

Clear Many Cases From The Docket In Superior Court

Quite A Few Others Continued When Main Witness Is Called Away

Opening a one-week term for the trial of criminal cases and a few divorce actions, the Martin County Superior Court in an all-day session Monday cleared a dozen cases from the docket and was well advanced on the trial of another when Judge Walter J. Bone, presiding, ordered a recess for the day.

Justice in at least seven drunken driving cases was delayed when it was announced soon after the court was convened that the principal witnesses had been called out of town. It was explained that members of the highway patrol had been ordered to work the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first airplane flight at Kill Devil Hill down in Dare County. One or two cases were also continued when the defendants failed to answer when called. Others were not pressed or dismissed, some with leave.

Proceedings: Leon Williams, charged with bastardy, was found not guilty. The defendant maintained that he was too drunk to have committed the crime at the time alleged by the prosecuting witness. While guilt may be in doubt, it is fairly certain that the innocent tot in the case will, sooner or later, become a charge of the public welfare, a condition that has already reached serious proportions in this county.

Pleading guilty of entering two places of business in Williamston—the bus station and Wier's Coffee Shop—Laverne Roberson alias Laverne Gorham, was sentenced to the roads for not less than eighteen months and not more than three years in each case. The sentence in the second case is to begin at the expiration of the first. Roberson was said to have been a model prisoner during his stay of about two months in jail.

Charged with forgery in three cases, Zella McIntyre, 15-year-old colored girl, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to Woman's prison for six months in each case. The prison terms, to run concurrently, were suspended for two years on condition that the defendant pay the court costs, make good the checks, remain away from Eva Knight's home or any other place of bad repute, remain of good behavior and violate no law, and engage in suitable employment during the two-year suspension.

Without counsel, relatives or friends, Raleigh Rascoe, Jr., 15-year-old Jamesville colored boy, went into court and pleaded not guilty of assaulting Stephen Lilley, 15-year-old colored boy, with a paring knife with intent to kill. The defendant asked only one question and did not take the

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Station Goes On Air Next Sunday

According to a report released over the week-end, the new television station, WNCT, goes on the air near Greenville Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock.

Operating on channel nine, the station is to be affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting System, and it is expected to afford good reception for this area. The station, through a special agreement, will also carry programs originating on other networks.

The station is to release a full schedule of TV casts within the next day or two, it was announced, one report stating that it would carry the Orange Bowl football game on January

ON SALE

"Search Party", a book of poems written by Julian Mason, was released last week-end and is now on sale at the home of the author on Simmon Avenue here and at most book stores.

The volume has gained favorable recognition from many critics, and is currently advertised in a number of publications of national circulation.

Santa Returning Here Friday



Making a great big hit during his first visit here on December 4, Santa Claus is returning to Williamston in person on Friday of this week with return visits scheduled all during next week. He will maintain headquarters in a special house between the Viccar Theater and J. Paul Simpson's insurance office during certain hours each afternoon and evening. The kiddies are invited to deliver their letters to him and receive small favors placed in his hands by the Williamston Boosters.

Decorations Going Up In Local Homes for Christmas

Decorations are going up for Christmas, and preliminary reports point to a gala decorative scheme in homes, doorways and yards here this season. So far, the decorations have been limited to soft glowing candles in windows with an occasional wreath on the front door.

The Williamston Boosters, supported by private donations, are offering more than \$100 in prizes for the best decorations this season. Contest rules will be announced within the next few days. During the meantime, local people are said to be making extensive preparations to compete for the awards, and add cheer to the scene.

Special prizes are also being offered for the best decorations on a public building. So far the town hall and courthouse boys have made no movement to brighten the old hall of justice down the way or to light the town hall tower. It has been reported that the water department employees might place a crown on the town's new water tower, many remembering how stately the old tower looked in its majestic crown a few years ago.

Local firms have extensive stocks of all types of material for advancing the holiday decoration scheme. More Christmas trees have been unloaded here than in any previous year, and the holiday spirit is rapidly taking hold in all walks of life.

PLENTIFUL

Deer are so plentiful in the Roanoke River lowlands this year that they are being taken alive, according to a report coming from a hunting club last week-end. Running his boat near Frying Pan a few miles up the Roanoke River, Williamston, Farmer-Hunter R. J. Hardison had a 75-pound buck jump right into the boat. Mr. Hardison took the animal by the neck and brought him in.

Deer have been seen invading yards of homes here, and it is conservatively estimated that more than fifty deer have been taken in the lowlands so far this season.

