

Big Day In County Court Last Monday

Recorder Imposes Fines In The Sum Of Almost \$1,000

Judge H. O. Peele Handles
Thirty-Nine Cases By
3:30 O'clock

Business may be slack in some lines but Judge Herbert O. Peele and Solicitor Clarence W. Griffin had a big day in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday when they cleared thirty-nine cases from the docket. The court was in session until 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

Fines fell only five dollars short of \$1,000, and then there were several road terms imposed. The court attracted a large crowd in addition to defendants and witnesses. Fifteen of the thirty-nine cases involved speeding and most of the other twenty-six alleged violation of the traffic laws.

Proceedings: Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case in which Charlie Mack Scott was charged with assaulting a female.

Henry Price was found not guilty of drunken driving.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, William Purvis was fined \$25, plus costs. The case in which Purvis was charged with assaulting a female, was not prosed.

Pleading innocent, Charles West was adjudged guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and careless and reckless driving. The court fined him \$75, plus costs.

Hudson Wallace, charged with violating the liquor laws pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for sixty days, the sentence to begin at the direction of the court at any time during the next two years. It was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs.

The case in which Jim Henry Harrison was charged with an assault with a deadly weapon was not prosed.

Charged with carrying a concealed weapon and assaulting a female, Wave Ruffin was adjudged guilty of carrying a concealed weapon and was fined \$50 and taxed with the costs. The defendant pleaded not guilty.

Fate Cross pleaded guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon and was taxed with the court costs.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, George Hudgins was fined \$125 and taxed with the costs. He loses his operator's license for a year.

Brought to justice in one of several larceny cases reported in the county during the past few days, James Lawrence, Augustus Chance were sentenced to the roads for three months, the sentences to begin at the direction of the court at any time within the next two years. The sentences were suspended upon the payment of \$50 fines and costs. Edwards received a similar sentence, suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine, plus costs.

In the case in which Robert Andrews, Jr., and Wiley Lee Jones were charged with removing crops without paying the landlord, Andrews pleaded guilty. Jones was adjudged guilty, and each was sentenced to the roads for three months, the sentences to begin at the direction of the court at any time during the next two years. Each of the defendants was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with the theft of a saw and an axe, Clinton (Bud) Clark pleaded not guilty. Adjudged guilty, he was sentenced to the roads for sixty days.

The case in which Floyd Sydney Nickerson was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, was not prosed.

Thomas Bell, pleading guilty of passing a school bus while discharging passengers, was given a 30-day road sentence, suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs and the surrender of his operator's license for four months.

E. Whitford Hardison, adjudged guilty of drunken driving, was fined \$100 plus costs. Notice of

Commission In First Meeting On Zoning Plan

Placed Before Public For Discussion

Williamston's new zoning commission held its first official meeting last night when its member studied a map for the proposed zoning of the town.

The map prepared by Mr. Leigh Wilson of the North Carolina League of Municipalities was altered slightly by unanimous suggestion of the members, including Mrs. Edna Bondurant and Messrs. John Hatton Gurganus, W. B. Gaylord and G. P. Hall. A fifth member, Mr. Walter Martin, was out of town.

The zoning plan is advanced on a long-range program and alters no existing conditions. It is merely a guide for the future and creates no hardships on anyone. The broad purpose behind the plan is stated in section 1, as follows:

"In" . . . to lessen congestion in the streets; to secure safety from fire, panic, and other dangers; to promote health and the general welfare; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to facilitate the adequate provisions of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements; to conserve the value of buildings and encourage the most appropriate use of land throughout the corporate area, all in accordance with a comprehensive plan . . ."

The plan proposes certain requirements to be met by future builders, and blocks certain types of construction in certain areas.

However, the plan cannot condemn or move existing establishments of any kind. For instance, an industrial plant in a residential area cannot be forced to move. It merely blocks the location of business construction or industrial plants in certain areas. While it sets out certain areas for business or industrial purposes, the plan does not block residential projects in those areas.

Adjustments are provided in the plan for certain conditions, but before those adjustments may be made a public hearing is ordered and all issues aired before the proper authorities.

Before the zoning plan is formally adopted it must be submitted for discussion in a public meeting. If no objections are offered, the survey is subject to adoption by the town board of commissioners.

Peace Officers Fill Positions

Meeting in Robersonville Tuesday evening, the Martin-Washington County Peace Officers' Association elected officers for the new year.

Chief of Police P. W. Brown of Plymouth was elected to succeed Sheriff M. W. Holloman of this county as president of the organization. Corporal M. C. Byrum is the new vice president, and Deputy Sheriff D. A. Roberson was named secretary. Patrolman B. W. Parker continues as treasurer.

