

THE ENTERPRISE

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Hearing Peanut Case In Court Here Today

Hardly Expecting Court To Complete Work Tomorrow

Battery Of Lawyers Grouped Around Four Defendants In Peanut Case

Delayed by the tedious and long, drawn-out trials of cases considered of no great importance, the Martin County Superior Court is nearing the end of its first week with more cases left on its docket for trial than had been cleared away during the first three days. It is hardly expected that the court can complete the trial of the criminal cases by the week-end recess tomorrow.

Pending trial in the courts since last March, the big-time peanut larceny cases against Julius Hubert Williams, Oscar Burnett, William Henry Brown and C. B. (Candy Cake) Williams, were finally called late yesterday afternoon. A jury was selected before the court recessed for the day and the first evidence is being offered this morning. A battery of seven lawyers are representing the four defendants, while Attorney Clarence Griffin is assisting Solicitor George Fountain with the prosecution. All four defendants pleaded not guilty when they were arranged in court late yesterday. They are charged with stealing several hundred bags of peanuts from local warehouses back in January of this year.

Proceedings not previously reported: Pleading guilty of assaulting his wife, Octoria, with a deadly weapon, and pleading not guilty of assaulting his sister-in-law, Louise Purvis, with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, Anthony Lanier was found guilty as charged, the jury deliberating the case only a few minutes. It was brought out that a family quarrel was started at his mother-in-law's home on White Street in Williamston last July 10 when he went home and called for a shirt to be ironed. Lanier left, went over into Williams Township, got a shot gun and returned. The argument was reopened and he shot his sister-in-law in the neck and struck his wife over the head with the barrel of the gun. Lanier, without a lawyer, said he did not mean to shoot his sister-in-law, that he only meant to "scorch" her. The victim almost died. When his wife came into the house hollering, "I struck her over the head," Lanier said. Judge Bone had not passed sentence in the case up until early today.

The court worked just about all yesterday morning hearing forgery charges against Wyatt Stator. He was found guilty after the jury deliberated the case more than an hour. Judge Bone sentenced him to the roads for twelve months, suspended for two years. Stator was tentatively placed on probation and is to repay \$175 forged checks and costs. He is to avoid persons of questionable character and permit probation officer to visit him and violate no criminal law during

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Robbery Attempt Reported Locally

Robbers failed in an attempt to break into Dardens Department Store here sometime during Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning.

Breaking the glass in the back door, the robber reached inside but could not unlock the lock and bars across the door made entry impossible.

Failing in the attempt to open the door there, the robber withdrew. An attempt was made to enter the rear of the Western Auto Store, but Roger Roberts saw the man and police, called to the scene, found him gone.

The offices of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company were entered sometime during Tuesday night, but nothing of value was reported missing, Chief John Roebuck said.

TRUCK ROUTE

A bid of \$171,622 was submitted this week by the Hill Construction Company for the building and paving of a 2.79-mile truck route around Williamston. It could not be learned when the Washington firm planned to start work on the project, but no long delay is expected.

J. S. Lilley, also of Washington, was low bidder on the project of moving several homes and a small commercial building. His bid was \$5,850.

Grand Jury Files Annual Report In Court This Week

Points Finger At Youths Visiting Pool Room In Williamston

Literally swamped with the largest number of bills of indictments in years, the Martin County Grand jury worked the greater part of two days before handling all its duties and filing its support in superior court late Tuesday afternoon.

In addition to their regularly assigned duties, the jury investigated conditions at one school building and pointed its fingers at youths visiting a pool room in Williamston.

The report follows in detail, as submitted to his honor, Judge Walter J. Bone, presiding, over the signature of Foreman Reuben S. Everett:

All Bills of Indictment were passed upon by us.

The Reports of Justice of the Peace were checked and found filed with the Clerk of the Court and all fines paid to County Treasurer.

We inspected County Jail and found it in good condition. There were eight colored, two white men in jail. No woman.

We inspected the County Home and found everything in good condition, except bowl to stool. There were seven colored women and six men in the T. B. Ward. In the County Home there were two white men, six white women and four colored men.

We had a complaint concerning the Grammar School in Robersonville, and upon investigation we recommend the following:

Robersonville Grammar School Extensive repairs—Boys Bath Room:

Blind for rear door. Complete repairs to windows. New Rear door. Four new toilet seats. Recommend individual stalls. Completely paint room. Door stop on lunch room door and heavy glass. Repair front door to boys room. Girls Bath Room:

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Drug Club Holds A Meeting Here

The North Carolina Drug Club held its annual ladies' night and business meeting at the local Woman's Club building Wednesday night at 7:30 p. m.