Humber Talks To Local Lions Club

The Williamston Lion's Club had as its guest speaker Robert Lee Humber, at its regular meeting December 10th. Mr. Humber made an inspiring address and used as his general theme, "Culture."

In his address he traced the contributions which each nationality have made to our culture. Beginning with Palestine which gave us Christianity and ending with the

our political party system, he gave a thorough discourse on the contributions of each nationality. He traced these contributions up to our present art gallery, which he says is an expression of these combined contributions. He recalled many of the more prominent pieces of art which have been secured for the art gallery which he says will open during the fall of 1954 here in North Carolina. This art gallery will contain many of the finest pieces of art to be found in the entire world and will rank high on the list of art galleries in the world.

Mr. Humber's address was well received by a large attendance of the Lion's Club membership which had as their guests the faculty of the Williamston schools.

Divorce Cases On The Docket

Four divorce cases have been placed on the calendar for trial in the superior court on Thursday of this week. However, a cluttered criminal docket could delay the trials or crowd them out altogether.

The divorces, all based on grounds of two years of separation, include the following: Cleveland Godard against Eliza Godard of New Jersey. The plaintiff says they were married August 1, 1939, and separated August 1, 1951, that three children born of the union, ages 7, 10 and 13, live part time with the defendant and part time with the plaintiff's father.

In her case against Frank Baker, Ruth Baker says they were married February 14, 1944, and separated February 14, 1948, that a child born of the union is living with her.

In the case of Annie Spruill against James Spruill, the plaintiff says they were married August 11 and separated March 11, 1951. Once child, aged 2, is living with the plaintiff who seeks its custody.

Ethel Williams Hines is suing W. A. Hines for a divorce, stating that they were married November 16, 1918, and separated in December, 1948, that a daughter, 17, born of the union is living with her.

A native of the Bethel area, he had made his home in Greenville for about 25 years, serving as a justice of the peace.

Besides a daughter, Mrs. Katherine J. Lowe, of Savannah, Ga., he is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Lloyd Waters and Miss Carrie Jenkins, both of Jamesville, and Mrs. Lucy Churchill of Washington.

Peanuts Stolen From Farm House

Going all through the tobacco season and most of the peanut marketing season without striking, rogues got busy the latter part of last week and carried away between ten and 25 bags of peanuts from the old Blount farm at the edge of Williamston.

Clues are working on a case but no developments have been reported in the case as yet, according to a late report coming from the sheriff's office.

IN QUEEN'S COURT

Miss Sally Roberson, Williamston girl, was chosen last week as a member of the May Day Court at Meredith College, Raleigh. Miss Oanne Brown of Southport, was chosen May Queen.

Miss Roberson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Roberson, is a freshman at Meredith, having been graduated from the local high school last spring.

Enrollment Gain In Public School

Washington—The Census Bureau estimated that public school enrollment will continue to increase at a rate of more than 1,300,000 a year until it reaches a total of about 39,000,000 when this year's crop of babies enters school in 1959.

It said elementary school attendance in 1959 will total about 30,000,000, an increase of nearly 3,000,000 in seven years.

It said high-school enrollment in 1960 will reach about 9,400,000 and rise to 12,000,000 by 1965. There now are about 7,000,000 pupils in high schools.

H. L. Jenkins Died Thursday

H. L. Jenkins, 72, died in his sleep in Greenville last Thursday morning. Funeral services were conducted there Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by the Rev. W. M. Howard, pastor of the Jervis Memorial Methodist Church, where Mr. Jenkins was a member.

A native of the Bethel area, he had made his home in Greenville for about 25 years, serving as a justice of the peace.

Besides a daughter, Mrs. Katherine J. Lowe, of Savannah, Ga., he is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Lloyd Waters and Miss Carrie Jenkins, both of Jamesville, and Mrs. Lucy Churchill of Washington.

Presbyterians Calling Pastor

Extended a call a short time ago, the Rev. D. H. Dooling of Johnston County has accepted plans to enter upon his new duties as pastor of the Bear Grass and Roberson Chapel Presbyterian churches the early part of this year.

The minister was in the county last week making plans to move soon after the first of the year. He previously had made two appearances in the church pulpit. He is a native of Georgia. The minister and Mrs. Dooling are alone now, their children having moved and located on their own, it was reported.

