

## Petition Commission To Construct Belt Line For Highway 17

### Robberies And Larceny Cases Crowd Superior Court Docket

#### Drunken Driving Cases Numerous In Superior Court

#### Judge Clawson Williams Is Returning Monday For One-Week Term

Forty cases have been placed on the criminal docket for trial in the Martin County Superior Court when Judge Clawson Williams of Sanford returns to preside over a one-week term.

There are no murder cases scheduled for trial, but the docket is literally crowded with robbery and larceny cases. Thievery has been on the increase in a big way during recent weeks in the county, but all such crimes have been solved and the defendants in the fifteen cases are awaiting their turn in court. Two of the defendants in the robbery cases are minors, one of whom just recently ran away from a correctional school. There are twelve drunken driving cases on the docket, several of them having been continued at previous terms. Since the Supreme Court has ruled invalid the trial of those cases booked in the superior court when the defendants called for a jury trial, it is not certain how similar cases in this county will be handled next week. It is possible to place them on the docket by special grand jury indictment, or they may be sent back to the county court where they were originally booked for trial.

The docket also carries three assault with deadly weapon cases, and one each for arson, bigamy, speeding and hit-and-run driving and four other miscellaneous ones. James Perkins, remembered in the trial some time ago on a wife-beating charge, is booked for allegedly burning up his automobile last March 2.

John Battle is charged with entering the home of Willie Williams in Williamston Township last April 12 and taking property valued at \$125. His case has been continued since the June term.

Charged with stealing \$90 in cash and a check from Wilbur Jones last April 8, Grady Keith Lamm has had his case continued since June.

LeRoy Robert Reid is booked for bigamy. The prosecuting witness, Thurston Davenport, was divorced by Reid's present wife. The State alleges that Reid married Thelma H. Rodgers on October 12, 1950, during the life of his wife, Annie Hulia Melvin.

Going into court on an appeal from the county court, Roger Lovett is charged with operating a motor vehicle with an improper license.

Ralph Edgar Boston is charged with speeding and reckless driving. Called in September, Boston failed to answer and action is now expected on his \$500 bond.

G. B. Whitfield is booked on two counts for allegedly issuing worthless checks.

Sylvester Brown, Jr., is charged with breaking into the Herbert Whitley and B. A. Critcher, Jr., homes here on September 24. An unofficial report stated that a Durham lawyer is interested in the case on behalf of the defendant.

Woodrow Ipock is charged with assaulting Elwood Ayers with a gun in Goose Nest Township last August 26.

Albert Lee Biggs is in court on four breaking and entering counts. The lad entered the Roanoke Chevrolet Company in Williamston three times during October and Hattie Thelma Reid's store near Williamston on November 2.

James Arthur Brown and O. C. Johnson are charged with the theft of 200 pounds of tobacco from Farmer Will Taylor October 2.

Irvin Franklin Bembridge is charged with entering the W. W. Griffin home in Williams Town.

### Logs Dumped In The Main Street Promote Belt Route

Representatives of the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission, including Chief Engineer Rogers, District Engineer Spruill and Commissioner Henry Shelton, declared it was not framed, but just as they reported here yesterday about noon for a meeting with local and county officials, a large load of logs or pilings spilled off a truck and interrupted traffic at the George Reynolds Hotel on Main Street during the better part of two hours.

"A truck route should take off much of that heavy traffic, but the dumping of the logs on the street was really an accident," one of the highway representatives said, explaining that the accident was

#### TOY COLLECTION

Sponsoring the annual Christmas cheer party for a number of little tots in the community, Williamston Jaycees declare they are receiving a poor response to the call for old toys. Hardly half as many toys has been given to the cause this year compared with the collection a year ago, it was said.

A third town-wide canvass is being planned for Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock, and the party promoters again appeal to the people of the town for support. "We are convinced there are many toys that could be had, but the owners just forget to put them out on the porches for the canvassers," a Jaycee said today.

### Jamesville Club Installs Officers

Holding their regular meeting Monday evening, Jamesville Rurians installed officers for the new year and made arrangements for the district convention which is being held this afternoon and evening. A banquet this evening will climax the convention program.

Presiding over the Monday evening meeting, the president called for annual reports from the various committee chairmen, and the group enjoyed a chicken pot dinner served by the junior class in the lunch room.

Mr. A. Corey installed the new officers for the coming year, as follows:

Arthur Wallace Lilley, president; Leonard Holliday, vice president; Walter Brown, Jr., secretary; Wendell Hamilton, treasurer; George Martin, sergeant-at-arms; Floyd Moore, chaplain; and Wendell Griffin, director.

Special guests for the evening were Mr. J. Sam Getsinger and the Rev. Gordon Conklin of Williamston. Mr. Conklin made a very interesting talk on the origin of Christmas.