The speaker, the Rev. D. E. Earnhart of Washington, was introduced to members and guests by Mr. E. D. Welch, also of Washington, who is president of the organization. Rev. Earnhart

which was well received and enjoyed by all. The welcoming address was by C. B. Clark of Williamston with Mrs. John C. Hood of Kinston responding. Invocation was by Mr. W. B. Gurley of Windsor.

Various firms from over North Carolina furnished valuable gifts and prizes and assisted in making the occasion a big success. Special guests of the club were Dr. and Mrs. Victor E. Brown and Dr. and Mrs. Gabel Himmelwright of Williamston and Secretary of the N. C. Pharmaceutical Association, Mr. W. J. Smith, and Mrs. Smith of Chapel Hill.

Sixty-Three Cases On Civil Calendar In Superior Court

Divorces Will Be Tried In The Court First Thing Next Monday

Sixty-three cases—few of them of any great importance—have been placed on the civil calendar for trial in the Martin County Superior Court next week. All of this week has been set aside for the trial of criminal cases.

With Judge Walter J. Bone of Nashville on the bench the court will call a dozen divorce cases the first thing next Monday morning and then take up the various suits. Cases, other than the divorce actions, include:

In the case of Randolph Chandler against Peoples Building and Loan Association, the plaintiff is taking the action to clear up a title to certain property in Robersonville.

Pointing out that the instrument was marked paid by mistake, the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company is suing Claude Hadley to recover \$173.72 on a note.

In the case of Fenner Respass, administrator, against Mary P. Keys and others, the plaintiff is petitioning the court to appoint a commissioner to sell certain property in Williamston to satisfy claims against the estate of Carrie Respass.

Henry Hoell is suing Dave Dickerson and Chas. J. Hanson to recover \$200 damages alleged to have resulted in an automobile accident. The case has been pending trial since April, 1948.

The bewickered case of U. S. Hoffman Machinery Corporation against Leander Bowen is again on the docket, the plaintiff suing to recover on an account. The case has been pending in the courts since March, 1949, and has been on the calendar repeatedly since that time.

Maintaining that the defendant had been recorded as joint purchaser of certain property in Williamston by mistake, the J. B. Cherry estate is suing the J. F. Thigpen estate to clear up the title to the property.

In three cases, Davenport and Hamilton are suing to recover on account, \$394.66 from David L. Calloway, \$234.82 from Jay Perry, and \$534.24 from H. C. Jones.

A boundary line dispute is involved in the case of F. C. Stallings against Wells-Oates Lumber Company, the defendant asking \$1,500 timber damage.

R. S. Critcher is suing Plum Williams to recover \$100 alleged due on a note.

J. H. Blount and others are asking \$1,000 timber damage in the boundary line case brought against the North Carolina Pulp Company.

As a result of a freak accident last January 23, Roy Bowers, Jr., is suing Chas. W. Martin, Jr., for \$5,000. The plaintiff maintains the defendant was negligent in jacking up a truck that he (plaintiff) was injured when he crawled under the vehicle to remove a tire and the jack toppled over, spilling the vehicle on him.

Standard Fertilizer is suing J. R. Wheaton to recover \$221.78 due on account. In another case, Standard is suing J. S. Wilson to recover \$2,453.37 on account.

Fred Grimes is asking the court in his case against Raymond Williams to be declared the owner of certain property to wit, eight

In the case of Williamston Parts and Metal Company against Sam Lyons, the plaintiff is asking \$3,363.26 alleged due on six cars of scrap iron.

A right-of-way is involved in the case of N. C. Everett against Alton White.

As a result of a boundary line dispute, Mayo Harrell is asking \$452 damages in his case against

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Registration For Cub Scouts Friday

Registration for Cub Pack 29 for 1953-54 will take place at the Grammar School auditorium Friday afternoon after school. Last year's Cubs who have not yet registered are asked to bring their 50c fee. Any boy who is now eight years old may register for the Cub Pack; he should be accompanied by one parent and should bring 50c registration fee.

Expecting Thousands For Special Celebration Here

Headed by a special reception committee, including officials of the county and several towns, thousands of people from over the county are expected here this afternoon when S/Sgt. Martel Hardy is given a royal welcome home after his stay of nearly three years in a prisoner of war camp in North Korea. Old Glory is waving already up and down the main streets, and the weather is just right for the event.