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Six County Men Answer A Final Induction Call

Registrants Must Appeal From Classification Within Certain Time

Answering the first final induction call since October, six Martin County young white men left by bus for the U. S. Army center in Raleigh last Friday. Just where the new recruits were assigned could not be learned immediately.

The call came just at a time when the holiday season was disrupted for the men. No final induction call has been received for January, but fifteen men are to report for physical tests on January 15, it was learned. There has been no pre-induction call received in the county since last September. Draft officials have announced that the call for men is being reduced, but just how much the ruling will affect the calls in this county could not be learned.

The local draft board this week pointed out that registrants wishing to appeal from their classifications must do so within ten days after their classifications have been mailed. The appeals must be made in writing direct to the draft board at Williamston, and offer reasons supporting a change in classification, it was explained.

The names of the men who answered the final induction call last Friday follow:

Jerry Vernon Beach of RFD 2, Williamston.

Lewis Wayne Johnson of Robersonville.

Nathan Wilbur Worsley, II, of Oak City.

John Waldon Lilley, of RFD 1, Williamston.

William Frederick Griffin of RFD 1, Williamston.

Jasper Eugene Williams of RFD 2, Williamston.

Roy Wilson Garrish, former of Jamesville, was transferred to Swan Quarter for final induction.

Big-Three Meet Is First Held In Eight Years

Making Progress In Making The B-52 Eight-Jet Heavy Bomber

Washington. — Sir Winston Churchill, in what might have been the elder statesman's last international conference, came to Bermuda to meet with memories of many other conferences with American leaders during World War II.

Churchill cooperated closely with Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and met with both on numerous occasions in the hectic days from 1940 (when he was made Prime Minister) until 1945 (when he was turned out) and again (with Presidents Truman and Eisenhower) from 1951 through 1953.

As First Lord of the admiralty during the first part of World War I, he also served his country in many joint strategic conferences of that day. As he headed for Bermuda, earlier this month, the British warrier must have wondered if he would carry the day this time. More often than not, the American Chiefs of Staff and President Roosevelt had their way during World War II when disputes arose.

Churchill favored at Bermuda a little of what his immediate forerunner had gone astray on back in 1938. Sir Neville Chamberlain had tried to talk peace with Hitler when the Nazi dictator wanted war. Of course, Churchill showed only a fraction of the hope Chamberlain had clung to, just enough to think another effort to confer with the Russians might be worth while.

President Eisenhower's advisers had primed the Chief Executive well before he left Washington—on how to resist the Churchill persuasive charm. Ike has had experience on that score already, for in World War II he resisted Sir Winston on several major proposals, vigorously pushed by the Prime Minister.

Ike went to the talks convinced conferring with the Russians was wasted time. Churchill did his best to convince him there was nothing but a little time to lose—

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Given Life Term In Hassell Murder Case

Case Is Cleared From Docket In Eleven Minutes

Ernest Everett Staton Hears Sentence With Little Emotion Display

Eleven minutes after he was arraigned in the case in which he was charged with the brutal murder of John Robert Hassell, aged worker at a Robersonville lumber mill last November 16, Ernest Everett Staton, 28, heard Judge Walter Bone in the Martin County Superior Court Monday afternoon sentence him to State's prison for "the term of his natural life". Staton's eyes were possibly a bit moist but there was little outward evidence of emotion on the man's face when he heard the sentence and the audience gasped.

It was the shortest time on record that a first degree murder case had been cleared from a docket in the courts of this county. Until the last session of the North Carolina General Assembly, a defendant charged with first degree murder could not plead guilty. The legislature altered the law, making it possible for such a plea and went on to provide life imprisonment.

With the defendant standing, his right hand raised, the clerk read the first degree warrant, and defense counsel, Attorneys Griffin and Martin who were appointed by the court, pleaded their client guilty as charged.

Judge Bone ordered the plea entered in the records, explaining that it was accepted by the solicitor with the approval of the court.

Asked if the defense had anything to say, Attorney Griffin pointed out that it was a matter of law and admitted that little could be said for the defendant. The plea, the lawyer explained, was tendered after a conference with the defendant, his attorneys and others. The attorney said the plea was tendered with the full consent of the defendant.

Solicitor Elbert S. Peel, handling his first murder case in the Martin Superior Court, explained to the court that he accepted the plea with some misgiving, but that he had talked with various citizens and decided the action would meet with approval. He pointed out that the plea would possibly necessitate the calling of a jury from outside the county, that the cost would approximate \$2,000 or more, and that the jury would, in all probability, recommend mercy.