### Rurians Meet In Jamesville Today

Jamesville is playing host to the Rurians of Albemarle County, an annual district meeting today with a full schedule of events planned. More than 150 delegates from the fourteen northeastern North Carolina counties are in attendance. Registrations got underway at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon, followed by a school of instruction for the new officers of the various clubs. The convention formally opens at 3:00 o'clock.

A feature on the banquet program this evening at 7:00 o'clock will be an address by Frank Jeter, of the State College Extension Service.

### Twelve Men Will Enter The Army Friday Morning

#### Manpower Supply In County Not Sufficient To Meet Quota

Twelve Martin County young men, six white and six colored, are to leave Friday morning of this week for final induction into the armed forces. They are reported to the county draft board office at 6:30 o'clock, board a bus and go to Raleigh where they will be assigned to various training camps.

The original draft call for this month was for twenty men, but the manpower supply in the county's selective service pool was not sufficient to meet the quota, it was learned. Rejections have been running mightily high in the recent groups reporting for the pre-induction examinations at Raleigh. According to an unofficial report, only six out of thirty-seven men passed the preliminary tests given in Raleigh last month. A pre-induction call is to be answered on the 17th of this month, and it is likely that the manpower supply will be built up from the thirty-seven men scheduled to report at that time. A call has already been received, directing the county draft board to send ten men to the center for final induction on Tuesday, January 13.

### Holding Hearings To Check Results Of Economy Drive

#### Representative Bonner Is Seeking To Determine What Else Is Needed

Chairman Herbert C. Bonner (D-N.C.) of the watchdog Bonner subcommittee announced today his subcommittee is holding hearings this week to "find out exactly what progress has been made to bring about economy and efficiency in the supply systems of the military services under the so-called O'Mahoney amendment of the Appropriation Act, 1953."

This amendment gave the Secretary of Defense vast powers "to develop an efficient, economical and practical operation with integrated supply system designed to meet the needs of the military departments without duplicating or overlapping of either operations or functions." It further prohibited the obligation of funds for procurement, production, warehousing and distribution of supplies and equipment except in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary issued basic regulations on September 5, 1952, but "I have heard rumors—it may or may not be correct—that there hasn't been a great deal of progress in making the regulations work," says Chairman Bonner. "This is a real attempt to find out exactly what has been done, and what is planned for the future."

### Appeal Renewed For Bloodmobile

A special appeal is being made to Martin County's women to support the Red Cross Bloodmobile when it arrives here next Thursday. A transportation chairman has been named to see that they get to the collection center and back to their homes.

Mrs. I. M. Margolis has been appointed head of the motor corps to call for and transport to the blood center any person who signs a pledge card to give a pint of his or her blood.

Any person between the ages of 21 and 59 who weighs at least 110 pounds and is in good physical condition can give a pint of blood to be used by American soldiers in Korea.

In speaking of the drive, Mrs. A. L. Jameson, recruitment chairman, pointed out that the Red Cross blood drive was an excellent opportunity for women with loved ones in Korea to contribute directly to their aid.

"A pint of life-saving blood is the best possible Christmas gift you can give," she added. "Surely, Martin County's women will not miss the chance to give a gift of life to a wounded soldier."

Any woman or man who wishes to donate a pint of blood is urged to contact Mrs. Jameson or the Red Cross office in the town hall.

#### TOBACCO CARDS

Those farmers who have finished their marketing and have not returned their tobacco cards to the P.M.A. office in the Martin County agriculture building are asked to get them just as soon as possible. Only a few cards are still out.

It was explained that the marketing cards are needed in checking the records and allotting full poundage to the owner.

### Farmers To Hold Meetings In The County Next Week

#### Will Nominate Community Committeemen For P.M.A. For New Year

Meeting in various sections next Monday night at 7:30 o'clock, Martin County farmers will nominate P.M.A. community committeemen and delegates to the county convention, it was announced today by the county office.

Bear Grass farmers will meet in the school there. Cross Roads is holding its meeting in Taylor's Filling Station in Everetts. Goose Nest 1 and 2 will meet in the Oak City school. The Griffins meeting is scheduled in the Farm Life school. Hamilton Township farmers will nominate in the Hamilton School. Jamesville 1 and 2 will meet in the school there. Robertsonville 1 and 2 are holding their meeting in the Robertsonville City Hall. Williams Township is to meet in the county house, and Williamston and Popular Point farmers are to meet in the agriculture building.

They are to nominate not less than ten and not more than fifteen of their own groups for places on the community committees and alternates to the county convention. After the nominations are made at the meetings next Monday night, ballots will be prepared and the farmers will vote on them on Wednesday, December 17, the county convention to follow.

Messrs. Reuben Everett, D. R. Edmondson and A. L. Modlin are now serving the county committee.