Planned by a group headed by Henry A. Johnson, the event holds many surprises for the young man and his mother, Mrs. Nellie Hardy of RFD 3, Williamston. A new Plymouth four-door car is already for delivery to the young man. The purchase of the car was financed by voluntary contributions during a one-day canvass of the and immediate community. Late canvass of the town and immediate community. Late reports state that Robersonville citizens are moving in to remember the young man with gifts and other favors.

Tobacco Sales Pass Eight Million Mark

ATTORNEY



Passing his State Bar Examinations a short time ago and admitted to the practice of law here this week, Hugh Millard Martin, Jameville young man, has opened his law offices in the Manning building here. A graduate of Wake Forest, he is the son of Mrs. R. O. Martin of Jameville and the late Mr. Martin.

Unload Big Gun For National Guard Here

A large 90-mm anti-aircraft gun, weighing about 19,000 pounds, was unloaded here this week for Battery C, of 150th AAA Bn.

The gun was placed at the guard's temporary quarters at the municipal water plant on South Sycamore Street.

GREEN WAVE BAND TAKES PART IN AHOOSKIE PARADE

Following the most successful "Tag Day" sale it ever conducted here, the Green Wave Band of Williamston High School moved over to Ahoskie yesterday where it took part in a big parade and 3:35 today will be down town in Williamston again.

Negro School Enrollment

After weeding out approximately thirty under-age tots, the colored schools in this county are still holding a record enrollment, according to official reports released a few days ago by the office of the board of education.

The report shows 7,125 pupils enrolled in the fifteen elementary schools and 638 in the three high schools. These figures compared with a total of 3,473 enrolled in the white schools, including 2,599 pupils in the eight elementary schools and 874 in the five white high schools. The report shows a total of 7,596 pupils enrolled in all the schools combined, including 6,084 in the elementary schools and 1,512 in the high schools.

Ten of the fifteen colored elementary schools reported gains in their enrollment figures. All three of the colored high schools reported substantial gains in their high school enrollment; in fact, 111 of the 142 pupil increase are found in the high schools. While the increase in enrollment is about twice as large as that reported by the white schools this year over the 1952-53 totals.

A comparison of enrollments in the colored schools for the 1952-53 and the 1953-54 terms follows by groups:

	1952-53		1953-54	
	Ele.	H.S. Total	Ele.	H.S. Total
Williamston	757	249	733	294
Oak City	346	154	355	181
Parmelee	224	124	250	163
Biggs	120	120	166	156
Rodgers	140	140	149	149
Williams	108	108	95	95
Burroughs	123	123	97	97
Robersonville	240	440	442	442
Everetts	250	250	251	251
Gold Point	151	151	121	121
Hamilton	223	223	220	220
Salsbury	182	182	214	214
Whichard	122	122	140	140
Jamesville	160	160	118	118
Dardens	108	108	114	114
	3454	527	3981	3485
				638
				4123

and immediate community. Late canvass of the town and immediate community. Late reports state that Robersonville citizens are moving in to remember the young man with gifts and other favors.

The special event will be opened by a parade, led by the Williamston High School Green Wave band. The parade will form on Church Street and move to the corner of Washington and Main where brief ceremonies are to be held. Attorney Clarence W. Griffin is scheduled to deliver the main but brief address. It was unofficially learned that superior court would recess for the occasion.

Highest Sale On Record Reported Here Yesterday

An Average Of \$64.38 Was Officially Recorded On 224,030 Pounds

Setting another all-time price record yesterday, Williamston's tobacco market today breezed right on by the eight million-pound mark with much to spare.

The highest price average in the history of the market was recorded yesterday when 224,030 pounds were sold for \$144,229, or an average of \$64.38 per hundred pounds. "Prices were good and tobacco quality was good," one market observer said, pointing out that he had never seen any prices that would compare with those now being paid on the local market. All types of tobacco are selling good, and while a few piles of wrappers are pushing into the 90-cent range, most of the tobacco is selling in the high sixties and seventies, it was reported.

Up until this morning the market here had sold 7,908,522 pounds for \$4,586,197, an average for the season of nearly \$58 per hundred, or \$57.99, to be exact. During the corresponding 24 sale days last season, the market sold 6,188,752 pounds for an average of \$48.99 per hundred pounds. The market went from that point to November 14, selling 11,327,154 pounds at an average of \$50.28 for the season.

