

Crowded Docket In County Court For Next Monday

Herbert O. Peele Succeeding R. T. Johnson On The Bench

Although the docket is fairly crowded, there is no record number of cases scheduled for trial when the Martin County Recorder's Court reopens for business next Monday following the holidays. After holding sessions on Saturday for several months, the court is to resume its Monday sessions next week.

It is likely that a few additional cases will be placed on the docket for trial next Monday, but up until late yesterday only thirty-nine cases had been scheduled for trial. Quite a few other cases are on the docket, but they are scheduled for trial later in the month.

Appointed by the board of commissioners to succeed R. T. Johnson, resigned, Herbert O. Peele will preside over the court sessions beginning next Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock. He'll subscribe to the oath of office before Clerk L. B. Wynne just prior to the opening of the session. Elected in November for a second term, Judge Johnson resigned when he transferred as agent for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company from Williamston to Washington.

Of the thirty-nine cases scheduled for trial next Monday, thirty of them have to do with motor vehicle laws in one form or another. The limited number of other cases reflect a quiet observance of the holiday season in the county.

Drunken drivers lead the list of alleged law violators. Ten persons are charged with drunken driving while nine others are booked for speeding. Six are charged with careless and reckless driving, three with operating motor vehicles without driver's license, and two with other traffic violations.

There was a little fighting and scrapping going on during the past few days, but only seven have been booked with assaults. One each is charged with violating the liquor laws and disposing of mortgaged property.

County Girl Is Assistant Agent

Miss Edith Rogerson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Noah R. Rogerson of this county, has accepted a position as assistant home agent in New Hanover County with headquarters in Wilmington. She is to enter upon her new duties this week.

Graduated from East Carolina College, Greenville, with honors in November, Miss Rogerson laid the foundation for her work by participating in farm and home programs under the direction of her mother in the home and in high school. It is certain that she is qualified and that she'll ably handle her new duties.

She will be assistant to Miss Verna Belle Lowery, a former home economics teacher in the Williamston High School. Miss Lowery was in the Williamston school system about eight years ago and has been home agent for New Hanover for several years.

Minor Accident Tuesday Evening

No one was hurt and property damage was limited to about \$200 when two cars were in collision at a dirt road intersection about four miles north of Oak City last Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

According to a report released by Patrolman B. W. Parker, the investigating officer, Wesley Lee Lloyd, of RFD 1, Oak City, drove over a road into the side of a 1939 Ford. Damage to Lloyd's 1947 Chevrolet was estimated at about \$100.

Dr. L. S. Christian Opening Offices Here

Dr. L. Sidney Christian, formerly of Durham, moved here a few days ago and is making arrangements to open an office for the practice of optometry on the second floor of the Lawyers' or Old Martin County Bank building, corner of Main and Smithwick Streets.

Two Farmers' Schools Will Be Held In Martin County

Two important schools for farmers are to be held in the Martin County Courthouse, one on Tuesday, January 6 and the other on January 12. The first of the two schools will last a greater part of the day while the second will be held at night.

The first of the schools, beginning at 10:00 o'clock next Tuesday morning, will discuss several timely subjects. During the morning sessions, H. D. Quessenberry will talk on "Preventing Losses in Marketing of Livestock." Jack Kelly, taking over at 10:40 o'clock, is to talk on "Profitable Hog Production." C. B. Ratchford will talk on "Making Livestock Pay."

Following the lunch hour, "Pasture, Hay and Silage Production"

will be the topic of a talk by Sam Dobson. At 2:15 o'clock, A. V. Allen will discuss "Profitable Sheep Production," and at 2:50 o'clock, J. S. Buchanan will tell about "Profitable Beef Cattle Production."

All these men are recognized specialists in their fields, and the school offers a splendid opportunity to Martin County farmers to discuss latest farm methods and practices. The school is open to all farmers and other interested persons, and Assistant County Agent Larry Hodges is urging the farmers to fill the courthouse to overflowing next Tuesday. A detailed announcement of the tobacco school will be released within the next few days.

HOLIDAYS END

Enjoying one of the longest Christmas-New Year's holiday periods on record, approximately 7,600 Martin County children are scheduled to return to school next Monday morning, promptly at 8:30 o'clock.

As far as it could be learned, the faculty personnel remains unchanged, and no big "turn-over" in pupils is anticipated the first few days in the month.

No science teacher has been employed to fill the position made vacant in the local science department by the death of Professor R. W. Whitaker.

New Year Greeted In Big Way Here

Although it was joyously greeted, the New Year came in on a serious note here and in the county last night. There were the bells, auto horns, whistles and the outlandish firecracker, but the various churches held their watch services to add a truer and more serious meaning to the arrival of the new period.