Present members of the several community committees include the following with the chairman, vice chairman, regular member, and first and second alternates listed in order: Bear Grass—H. G. Harrison, J. U. Peel, Elmer Griffin, E. C. Harrison.

Cross Roads—G. H. Forbes, Geo. W. Taylor, J. F. Bailey, Marion Griffin and Oscar Ayers. Goose Nest I—Sidney Mallory, Julian Mizelle, M. E. Bennett, Jasper Whitfield, J. A. Everett. Goose Nest II—Jack Smith, Minton Beach, Jr., N. L. Hyman, R. E. Tyson, Rupert Turner.

Griffins—Lester J. Griffin, Clarence Griffin, S. E. Manning, Thurmon Griffin, Wm. H. Peel. Hamilton—J. H. Lillard, R. H. Salisbury, L. R. Beach, and Henry Haislip.

Jamesville I—Howard Hardison, George Martin, Harry Jones and Carl Griffin. Jamesville II—Arthur Ange, D. D. Coburn, Dan Fagan, L. S. Davis and Grady Davenport.

Robertsonville I—J. R. Daniel, Lester L. Everett, Irving Keel, Sam Jenkins and Dennis Alexander. Robertsonville II—R. H. Taylor, Cecil B. Powell, J. D. Britton, Claude Green, Jr., W. H. Vanderford.

Williams—R. J. Hardison, Grady Godard, C. L. Daniel, Paul Harrington, Howard Tyre. Williamston and Poplar Point—Roy T. Griffin, John W. Gurkin, J. E. Corey, S. C. Bailey and Hubert Biggs.

### Implicate Minors In County Theft

Two young white boys, Joseph Smith, 15, of Scotland Neck, and Edward Clark, 16, of Wilson, were arrested Tuesday by Sheriff M. W. Halloway and Deputy Raymond Rawls in connection with the last week-end robbery of Earl Jones' filling station near Hamilton. Pete Pritchard and Bryant Scott, both 18, were arrested earlier by Deputy Rawles and Constable Pete Leggett in connection with the robbery.

It was reported that Smith had only recently escaped from a training school at Rocky Mount. Unable to arrange bond, he was placed in jail. Clark arranged \$300 bond. The quartet is scheduled to go on trial in superior court next week.

### Highway Commission To Build Underpass on West Main Street

#### Chas. A. Knight Died Suddenly In New Jersey City

#### Funeral Planned At His Boyhood Home Here Saturday

Charles Alden Knight, native of Williamston, died suddenly in Newark, New Jersey, late Tuesday, the apparent victim of a heart attack.

A son of the late Dr. J. Burke H. Knight and Ada Bullock Knight, he was born in Williamston 48 years ago on December 28, 1903, and spent most of his early life in Williamston. Following his graduation from the local high school in 1921 he attended State College in Raleigh two years. He traveled for several years, and was married to Miss Marion Rogerson of Pittsburgh, Pa. After making his home in Punxsatawney, West Virginia, for a number of years, he located in New Jersey about ten years ago and was associated with an electrical firm there.

Surviving are his widow; two sons, Thomas, a college sophomore, and David Knight, all of Moundsville, West Virginia; a sister, Mrs. Frances K. Parker, of Williamston. A brother, Haywood Knight, died of a heart attack at his home in New Jersey several years ago.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed, but the body is to be returned to Williamston tomorrow, and it is planned to hold the service at his boyhood home on East Main Street Saturday afternoon. He was a member of the Methodist church, and the Rev. R. E. Walston, local pastor, will conduct the rites. Interment will be in the family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery. The family requests no flowers be sent.

### Resigns Position In This County

Miss Lissie Pearce, popular and able supervisor of the elementary schools in this county, this week tendered her resignation, explaining that ill health forced the action. Miss Pearce was in an automobile accident several years ago and she has not enjoyed very good health since that time. She is retiring to her home in Princeton for the present.

Coming here about seven years ago, Miss Pearce had ably handled the duties of elementary supervisor, and made many friendships both in and outside the teaching profession. Her resignation was accepted with great reluctance.

County school authorities say the position hardly will be filled before next fall.

#### Vestrymen Elected At Meeting Tuesday Night

At the annual parish meeting of the Church of the Advent held Tuesday night the following men were elected to serve as vestrymen for the next three years: L. T. Fowden, Jr., Roland M. Everett, J. H. Black, Milton James, and W. R. Glover for a one-year term.

#### TO DROP LEAFLETS

A Civil Air Patrol, based in Charlotte, will, weather permitting, drop leaflets over Williamston from a plane Saturday, according to Mayor R. H. Cowen who explained that the patrol had contacted him for permission.

The leaflets have to do with the Crusade for Freedom which has received strong support in the county during past years.