The executive board includes Sheriff M. W. Holloman of this county and Officer George Ross of Robersonville, and Officer Foy Davenport of Plymouth and Patrolman Carl Gilchrist of Plymouth.

Kindergarten Is Operating Again

The community kindergarten resumed activities on January 4, with an enrollment of 27. The enrollment has been higher than last year's.

Following the November health check by Miss Mary Taylor and her co-workers from the health department, the children will be weighed and measured again this month.

Plans are being formulated for a health and safety project with older group making visits to the fire department, police station, school, and health department.

Those desiring to enter a child in the local kindergarten may do so at any time if the child is at least four years old.

Tax Listings Off To Good Start In Martin County

first few days of this month, and is holding up well, according to Tax Supervisor M. L. Peck.

"The property owners are responding splendidly to the call, and if the response is maintained there'll be no mad rush toward the end of the listing period," Mr. Peck said.

It is too early to appraise the listings, but it is believed that the values this year will show an increase over those of 1954. The early reports show no great increase in home electrical appliances with the exception of television sets. It is fairly certain that TVs will remain a fairly sizable item in the county.

Fifteen Speeders In County Court Monday Morning

Speeding Not Only Dangerous
But Also A Costly
Business

Fifteen alleged speeders were in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday morning, and Judge H. O. Peele, presiding, imposed fines in the amount of \$70. The fines ranged up to \$25.

Although there were no excessive or large fines, the speeders are learning, apparently the hard way, that speeding is a costly business. It has long been recognized as dangerous. In addition to the \$70 fines, the court costs added \$345.75, boosting the total bill to \$415.75.

Quite a few defendants choose to post cash bonds with justices of the peace and not report for trial in person. They are tried in their absences and bonds are forfeited.

Bennett Griffin of Everetts was taxed with the costs for speeding 40 miles an hour in a 20-mile zone. Pleading guilty of speeding 70 miles an hour, Roosevelt Andrews was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Carl Edward Branton of RFD 2, Bethel, pleaded guilty of speeding 70 miles an hour and was fined \$10, plus court costs.

The case in which John R. Freeman of RFD 1, Colerain was charged with speeding 55 miles an hour in a 35-mile zone was not prosed.

John G. Hunter of Hertford was fined \$25, plus costs for speeding 70 miles an hour.

Charged with speeding 70 miles an hour, F. Allen Whitfield of RFD 1, Oak City, was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs by the following defendants, all of whom pleaded guilty of exceeding the speed limits:

Herbert G. Swinson of Rocky Mount, Walter W. Eaton of Joe, Florida, Charles H. Palmer of RFD 4, Elizabeth City, L. C. Purvis of RFD 2, Robersonville, Azrie Martin Whitehurst of Durham, Wade M. Wilkes of Hamden, Connecticut, Thomas Tatum of Statesville, Chas. P. Harrison of New Bern, and Johnnie Lee Hollis of RFD 1, Robersonville.

Indications Point To Half Holidays

All the votes are not yet in, but present indications point to a half-holiday schedule beginning possibly next week. An official announcement will be made later.

Up until noon today all but three of the votes cast favored the half-holiday schedule for the year around excepting the tobacco marketing and fall-Christmas seasons.

New Cars Well Received Here

The new model cars, entering the market from day to day, are being well received locally, according to reports coming from the dealers.

Sales are holding up unusually well, and the waiting period has been reduced, it was learned. Large crowds are attending the showings.

Department Here Plans Town-Wide Fire Inspection

vey In Single Day

No definite arrangements have been made, but a town-wide property inspection for fire hazards is being considered here, it was learned following a special meeting of members of the Williamston Fire Department Tuesday evening.

Representing the Stock Fire Insurance Field Club of North Carolina, James F. Robertson explained that upon the request his company would send a team of possibly more than thirty men to the town to make the survey. Inspections, it was pointed out, would be centered on buildings used by the general public, including schools, churches, hospitals, stores, offices, factories and other similar establishments. The inspection team merely points out fire hazards and offers suggestions to reduce those hazards, it was explained.

In addition to the inspections the team will stress fire prevention by showing pictures and giving short talks in the schools.

The proposed inspection is not advanced with the idea of uncovering any violation of the fire regulations, but is designed to lessen fire dangers and make property and life safer.

During his stay here last Tuesday, Mr. Robertson showed two excellent films, supporting the need for greater safety and fire prevention. He showed one of the films to the regular meeting of the Rotary Club which is planning to sponsor the inspection along with the fire department.