It is now estimated that seventy percent of the crop in this area has been marketed, meaning that the market should sell between now and the latter part of next month twelve million or more pounds.

Possibly forty percent of the farmers in this county have completed the marketing of their crop, and another forty percent has marketed down to their last two acres.

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Plea Changed And Accepted By Court In Robbery Case

Defendant Sentenced To Roads For 18 Months Late Yesterday

Charged with robbery with firearms, Lon Hassell, young Virginia Beach resident, went into open court here yesterday and through his attorneys entered a plea of guilty to assault on a female. The case was called at 12:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon and was completed following a recess of one and one-half hours at 4:15 when Judge Walter J. Bone, presiding, sentenced the defendant to the roads for eighteen months.

Two letters or a letter and a note, introduced in evidence but not made public, apparently had some bearing in the case. It was reliably learned that the note, written just a short time ago allegedly by the defendant, carried a threat on the life of Mrs. Frances W. Herriott, the prosecuting witness.

After the court had accepted the plea of guilty to assault on a female, the state for its showing offered Mrs. Herriott who said she had known the defendant all her life, that she went with him from the time she was 14 until she was married. She stated that she was married eighteen years and saw him no more until after the death of her husband.

On the Saturday night before July 6, the witness said she went with the defendant to the beach club at Virginia Beach, that he talked ugly and she told him she was through with him. She returned to her home here and about a week later on Monday, July 6, he called her collect from Virginia Beach. After refusing to accept the call, the witness said the defendant called again, then he cursed her and she hung up the receiver. About four hours later at 7:00 o'clock, the witness said she saw a cab in front of her home and that she went to the door, that the defendant grabbed her wrists and hit her several times, the defendant declaring that she could not treat him that way. The defendant was quoted as saying that he meant business, that it was going to cost her. According to the witness, the defendant pulled a gun and ordered her to write a check.

Continuing the witness said she had \$100 and that the defendant took that and then he called the taxi driver and sent him up town for blank checks. When the taxi driver returned with the checks, the defendant ordered her to write one out for \$500 on a Norfolk bank.

During the meantime, the witness said she tried to cry out, but the defendant threatened her and ordered her to keep quiet. The check was given to the cab driver and he went to the bank to have it cashed. When the bank called to see if the check was good, the witness said the defendant advised her to say it was all right, that he was holding to her wrist at the time.

Following her noon day recess, the questioning was continued, the witness saying she wrote the check because he demanded her to, that he said he needed money. The taxi driver was away about

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Peggy Waters Is Windsor Princess

Miss Peggy Waters will represent Windsor High School and community in Williamston's 6th annual Harvest Festival, October 28, it was announced this week.

Princess Windsor is 17 years old, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Waters. She is active in high school, taking part in the glee club, the dramatics club, monogram club, in addition to being a cheerleader, a representative on the student council, treasurer of F. H. A. working in the library, acting as secretary of the senior class and serving on the annual staff.

Princess Windsor also is active in the community, singing in the church choir and serving on various church organizations. She was Halloween Queen last year at festivities in Colerain. She plans to study nursing, probably at Norfolk General Hospital.

Killer Sentenced To 25 Years In Prison

P. T. A. MEETING

Holding its first session of the new school year, the Williamston Parents - Teachers Association will hear Sherwood L. Roberson, member of the County Board of Education, speak on the importance of the approaching election on the State bond issue.

Included in the program is to be the usual get-together for the parents and teachers. The program is to open at 7:45 p. m. Monday, September 28, in the high school auditorium with President Asa Crawford presiding.

Missing it by just a few memberships last year, the association this year hopes to sign up more than 500 parents, teachers and friends this year and has adopted an ambitious and worthwhile program for the term.

Farmer Victim Of Flim-Flim Game

Admitting he was bargaining to get something for nothing, Warren Leggett, 55-year-old Pamlico colored tobacco farmer, was fleeced out of \$368 in cash by professional flim-flammers here shortly before noon Tuesday.

Playing the old pocketbook game, the flim-flammers, a colored woman, baited the farmer perfectly. After cashing his tobacco check, Leggett returned to the tobacco market and was sitting on a pile of tobacco when the colored woman of low stature and with a dark brown complexion and a flat face, came up and started talking to him. Minutes later, the confederate, a tall, heavy-set colored man of dark complexion and about 35 or 40 years of age, went into action. The woman told Leggett that the man had picked up a pocketbook, that he put it into his pocket instead of trying to find the owner. The confederate moved in, and explained that he knew they saw him pick up the pocketbook and that he would divide with them if they would say nothing. The confederate opened the pocketbook and said it contained about \$1,800.