Union services were held in the Presbyterian church where the Rev. Mr. Conklin delivered a timely message. The colored citizens reported to their respective churches in fairly large numbers to participate in the special services.

One of the bright spots in the switch from the old to the New Year was a statement issued by President Truman who declared his belief that the prospect for world peace is better today than it was twelve months ago.

When the President spoke of brightening peace prospects, correspondents inquired whether he had received any new plan to end the Korean War. The President said none had come to him.

Benson Uncertain On Parity Prices

Ezra Taft Benson, President-elect Eisenhower's choice for Secretary of Agriculture, said recently he wasn't prepared to say whether he favored farm-price supports at ninety percent of parity or seventy-five percent of parity. The agricultural secretary-designate declined.

"I suppose we need some support but at what level, I'm not prepared to say, whether at ninety percent or seventy-five percent." Under present law, farm prices are supported at ninety percent of parity and will be for the next two years. Benson, a native of Salt Lake City, says he hopes the new Administration will improve on the present farm program. General Eisenhower has said he favors present support laws and has gone on record as supporting ninety percent parity price support.

Thus, the outlook in agriculture is not completely clear as of the moment. It will be recalled that the last Republican Congress was inclined to vote a program of price support which would decline from the present ninety percent of parity. Benson's remarks to newspaper men indicate that he is not yet ready to commit himself to that program, or strict ninety percent parity support, which the Democrats have championed in recent years.

Rainfall Slightly Below Average

Rainfall, while having its ups and downs during the past twelve months, totaled 44.46 inches in 1952 to come out just 2.63 inches below normal, according to a report released today by Hugh Spruill, bridgekeeper and tender of the weather bureau instruments on Roanoke River here.

Just about one of the 2.63 inches reported short during the year was traced to the December readings. Mr. Spruill said that only 2.93 inches of rain, including 1.47 inches Tuesday night and Wednesday, fell during December.

While the 44.46 inches recorded in 1952 were below normal, they were almost seven inches greater than the 1951 total of 37.77 inches.

A review of rainfall by months for 1952 follows: January, 2.48; February, 5.62; March, 5.04; April, 2.65; May, 3.41; June, 1.83; July, 5.65; August, 6.50; September, 2.92; October, .59; November, 4.84; December, 2.93.

Two snows, one a inch in depth and the other 3 1/2 inches, plus a flurry or two well during the early part of the year.

Temperature readings Tuesday of this week were 51 and 24, and 50 and 39 for yesterday.

Going back a bit, one does not have to be reminded of the high temperatures last summer.

Federal Aid For Schools Waning

Prospects for federal aid to education tumbled a bit as a result of the Republican capture of the majority in the House. The new chairman of the Education-Labor committee in the lower legislative body will be Samuel K. McConnell, Jr., a 51-year-old Republican from Pennsylvania. McConnell is not in favor of any federal grants to the states and wants to see education handled as a local and state problem. He has already made it clear that he will not smile on any effort to get a federal-aid-to-education bill through the House committee he heads.

Retiring chairman of the committee, Representative Graham Barden of North Carolina, a Democrat, tried unsuccessfully to get some sort of federal aid to education bill through the House on one or two occasions but the measure always died somewhere along the line. Now that the chairman favors no such program, chances are more than slim for any federal aid bill in the next two years. McConnell does favor a continuation of the program of federal help for schools in areas where government activity has over-taxed facilities, and this aid is expected to continue.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

All the reports are not in, but with the year spent, the highway accident record in this county stands near or at its maximum for the old year. Through last Monday, 298 motor vehicle accidents had been reported on county highways and streets. While only one person was killed, 126 were injured, several of them permanently. The property loss stands right close to \$100,000, or \$95,925.00. These figures do not include hospital and medical bills or time lost as a result of the accidents.

Kerr Scott Makes His Last Address As Head Of State

Leaves Good Roads And A \$40 Million Surplus In The Treasury

In a radio address, his last as governor of the State, W. Kerr Scott said Tuesday night:

From time to time during the past four years I have enjoyed the privilege of many talks with you.

This is my final visit, as your Governor, into your homes. In a few days from now, a new administration will take over; and I am confident that it will continue to build upon the firm foundation laid, step by step, by succeeding administrations since the days of Governor Charles B. Aycock.

The political structure that our forefathers fashioned is flexible and guarantees to the people the power to obtain for themselves and for their children the services and facilities they desire and feel they can afford.

