitals here and in Rocky Mount he was returned to his home in High Point where he will be confined to his bed the next five or six weeks.

Several Are Hurt In Auto Accident Sunday Afternoon

Property Damage In Four Accidents Past Week-end Estimated At \$2,000

Several persons were injured, none of them believed seriously, in one of four automobile accidents on Martin County highways and streets last week-end, according to reports coming from members of the highway patrol and police officers.

The Rev. Elmore Turner of Washington, Mrs. Turner and their three children were injured when their car, a 1951 Chevrolet, was in collision with a Ford, driven by Earl Warren of Parmele, Sunday afternoon at the intersection of the Prison Camp Road and the road from Everetts to Bear Grass.

Mrs. Turner, receiving bruises on her right side and severe shock, is expected to be able to leave a local hospital for her home today. A daughter, Patricia, 11 years old, suffered a shoulder injury, but was able to continue to her home following treatment in the hospital. Michael Turner, 7, received a blow on the head, and Catherine Turner, 6, was buried about the head and legs. The minister suffered bruises about the body. All the victims except Mrs. Turner were able to continue to their home Sunday evening. Warren, driver of the other car, was not injured, according to a report released by Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation.

Traveling from Robersonville toward Washington, the minister realized he was on the wrong road and backed into the Everetts road to get on the right road. When he started across the Prison Camp Road he pulled into the path of the Warren car which struck the preacher's car in the right side.

Patrolman Parker estimated the damage at \$900 to the Chevrolet and \$300 to Warren Ford.

Property damage, estimated at \$500, resulted in an accident on Highway 64 about three miles east of Robersonville last Friday. Ivey Lee Carson, driving a 1947 Ford, was making a left turn into Herbert Coltrain's yard when his car was struck by a 1951 Hudson driven by Clywood Ashley Manning, Jr., who was approaching from the opposite direction. Patrolman B. W. Parker, making the investigation, estimated the damage to each car at \$250. No one was said to have been injured in the accident.

No one was hurt and damage was limited to about \$250 last Saturday morning when a 1952 Pontiac driven by Luther Modlin was in collision with a 1941 Ford driven by Goldie Williams at the intersection of Washington and Sycamore Streets in Williamston. Both cars were traveling into town on Washington Street and the crash happened just as Williams started making a left turn into Sycamore Street ahead of the Modlin car. Investigating the accident, Officer Chas. R. Moore estimated the damage to Modlin's Pontiac at \$175, and that to the Ford at \$75.

Minor damage, estimated at hardly more than \$35, resulted when Mary Hadley Beacham strated to back a 1949 Plymouth from the curb in front of Roe's store on the main street in Williamston last Saturday evening and was in collision with a 1942 Ford driven by Earl Leamon Wallace of Everetts. No damage was done to the Beacham car, Officer Chas. R. Moore said following an investigation.

Property losses in automobile accidents in the county mounted last week, the four wrecks reported during the week-end, accounting for a loss estimated at \$2,000.

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town Next Monday 4 P. M.

Santa Claus is coming to Williamston next Monday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock with 1,000 little token gifts all packed in little stockings.

Sponsored by the Williamston Boosters, the visit will formally mark the opening of the Christmas shopping season. Merchants are making ready for the big event, and even this week expectancy is running high among the youngsters.

Santa will be greeted by Professor Jack Butler and the Green Wave Band. Main Street will be closed to traffic for a short time, giving the band, Santa and thousands of kiddies the right of way for a brief time.

Homer Barnhill is arranging Santa's visit, and the merry old gentleman will ride one of the fire trucks into town, stopping

just about in front of the Watts Theater for a short stay. He's bringing a pack well stacked with Christmas favors, a supply considered ample to meet the demand of every little boy and girl. Boosters Secretary Al Sweatt explained.

Plans have been completed for the installation of the holiday lights in the main business districts, but up until this morning all of the material had not reached here. It was shipped last week and workmen are slated to start the installations in time for turning on the lights next Monday evening.

Lights or no lights, weather permitting, Old Santa will make his scheduled visit to Williamston at 4:00 o'clock next Monday, and a hearty invitation is extended to all to be present.

General Holiday For Thanksgiving

The town-wide observance of Thanksgiving as a holiday will be featured by the union religious service to be held in the Methodist Church at 10:30 o'clock Thursday morning. The Rev. E. Gordon Conklin, pastor of the Baptist church, will deliver the message, and the host church is preparing the program, it was announced. A large congregation is expected to attend the service.

With the possible exception of one or two heavy industries, all business activity will be suspended for the one day here, including the peanut market. The schools are closing Wednesday afternoon to remain closed until next Monday. There'll be no postal deliveries either in the town or rural areas, and all offices, stores and business houses will be closed all day or observe Sunday hours, it was announced.

The season for hunting quail opens that morning, and sportsmen are expected to turn to the fields in large numbers. Special deer hunts are being planned in just about all the swamps in every part of the county.

Farming activities are dependent upon weather conditions, but it is likely that a general holiday will be observed on most farms. The Smithwicks Creek area is holding its annual union Thanksgiving religious service in the church there, and the pastor, Elder P. E. Getsinger, is extending a welcome to all to attend and take part in the service.

Augustus Perry Dies In Halifax

Augustus M. Perry, former tobacconist on the Williamston market, died at his home near Scotland Neck early Sunday morning. Seventy-nine years of age, Mr. Perry had retired as a tobacconist and auctioneer.