Leggett's appetite was whetted and he repaired with the couple to a secluded spot back of a used car lot and the fleecing was completed there. The male flim-flammer called upon Leggett to put up money to show good faith, and the man and woman took French leave.

More than an hour later, Leggett's faith began to waver and he went to the police. A town-wide search was made, but it was made in vain.

Police are certain that the flim-flammers moved in from outside, that they were miles away before Leggett told his story.

Church Visitation Program Planned

The Disciples of Christ in North Carolina are in the midst of a Fall Visitation Program. Three teams are working for three weeks visiting as many churches as time will permit, from September 20 to October 10. The teams will be made up of representatives from the National Office, State Society, Women's Work, Atlantic Christian College and Religious Education.

Monday, September 28, is the day for the Team's visit with the First Christian Church of Williamston. All the meetings will be held in the First Methodist Church. The schedule for the activities of that day is given in the church calendar.

Dr. Travis A. White, President of Atlantic Christian College of Wilson, heads the visiting team. Accompanying him will be Mr. C. A. Weesmen of Indianapolis, Ind. Dr. C. A. Jarman of Wilson and Mrs. John L. Goff of Williamston.

The program is one of enrichment and guidance for the local church in putting on its course of action in Evangelism, Missions, Christian Education, Stewardship, Membership Development and Higher Education.

Lanier Entered A Plea Of Murder In Second Degree

Widow Of Frank Cherry Breaks Under Strain In Courtroom Tuesday

John Lanier, 31-year-old colored man, was sentenced to prison late Tuesday afternoon in Martin County Superior Court to serve not less than twenty-five and not more than thirty years for the murder of Frank Cherry in Oak City on the night of August 18, the defendant knowing not that only a technicality kept him from going on trial for murder in the first degree. It seems that Lanier had confessed the killing but the confession was not put into writing. It was learned however that three witnesses, including a State Bureau of Investigation agent, were ready to testify that they had heard the confession.

After the plea had been accepted, Sheriff M. W. Holloman, quoting mainly from Lanier's confession, told about the killing and the arrest later that evening in a local hospital. Lanier, after fleeing and hiding his gun, returned to the scene of the attack, picked up the victim's sister and brought her to the hospital, witnesses declaring that Lanier said nothing about the attack other than to ask if the man had been killed.

In making the confession, Lanier told the sheriff that he did not mean to kill Cherry, that he just wanted to shoot him "low." Lanier also said in his confession that he had warned Cherry to stay away from his common law wife, Idell Roberson.

Lanier, according to the sheriff, declared he did not purposely pick up and load his gun with a buckshot shell, that he picked up a shell left in his home by a previous tenant.

It was brought out that Lanier had shot at Cherry last March,

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Proper Stacking Of Peanuts Pays

North Carolina peanut growers lost more than a half million dollars last year through damaged kernels, according to information released this week by B. S. Rich, in charge of fruit and vegetable marketing for the N. C. Department of Agriculture.

Rich attributed most of the damage to improper stacking practices at harvest time.

"Most growers know the proper way to stack peanuts," Rich said, "but ideal weather conditions during the 1949, 1950 and 1951 seasons when the percentage of damaged kernels was very low caused many of them to become careless in stacking last year's crop. In 1952, the crop was well cured before the rainy season began in mid-November and lasted until March. During this five-month period, approximately half of the crop was picked and a high percentage of damaged kernels were found. Most of the damage occurred in the lower part of the stacks where the peanuts were stacked on the ground eliminating the circulation of air. Such a condition delayed drying of the nuts and resulted in moldy, rancid, and decayed kernels."

Peanuts, properly stacked and cured, will stand a considerable amount of rain before any kernel damage is noticeable, the specialist said. He recommended that cross pieces be nailed to the poles about 18 inches above the ground. The poles should be large enough and placed deep enough in the ground so that winds will not break or blow them over. In stacking, the nuts should be placed next to the poles with the vines to the outside. He also recommended keeping the stacks fairly small in circumference in order to permit quicker drying.

The main thing to remember, Rich says, is to stack the peanuts so they will cure well and dry out quickly after rains. Proper air circulation is essential in curing and drying and this cannot be obtained if the nuts are stacked on the ground.