The people are sovereign. When the shouting and tumult are over, their expressed verdict always prevails.

Oftentimes the thinking of the people is far ahead of that of their political leaders. This has been demonstrated time and time again.

My recognition of this fact came more than thirty years ago. Some of you have wondered what forces worked, and what circumstances operated, to lead my feet along the path of the governorship.

It was realization, shared by my Haw River community neighbors, of intolerable road and school attendance conditions that started my feet along that path.

Political and social leadership was lagging far behind the needs of the people and the conscious longings of the masses of the people for better roads, better schools, adequate hospital and other health facilities, and access to electricity and telephone services.

When I think back upon what life was like in Alamance County years ago, I remember that my children and my neighbors' children walked two or three miles in snow, sleet, rain, and mud to drafty schoolhouses. At noon-time, they would eat cold and soggy sandwiches that their mothers had prepared for them before daybreak.

Sniffling colds, flu, sore throats and pneumonia were the common lot of all children in those days—leaving the little victims, in many instances, crippled for life.

Going to church on Sunday was a struggle because the roads—for days at a time—were absolutely impassable even for buggies and wagons.

When I became county agent of Alamance County, and later your Commissioner of Agriculture, and my geographic horizons expanded, I found that the same conditions existed elsewhere in the State.

As we review the past, let us not forget that two-thirds of North Carolina's population is rural—that one-third live and work in the cities and towns; another third live in the country and work in the cities and towns; and the other third both live and work on the farm.

And let us also remember that what is bad for two-thirds of the people is bad for all—an impoverished, mud-tax afflicted, rural population makes poor customers for any trading center or metropolitan area.

I became a candidate for Governor because of these two convictions—that rural North Carolina was a land of forgotten people, and that what is bad for two-thirds of the people is bad for all.

And now I am going to let you in on a little secret. For a quarter of a century, I had been talking big around home about how someone should run for Governor on a platform pledged to do something for the rural people. Finally, Miss Mary—I don't know whether you know this or not; but I have called Mrs. Scott "Miss Mary" ever since our courting days more than thirty years ago—told me to either go on and run for Governor or forget my dreams.

I ran for Governor; and you, (Continued on Page Five)

Average Number Of Marriages In County Last Year

December Issuance Smallest Reported In Number Of Years

Although he fell down on the job in December, Cupid reported a normal business in 1952, according to a report coming from Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger's office early today.

The December issuance of marriages in this county was about the smallest in six years. Only twenty-three licenses were issued during the month. The largest issuance for any month on record was back in 1946 when 45 licenses were issued in December of that year. The issuance last November was larger than usual, possibly accounting for the decrease in the bureau's license business last month.

During the year just ended, the bureau in this county issued 232 licenses, 109 to white and 123 to colored couples. The bureau did its largest business in any one month this year last June when 28 licenses were issued.

In 1951, the issuance added up to 217 licenses. There were 212 licenses issued in 1950, 220 in 1949, 271 in 1948, 306 in 1947 with the record of 335 being reported in 1946.

Licenses were issued in this county last month to ten white and thirteen colored couples, as follows:

White
Kermit Jernigan, Jr., and Margaret Belangia, both of Windsor. Kader Burroughs Taylor and Dannette Bailey, both of Williamston.

Bernard P. Burroughs and Mary Ann Johnson, both of Williamston. Benjamin F. Moore and Catherine Mobley, both of Williamston.

William Clarence Taylor and Gladys Moore Curd, both of Robersonville.

Darwin William McCafferty of Edward, N. C., and Margaret M. Brown of Jamesville.

James Robert Everett, Jr., of Williamston and Eleanor B. Roberson of Washington.

Alton Beddard of RFD 1, Plympton and Frances Ellis of Williamston.

Melton Olin Lewis of Vanceboro and Shelby Dean Modlin of Bath.

Colored
Rudolph Ruffin and Frances Smith, both of Robersonville.

John Howard, Jr., and Nossie Lee Stancil, both of Williamston. Arthur Leary and Lula Mae Parker, both of Williamston.

Robert Brown and Flora Mae Spruill, both of Oak City.

William Bullock of Robersonville and Josephine Jackson of Oak City.

Ned Purvis, Jr., of RFD 1, Robersonville, and Clara Bell Hassell, RFD 3, Williamston.

Johnnie Clayton Andrews and Verna Lee Rollins, both of RFD 1, Bethel.

Roscoe Staton and Minnie Humphrey, both of Parmele. James E. Ewell and Beatrice Cross, both of RFD 3, Williamston.

Layton Glover and Queen Ester Higgs, both of Oak City.

