

Call Twenty-Six Cases In County Court On Monday

Fines Rdd Up To \$580 And Several Sentenced To Serve Road Terms

Judge H. O. Peele called twenty-six cases during a short session of the Martin County Record-ers Court last Monday morning, imposing fines in the amount of \$580 and meting out several road terms.

The session attracted only a small audience and was completed before the noon hour.

Proceedings:
Pleading guilty of issuing a worthless check, W. H. Joyner had judgment suspended upon the payment of the court cost and the amount of the check.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle after his driver's license had been revoked, William Jasper Page pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for one year.

Willie Ampley was fined \$25, plus costs, when he pleaded guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

John Douglas Howell was taxed with the court costs for speeding 65 miles an hour. He pleaded guilty.

Bernice and Andrew Hudgins were charged with the possession of non-tax paid liquor. The action against Bernice Hudgins was not pressed, and Andrew pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to the roads for six months, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of a \$250 fine and court costs.

L. D. Lanier was found not guilty of drunken driving.

Pleading guilty of speeding 50 miles an hour in a 35-mile zone, James Kebb was taxed with the court costs.

Maintaining he was innocent, Lonza Harrison, Jr., was fined \$100, plus costs, when he was adjudged guilty of drunken driving. He loses his operator's license for a year.

Lacy Roy Batton, pleading guilty of speeding 85 miles an hour, was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, John Brown was fined \$25, plus costs.

Jasimus Wilson Grandy, charged with speeding 65 miles an hour, pleaded guilty and was fined \$25, plus costs.

Charged with speeding 45 miles an hour in a 25-mile zone in a truck, Jode Bridges, Jr., was taxed with the cost.

Charged with careless and reckless driving, S. T. Jackson pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the road term upon the condition the defendant surrender his operator's license for a year and pay a \$25 fine.

Facing the court in two cases, one in which he was charged with an assault with a deadly weapon and the other charging him with assaulting a female, Clyde Silverthorne pleaded not guilty and was found not guilty. Judge Peele had warned the defendant at a previous session that if he (Silverthorne) appeared in court again, a suspended sentence would be invoked. The defendant drew ninety days on the roads under the terms of a judgment handed down on January 11, this year.

Booker Taft Smithwick, pleading guilty of operating a motor vehicle after his driver's license had been revoked, was fined \$25, plus costs.

Charged with public drunkenness and violating the liquor laws, George Alfred Hardison pleaded guilty.

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FOLLOW-UP

Following up the current tuberculosis survey, the Martin County Board of Health is asking a number of those who have had their chest X-rayed to report to the health center, corner of Harrell and Smithwick Streets in Williamston, for further examination. It is possible that some of the group who are in line for further examination will want to report to their personal physicians. In this case, the health department asks that it be notified.

Postal Receipts In Local Office Show Sizable Gain

Williamston's post office handled a record business last year when its stamp sales amounted to \$55,096.22. The \$4,176.50 increase represents a net gain of 8.41 percent. The percentage gain over 1952 business was about the largest reported by the office here in a number of years.

While increased rates had their influence on the 1953 total, Postmaster W. E. Dunn pointed out that most of the gain is traceable to a large volume of business in general.

After reporting a gain of about \$600 in its stamp sales during the first 1953 quarter, the office slipped a notch in the second quarterly period. The loss was more than offset in the third quarter and then the office went on to report

a record business and gain in the final quarter of last year. Stamp sales jumped from \$15,826.11 during the last three months of 1952 to \$18,455.31 in the final period of 1953, a gain of nearly \$3,000 in the period.

While stamp sales showed a sizable gain, money order business showed a slight decrease, dropping from \$313,913.23 in 1952 to \$312,059.90 in 1953. The decrease in mail order business was fairly consistent throughout the year, falling a few hundred dollars each quarterly period. The money order window is still handling a sizable business. At the same time the parcel post division is having its troubles. It was learned that numerous parcels are held in the office for weeks and that many are returned from time to time.

DELAYED

Unfavorable weather has delayed the preparation of tobacco plant beds in this county. While the delay is creating no serious problem, a few farmers are getting a bit nervous over the delay, and are trying to prepare their beds even though the ground is too wet.

A few farmers prepared their beds before the weather got too bad week before last. A few sowed their seed Tuesday, but a majority of the growers are sitting out the bad weather, hoping there'll be a favorable break between now and early February.

Injured In Wreck On Country Road

Three persons were injured, one of them painfully, late yesterday afternoon in an automobile accident on a rural road running from the old Biggs School house to Highway 17. Suffering minor cuts and a back injury, J. D. Price, Sr., continues in a local hospital. Rommie Wynne and C. B. Ayers received minor cuts but were able to leave the hospital following treatment. Dallas Wynne and John A. Harrison, riding in the car, were said not to have been injured.

Said to have been driving Price's 1953 Mercury, Tommie Wynne lost control of the machine in a curve and two or three flips were made before the vehicle came to a stop.