No evidence was offered in the case and the witnesses were excused. The mill where Staton and his victim both worked was closed for the day while the management and most of the employees were in court.

When defense counsel conferred with Staton, he readily agreed to any and all suggestions, declaring that he was "right with the Lord," and that nothing mattered. Me was said to have

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K. P. Lindsley Named A Scout Vice-President

The East Carolina Council, Boy Scouts of America, reelected Penn and Oscar G. Bailey of Leggetts as Council Commissioner at the annual business meeting held at the East Carolina College in Greenville, Tuesday of last week. It was pointed out that there had been growth in all phases of service, membership and units during the past year.

Among those named as Service Area Vice-Presidents was K. P. Lindsley of Williamston.

LIGHT VOTE

A comparatively light vote in the peanut-cotton quota referendum is in the making in most sections of this county today, according to preliminary reports reaching here shortly before noon.

However, it was believed that a vast majority of the votes will favor quotas for both crops.

Two Youths Hurt In River Bridge Wreck Thursday

Second Accident Reported Short Time Later At Conine Bridge

Two young white Navy men, stationed at Weeksville, were painfully but apparently not seriously injured when their car crashed into the Roanoke River bridge railing in front of the bridgekeeper's home about 10:00 o'clock last Thursday night.

Eli Vance Johnson, 22, whose home is in Robersonville, suffered a slight concussion and painful bruises. Riding with Johnson, Carl Cox, of 712 Avenue J, South Houston, Texas, suffered multiple fractures of the cheek bones, lacerations about the face and leg abrasions. He lost most of his front teeth in the crash, and was dangerously weakened by the loss of a considerable quantity of blood. Rendered unconscious, Cox was believed at first to have been critically injured, but he rapidly responded to treatment in a local hospital.

The injured were removed in an ambulance to the hospital, and later transferred to their base at Weeksville.

Apparently traveling too fast to make the curve at this end of the bridge, the car crashed into the guard rail and then into the bridge abutment. The car swerved almost around. Cox was thrown out and was pulled from under the front bumper. Johnson held to the steering wheel and rode out the wreck.

The hood of the car was picked up fifty feet beyond the spot where the car stopped. A fender was retrieved from the left side of the road. The right door and wheel of the 1948 Buick convertible were ripped away. After the main part of the car was pulled away by a wrecker, a pick-up truck was used to haul away the battered pieces of the machine. Patrolmen estimated the damage at about \$900 or just about a total loss.

About two hours later Dennis Watford, of colorain, accompanied by Sherman Horton, apparently tried to enter the eastern end of Conine Creek bridge at a rapid speed and crashed into the guard rail and later struck the bridge abutment. The left front of his 1953 Chevrolet was wrecked, mechanics estimating the damage at \$1,000. The two were released following treatment in a local hospital, reports stating that neither was hurt badly.

Minor Accident On County Road

Driving during the rain late last Sunday night, Eugene Perkins, young colored boy of RFD 1, Oak City, lost control of his 1949 Ford and repeatedly ditched it between Highway 125 and Hassell.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman Jack Arthur said the car went into the ditch three times before it finally stuck there. Each trip into the ditch exacted about \$100 damage. No one was injured, the investigating officer.

Few Members Of Petit Jury Exempted From Duty

Offering acceptable excuses, a few members of the petit jury for the current term of the Martin County Superior Court were exempted from duty by Judge Walter Bone Monday morning.

Included in the list were, William Beacham, Mayo Harrell, Charles F. ... and ...

No Charge Made To Grand Jury

Explaining that he had charged them at the beginning of the term, Judge Walter J. Bone of Nashville told the grand jury that it would not be necessary to go over the same instructions again as he opened the one-week criminal term of the Martin County Superior Court Monday morning.

All members of the "permanent" jury were present, and the jurist stated he was glad to see that they were able to be back. He pointed out that if it were necessary, he would call the jury into court for any instructions, that during the meantime should they need any help, the court was ready to lend any assistance possible.

Mr. Reuben Everett of Robersonville is the jury foreman, and Mr. S. J. Tetterton of Williams is serving as grand jury officer.

ROUND-UP

Local and county officers had another busy period last week-end when they rounded up and jailed twelve persons. Five of the twelve were booked for public drunkenness, two for simple assault, and one each for a deadly weapon assault, speeding, drunken driving and non-support. A twelfth one was taken on an old charge. Two of the twelve were white and the ages of the group ranged from 18 to 56 years.