William James Wilson of Greenville and Clavon Doggett of Robersonville.

Henry Clay Bullock and Allie G. Crandell, both of Robersonville.

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March Of Dimes To Be Launched Today

Chairmen For The Several Districts In County Named

Citizens Are Being Asked To Contribute \$5,984 In Current Drive

The 1953 March of Dimes was launched today in Martin County by the Lions Club and Kiwanis Club of Williamston in cooperation with the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Directed by W. Marvin Baker and L. Bruce Wynne, a corps of volunteer workers prepared to wipe out the debt incurred by last year's record polio epidemic and to grid against the expected financial demands of the coming months.

Aiding the co-chairmen are Robert Newell, John Hutton Gurganus, and Vernon Bunting in the Williamston area; I. M. Little, C. B. Martin and M. M. Everett in Robersonville; B. F. Sloan and N. L. Hyman in Oak City; George S. Haislip and Norman Everett in Hamilton; G. H. Baker, Jr., and P. C. Blount in Jamesville; C. L. Cox, Farm Life; H. V. Parker, Jr., Bear Grass; and E. F. Murrow in Everetts.

Other co-workers will be appointed within the next few days. Mr. Baker said in naming the township chairmen.

R. M. Edwards heads the colored division of the drive and he is aided by the following: W. A. Holmes, Williamston; N. W. Slade, Robersonville; W. C. Witherspoon, Parmele; T. K. Slade, Oak City; George T. Hyman, Hassell; William E. Honeybuck, Hamilton; E. L. Owens, Everetts; D. G. Chance, Gold Point; Stephen Griffin, Bear Grass; M. L. Armistead, Jamesville; John S. James, Dardens; W. V. Ormond, Jr., Biggs; A. R. Jones, Rodgers; J. O. Buffalo, Burroughs; W. C. Bunch, Jr., Whitchard; James H. Faulk, Williams Lower; Ben Reddick, Smithwick Creek; and J. T. Mizelle, Cross Roads.

With more persons stricken with infantile paralysis in 1952 than ever before, and with the prospect of a staggering patient care bill, the 3,100 county chapters of the March of Dimes organization were preparing today to match the record polio onslaught with a record 1953 March of Dimes.

Martin County will attempt to raise \$5,984 from its 27,938 citizens during the month-long campaign.

Kindergarten To Reopen Monday

The Community Kindergarten, sponsored by the Williamston Ministerial Association, will reopen on Monday, January 5, at 9 a. m., according to an announcement made by the association this week. Children who have reached the age of four years may be enrolled upon the payment of the monthly tuition fee of \$12.50.

The Kindergarten will continue in charge of Mrs. R. L. Bowling and Mrs. R. E. Tarkington, Jr. These workers report that previous to the holidays twenty-one children were enrolled. The Kindergarten is located in the annex to the Memorial Baptist Church.

Marathon Pianist To Play In Local Streets Tuesday

The tinkling tunes of a piano will be heard in Williamston's Main Street next Tuesday to raise funds for the 1953 March of Dimes.

The main street music will be provided by Jerry Ball, marathon pianist of Charlotte, for eight hours non-stop from 10 in the morning until 6 in the evening. If Mr. Ball fails to play the full eight hours non-stop, except for three 15-minute eating periods, he will forfeit \$500 to the March of Dimes, it was announced.

Mr. Ball's March of Dimes program includes popular swing music only, and he works his marathon show like this: A citizen asks for a tune. If Mr. Ball can play it on the piano, the specta-

ROUTINE

Handling most of their re-organizational business the first Monday in December, the Martin County Commissioners expect to have few other than routine matters up for consideration at their first meeting in the new calendar year next Monday, Clerk J. Sam Getsinger said yesterday.

Williamston's town commissioners are expecting no big meeting of their own when they meet at 8:00 o'clock Monday evening for their first session of the new calendar year. They are to receive bids on a new car for the police department and discuss a drainage project now pending.

Live Elephant In Inaugural Parade

By Stanley James

Washington.—There will be at least one real live elephant in the Eisenhower inaugural parade.

The only one officially cleared for entry in the procession is named "Burma." He will march from the Capitol to the White House with the delegation from Ohio, home state of "Mr. Republican," Senator Robert A. Taft. "Burma" is one of the elephants in the herd owned by Mills Brothers Circus Company of Cleveland, Ohio.

Another circus offered to provide elephants for newly-elected Republican Congressmen to ride, but this offer was declined, the Inaugural Committee said.

Another feature of this, the first Republican inaugural parade since 1929, will be the Lincoln Republican Club of Beaver County Pennsylvania. This club was organized in 1880, to plug for the election of President James A. Garfield, and has taken part in all the nine Republican presidential inaugurations since then.