### Still A Prisoner Of War In China

Mrs. A. L. Hardy of Route 3 Williamston is convinced that Thanksgiving is her lucky day. On Thanksgiving Day of 1951, Mrs. Hardy received word from her son, Martel, after having been notified months before that he had died in action in Japan. Last Thursday, also Thanksgiving, she received a letter from S/Sgt. Hardy, which was the first news since February of this year.



Mrs. Hardy's letter was dated August 11th and was written from Prisoner of War Camp No. 2, Peking, China. He sounded as if his morale was rather high under the circumstances, except that he had received no mail at all from home since he became a prisoner. He spoke of the things he missed at home and said that actually he couldn't complain, but that he knew nothing of the news of the war or anything in regard to his return home again. He did mention that he probably had a long wait ahead of him still, but asked her not to worry because he was all right.

Although the brief letter seemed cheerful enough, there was no doubt quite a bit of reading behind the lines, but Mrs. Hardy is encouraged to know that he is alive and well. In closing, Hardy asked that everyone pray for him and also asked that everyone please write whenever possible. His address is as follows: S/Sgt. Martel Hardy, A F 34450675, c/o Chinese Committee for World Peace, P. O. W. Camp No. 2, Peking, China.

### Three Injured In Wednesday Wreck

Three persons were injured, none of them believed badly, in an automobile accident on the old Jamesville - Griffins Township Road yesterday morning.

Mrs. C. H. Barber, driving a DeSoto when it struck rocks in the road, went out of control and turned over, suffering a knee injury. A daughter, 5-year-old Sandra Barber, suffered a two-stitch cut in her forehead, and another younger daughter was bruised about the face. Following treatment in a local hospital, they were able to return to their home.

An unofficial estimate placed the damage to the car at about \$400.

Two other accidents, both said to have been minor ones, were reported in the county Tuesday. The cars of Geo. Harris and Walter Mizelle crashed at the corner of Watts and Main, and another was reported east of Jamesville. No one was injured in the two.

### Firemen Called To Pearl Street

Volunteer firemen were called out here at 5:40 o'clock Tuesday evening when fire threatened the humble home of Betty Purvis on South Pearl Street. Soot in a hanging flue caught fire, but the flying sparks, falling on a wet roof, did no damage.

### To Start Work On Modern Road Link In Next Few Days

#### Contract Tentatively Promised For New Underpass By Next May 1

In joint resolutions adopted at a meeting held here yesterday afternoon, the Martin County and Williamston Town Boards of Commissioners petitioned the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission for the construction of a belt line for U. S. Highway 17 and 64 and a new railroad underpass on the town's West Main Street, the action climaxing years of general discussions and a legal battle that went all the way through the North Carolina State Supreme Court.

Speaking for the Highway Commission, District Commissioner Henry G. Shelton explained that the state body was not trying to force the belt line issue, but he warned that in the not far future the federal government would, in all probability, withhold further funds for the highway where bottle necks are allowed to exist.

"A belt line, truck route or bypass, call it what you will, is badly needed," Mr. Shelton said, adding that while it could possibly hurt some business, the loss would not be great, and other businesses would stand to profit. "Something has got to be done," the commissioner said, explaining that Williamston had enjoyed rapid progress in recent years and that he believed it would continue to grow.

Bill Rogers, chief highway engineer, was down from Raleigh and pointed out that while he was not too well acquainted with the belt line proposal, he had been and was still interested in improving the railroad underpass on West Main Street. "I have had the underpass in mind for years, and I am convinced that the highway commission, to some extent, is responsible to those pedestrians who have to travel there," he said.

Referring to the belt line proposal, Mr. Rogers pointed out that congestion in the main business areas is driving business out to those places where parking is available and where traffic is not so heavy. He maintained that belt lines had not materially affected business in other towns. Declaring that the traffic congestion in Williamston is about as bad as it can be, he said that the traffic count is rapidly reaching the saturation point here. The average daily traffic counts are 2,700 vehicles at the river bridge on 17 and 3,900 at the underpass on West Main Street. When the count reaches 4,000 per day, there'll be saturation, and if plans are delayed much longer the right-of-way problem will be aggravated with the possibility there'll be no ready solution.

Apparently the last obstacle has been cleared in clearing that monstrous obstacle on the town's West Main Street. It was learned that the Highway Commission is making plans to reconstruct the bridge, and Chief Engineer Rogers assured Commissioner Shelton that every effort will be made to have the plans ready for contractors on or before next May 1. No details of the type of construction were revealed, but the construction will make room for sidewalks.

Commenting on the belt route, District Highway Commissioner Spruill of Ahsokie explained that tentative plans call for a 150-foot-right-of-way for two lanes and room for service roads on either side of the main drives.

The alternate route for Highway 17 will run straight off the river bridge, crossing the W. G. Peel and Griffin Brothers' farms.

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