A native of Chatham County, he located in Halifax many years ago, and was associated with the market here for several seasons. Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Fannie Bell of Halifax County; a son, Julian S. Perry, of Richmond; a sister, Mrs. T. H. Perry, of Burlington; and three brothers, R. G., Garland and J. Avon Perry, all of Pittsboro.

Funeral services were conducted in the Scotland Neck Methodist Church yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by the Rev. J. D. Aycock. Interment was in Scotland Neck's Sunnyside Cemetery.

Governor And His Party Make Brief Stop Here

En route to the coastland and duck hunting, Governor Kerr

stopped here this morning about 8:00 o'clock, breaking an early morning drive from Raleigh. After exchanging greetings with the Bill Abbitts and other friends, the party continued to Currituck.

HOLY COMMUNION

Service of Holy Communion will be held in the local Episcopal Church Thanksgiving morning at 9 o'clock. The public is cordially invited.

Special Law Held Unconstitutional By Supreme Court

Not Known If Jury System Will Be Revived In Lower Court

A special Martin County law automatically placing cases on the superior court docket when the defendants asked for trial by jury has been declared unconstitutional by the North Carolina Supreme Court. The particular Martin County law was not cited, but it comes directly under the ruling handed down by the court recently in a case reaching it on appeal from Greene County where a similar law was placed on the books by special legislative act.

It is not known just what action now will be taken. When a defendant, booked for a misdemeanor, calls for a jury trial, his case cannot be legally placed on the superior court docket. However, it is possible to bring a formal indictment by the grand jury against the defendant, clearing the way for its appearance in the higher court. It is also possible to go ahead and try the defendant in the lower court, and let him go into superior court by way of an appeal if the lower court finding is adverse to his cause.

The Greene County law, enacted in 1951, says that when a defendant demands a jury trial in any criminal case in the county recorder's court, the judge shall send the case to Superior Court. There it shall be heard upon the warrant issued in the lower court.

That law and others like it are "repugnant to the declaration plainly inherent" in Section 13 of Article I of the State Constitution, said the court. That section says that a person charged with a misdemeanor cannot be put on trial in Superior Court upon a warrant from a lower court unless he has been tried upon that warrant in the lower court and has appealed. For that reason, the court voided the road term given to Ransom Thomas of Greene County. Thomas had been accused of possessing non-taxpaid illegal liquor. He had demanded trial by jury in the Greene County Court and the judge had automatically transferred the case to Superior Court.

There the case was tried without an indictment ever being considered by the grand jury. Thomas was found guilty on the possession charge and given a road term.

He appealed to the Supreme Court on the contention that his conviction and sentence became invalid when he was tried upon the original warrant rather than upon an indictment found by a grand jury. The Supreme Court agreed completely, although it meant repudiating past decisions which "either expressly or impliedly uphold similar statutes" that allowed untried misdemeanor cases to be transferred to Superior Court for trial on the original warrant.

MARKET

Its activities just about halted by rains during the past two weeks, the local peanut market continues to mark time, late reports stating that only a few hundred bags are moving to the cleaners and warehouses here at the present time.

It isn't likely that threshing operations can be resumed before the latter part of this week. The market will observe Thanksgiving day as a holiday.

Robbers Entered Lindsley's Store

Breaking through a side glass door, robbers entered Lindsley's Checkerboard Store on Washington Street here during Sunday night and carried away eight guns and other articles valued at about \$800.

A hurried inventory check showed missing two 12-gauge Remington pump guns, one 20-gauge Remington automatic, one 16-gauge Savage automatic, one 12-gauge Remington automatic, one double-barrel 12-gauge Stevens, a double barrel 12-gauge Fox gun, a 16-gauge Mosberg bolt action gun, two Daisy air rifles, four plastic gun cases and some other items.

Working their way through the front door, the robbers went to the front of the main store and took the guns, carrying them out through the hole knocked in the small glass panel without unlatching the door.

Local police and agents from the State Bureau of Investigation are working on the case, but up until this morning no lead had been established.

Library Observes Book Week Here

A display of children's books in the window of the local office of the Employment Security Commission office last week marked the Williamston public library's observance of National Book Week. The Children's Book Council of New York has sponsored the national event for 34 years.

The window, arranged by Mrs. J. C. Cooke, secretary-treasurer of the public library, and Mrs. Ethel Anderson, librarian, featured a gaily-colored poster bearing the message "Reading Is Fun" national theme for the week and an exhibit of children's books covering varied interests.

In the library, Mrs. Anderson also arranged bulletin boards carrying out the "Reading Is Fun" theme.

More County People Are Attending Clinic

More and more Martin County people are attending the Cancer Detection and Diagnostic Clinics in Rocky Mount each Wednesday morning at 9:00 o'clock, according to reports reaching here.

Operated by the Edgecombe-Nash Medical Society in cooperation with the State Board of Health and the American Cancer Society, the clinics are free to the people of this and other northeastern Carolina counties.

Employment Days For The Farmers

Officials of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission in Williamston today reminded farmers and farm workers to take advantage of the opportunity offered them on the Farm Employment Days, December 3 and December 12.

On these two days, applicants for farm jobs and farm employers will be given a chance to meet in the local Employment Security office. The farm applicants will be interviewed and the farm employers will place their orders for workers and tenants.

After ESC personnel match the farm orders with farm applications, the tenants and workers and the farm employers are given an opportunity to consult each other.

SERVICE

The Smithwicks Creek Primitive Baptist Church will hold its annual union Thanksgiving religious service Thursday morning at 11:00 o'clock, the pastor, Elder P. E. Getsinger announced today. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend and part in the service program.