The company representative offered some shocking figures about fire losses and the great impact those losses have on the economy of hundreds of communities in the United States each year. The ghastly toll of human life taken by fires each year was reviewed, along with the property loss which is approximating a billion dollars every year.

Tuesday evening the films were shown to the members of the Williamston Fire Department at the fire station.

Mr. Robertson said that the films are available for use in any club meeting, that special films had been made for showing before rural clubs.

Drop Twenty-Six Pupils From Roll

Mainly as a result of residence shifting, the local school dropped the names of twenty-six pupils and added the names of thirteen others to the rolls during the past few days, Principal B. G. Stewart said this morning. Most of the losses were confined to the elementary department, it was explained.

A complete report could not be had immediately, but several other schools in the county lost quite a few pupils following the shift in residences, the losses being described as fairly large.

No schools have reported a gain in pupils.

It is possible that the local schools will recuperate their losses as the term progresses.

Fees Adding To County Income

Fees, including court costs and fines, added a substantial amount to the county treasury last month, according to reports filed with the commissioners a few days ago.

The county court accounted for \$4,081.80, including \$2,190.00 in fines. Superior court costs added \$122.90 and miscellaneous fees in the court clerk's office added \$331.44.

Reporting one of the busiest months in a long time, Register of Deeds J. Sam Gettings reported \$755.60 in fees. Marriage license sales amounted to \$168.00, and the issuance of certificates added \$32.25, the remainder being traceable to recordings.

The sheriff's office reported \$349.50, most of that revenue representing fees charged for serving various types of papers.

Funeral Friday For Mrs. W. C. Gardner

Williams District Early Wednesday

"We are lining up for the campaign and the first response is encouraging," Chairman Marvin Baker said in commenting on the 1954 March of Dimes in this county.

The Chairman said that the school people were cooperating splendidly everywhere he had visited up to date, and that he planned to complete the line-up for the drive possibly late today or tomorrow.

New Buick To Go On Display Here

The new 1954 Buick will go on display in the showrooms of Charles H. Jenkins and Company tomorrow, Friday, January 8th.

According to representatives of the local firm the instant a person sees the new 1954 Buicks they will realize something sensational has happened in automobile styling.

James Bailey Peel and Rudolph Saunders said yesterday these new models "have something vastly more than the usual model changeover. Here is justly more than could be done by just warming over what Buick had before. Here is something accomplished by going far beyond artful facelighting."

In describing the new Buicks the local dealers stated they are built with power-head pistons that boost gasoline mileage. "It has phenomenal horsepower for its weight and price—a car with more real thrust per dollar than any Buick ever built."

Both Messrs. Peel and Saunders extend a special invitation to the public to inspect this new car. Not only will they have the new Buicks on display but Pontiac's new Star Chief will also be shown tomorrow.

TB Survey Off To Good Start

The tuberculosis survey was off to a good start in this county yesterday when two mobile X-ray units opened for business, one at the basket factory and the other in front of the Fashion Shop in Williamston. The factory unit took 142 pictures, while 343 visited the unit up town.

The unit on the main street here will be stationed at the spot through January 23. Today, the other unit moved to Oak City for a three-day stay. Next Tuesday it will be in Hamilton for a day. Beginning next Wednesday the unit will be located in Jamesville for two days, and after one day in Bear Grass on January 15 it will be stationed in Robersonville through January 23.

Reports from the first pictures should start coming back within the next week or ten days. During the meantime, every citizen 15 years or older should have his or her chest X-rayed.

The units are open from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Dodge Secretary For The Cleaners

Raleigh—Robert E. Kizer, resident of the North Carolina Association of Launderers and Cleaners, announced the appointment of Fred Dodge of Raleigh as Executive Secretary of the Association, and public relations work in North Carolina, was formerly connected with New York and Philadelphia advertising agencies. He is well-known for a state-wide syndicated column in weekly newspapers entitled "60 Second Sermons". This column also appears in Ohio, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida papers.

The North Carolina Association of Launderers and Cleaners was established in 1907 and is devoted to the improvement of laundering and cleaning practices among its membership.

Williamston officer of the Association is R. Gaylord Harrison, Director.

Few Changes In Business Field

While there may be some pending, no changes have been made in the business field locally so far during the new year, according to a spot survey made this week. A few changes have been made in personnel here and there, but it is fairly apparent that local operators plan to maintain the status quo, for the most part, in 1954.

Morris Stalls is moving his grocery from Sunnyside to the Wier building on Washington St. There has been and still is much moving among tenant farmers in the county, most of them confining their movements to within the county boundaries.