The marchers, about sixty in all, will wear costumes reminiscent of the 1880s—black great coats, silk toppers, gray spats and gloves—and they will carry red-white-and-blue umbrellas. One of the charter members, who expects to march in the parade, is J. Henry Geer, a lawyer, who is ninety-two years old.

The parade is to run for two and a half hours, starting at one-thirty p. m. after the noon-hour ceremony in which the General will be inaugurated, January 20. To keep it within bounds, only one band, one marching unit, and one float will be permitted from each state.

The new President, with Vice President Richard Nixon and their official families, will travel at the head of the long line of cars carrying dignitaries. They will get out at the White House to review the procession from an electrically heated stand on the White House grounds.

Sixty thousand of the half million people expected to attend the inaugural will be able to see the parade from seats along the line of march. The seats are sold at prices from two to twenty dollars.

Sells Grocery Business To Go With Company

After operating the Tiny Grocery, corner of Houghton and Warren Streets for several years, Mr. Jack Sullivan has sold the business to Mr. P. O. Holloman who has taken over active management.

Mr. Sullivan is going with the Texas Company and is to have headquarters at the Roanoke River terminal here.

Town Employee Accepts Position In Ahoskie

Employed by the municipal water department here for several years, Alonza Bland has accepted the position of superintendent of the Ahoskie Water Department, and is entering upon his new duties this week.

Mr. Bland will move his family to Ahoskie this week. Patrolman and Mrs. J. O. Arthur are moving into the Bland home on Marshall Avenue.

Death In The Air Causing Concern In This Country

Heavy Weekly Tolls Have Been Exact Since The First Of November

Although some of the announcements from the Pentagon dealing with recent tragic air disasters have sounded calm, both Air Force and Defense officials are alarmed at the wholesale death being caused by military transport smash-ups. In addition, Congress is unlimbering an investigation and the country generally is reacting strongly to the heavy tolls, which have hit the headlines almost weekly since November 7th. Here is how the story has gone since that day:

November 7th—a C-119 hits a mountain in Alaska; nineteen are killed. November 12th—Navy patrol bomber crashes in Washington; eleven are killed. November 14th—a C-119 hits a mountain near Seoul; fifty-four are killed. November 15th—a C-46 crashes into the sea off Korea; eleven are killed. November 15th—a C-119 crashes in Alaska; twenty are lost; November 17th—a C-119 crashes in Montana; nine are killed. November (week of November 18th-25th) — a C-124 disappears off Alaska coast; fifty-two presumed dead. November 28th—a C-54 crashes in Washington; thirty-seven are killed. December 20th—a C-124 crashes in Washington; eighty-six are killed.

Interestingly, all these crashes have occurred in northern regions and many of them took place when pilots were flying on instruments or through instrument-flying weather. The worst of all, that which occurred on December 20th, took place in a light snow fall. Despite this evidence, defense officials and many flying officials contend that aircraft of today can fly through all kinds of weather and that instrument flying is nothing to worry about in modern aircraft. The commercial airlines also fly through such weather and use instruments, too.

But despite these assurances, it becomes rather obvious that bad weather conditions are at least suspect in the search for a cause to these crashes. Any pilot who has flown by the seat of his pants, and on instruments knows that there is a difference. When flying blind, on instruments, one cannot see his mistakes, or get the feel of them by watching the earth rush by—too slowly, or too near. Nor can the instrument pilot appreciate his exact flying position as satisfactory.

There is reason to believe that tower officers and general dispatchers are not limiting flights strictly enough, and that military aircraft are being allowed to take off when they should be grounded because of the weather. Of course, if the flight is an emergency one, or connected with the war, or the war effort, the issues concerned are somewhat different. But when there is no urgency involved, a stricter control is indicated. The death take is too large at the moment to argue this point. Military flying must be better controlled and better restricted in bad weather.

Though no editor or writer can prove that is or that is the reason for the crashes, it is beyond question that all the crashes cited above have occurred in northern areas where bad weather has been experienced since November. Had the aircraft not been flying, no crashes would have occurred. That

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Home Club Group To Give Program

A tradition of the Martin County Home Demonstration Clubs will be observed Sunday when the club women gather at the county home for their annual Old Christmas program.

All 14 Home Demonstration clubs will participate in the annual event and the Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, will lead the devotional. After a program of songs and the minister's message, the club women will present the home a gift.

Mrs. Thad Harrison, county home demonstration agent, today extended an invitation to all interested persons to attend the program.