No official estimate on the damage could be had immediately, but one report placed the property loss at between \$800 and \$1,000.

One of the occupants was pinned down in the car and was released only after help rushed to the scene and turned the vehicle over.

Wreck Spot On Jamesville Road

Four cars went out of control at the same spot on Highway 64 about one mile this side of Jamesville during the course of about thirty minutes last evening. No one was hurt and damage was limited to two vehicles.

Driving a 1949 Ford, Joseph Price Wilson of Williamston lost control when the car ran into a muddy surface on the highway. The machine skidded and turned over, causing about \$200 damage.

While the wreck was being cleared another car skidded at the same spot on the highway and went into a ditch without resulting damage. A third car skidded and turned almost around on the highway, but the driver got his bearings and continued without further trouble.

At 8:30 o'clock, Lloyd Wayne Modlin of Wenoona skidded his 1952 Chevrolet into a 1953 Ford stopped at the scene of the first accident by Archie Allen Lilly of RFD 1, Jamesville. No one was hurt and damage was limited to about \$50 on the Chevrolet, a member of the highway patrol, investigating the accidents, reported.

CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

The Hotel George Reynolds has been closed temporarily for repairs. It has not been announced when the hostelry will be reopened. A few regular roomers continue in the building.

Polio March On Town-Wide Basis

Plans have been completed for the Mothers' March on Polio on a town-wide basis it was announced today. Mrs. Cleo Tyner is directing the march for the color citizens and the following will make the canvass Friday night of next week:

North Sycamore Street, Mrs. Waddell Brown; Little and Hill Street, Mrs. Ruth Slade; Roberson Street, Mrs. Sophronia Latham and Mrs. Annie B. Bell; Reddick Street, Mrs. Cleo Finch; White Street, Mrs. Birdia M. Brown; Broad and Franklin Street, Mrs. Dorothy R. Bagley; Hyman, Center and Martin Streets, Mrs. Alice Harris; Rhodes Street, Mrs. Mattie Ormond; Biggs Main and Roanoke Avenue, Mrs. Beatrice Rogers; Henderson Street, Mrs. Mary Rogers Brown; Morrison and Peel Street, Mrs. Olivia Lambson; Faulk Street, Mrs. Addie Lee Armiston; Hunter and Rail Road Street, Mrs. Mollie Gorham.

South Sycamore and Slade Streets, Mrs. Sarah Huff; Pearl Street, Mrs. Sue Green; Elm Street, Mrs. Rosanna H. Johnson; Washington Street, Madams Artie Manson and Evelyn Moore; Church Street, Mrs. Mary Mizelle; Griffin Street, Mrs. Mary Joe.

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Local Committee Studying Schools

Meeting last Tuesday evening, the local school committee studied the needs for an expansion program in the several schools here. Details of the study could not be learned immediately, but it was reported that the committee proposes the construction of ten classrooms, a vocational shop and enlargement of one or more buildings at the E. J. Hayes school. Two additional class rooms, a vocational shop and gymnasium are needed at the Williamston High School, according to a report heard following the Tuesday evening meeting held in the office of Attorney R. L. Coburn, chairman of the group.

It is planned to submit the proposed program to the Martin County Board of Education on or about the first of next month.

Similar programs of needs are being prepared throughout the county in anticipation of bringing the school plants up to standard in all districts.

Neighbors Aiding Stricken Family

Just about all their earthly belongings destroyed in a fire that swept their home in Griffins Township last Sunday morning, the Joseph Lilley family this week was assured substantial aid by neighbors and other friends throughout the section.

It was reported yesterday that between \$1,500 and \$2,000 in cash had been contributed and that approximately enough lumber had been placed on the site for a new home.

Spearheading the movement to provide a helping hand for the family, the Farm Life Ruitan Club is making splendid progress in lining up volunteer labor for the construction work, it was reported.

Mrs. James Bowen Died In Hospital At Durham Today

Funeral Arrangements Had Not Been Completed This Morning

Mrs. Carrie Rogerson Peaks died in a Durham hospital this morning at 7:30 o'clock. She had been in declining health for several years, but continued active until Tuesday of last week when she suffered a stroke at her home here on West Main Street. She was removed immediately to a local hospital, and transferred the following day to Duke. Sunday, she suffered a second attack and little hope was held for her recovery.

Mrs. Bowen was born in Bear Grass Township 58 years ago and spent most of her life there. In early womanhood she was married to Wheeler Peaks who died eleven years ago. She continued to make her home in Bear Grass until January 1, 1946, when she was married to Mr. James D. Bowen, making her home here since that time.

A devoted wife and mother, she played the role of a good neighbor and friend to all. She was a member of the Rose of Sharon Free Will Baptist Church for years, and was faithful in its service as long as her health permitted.

Surviving are two sons, Arthur and Jodie Peaks, both of Bear Grass Township; seven daughters, Mrs. Surreatha Phelps of Cross Roads Township, Mrs. Ruby Bonds, Mrs. Mollie Whitehurst.

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Youth Trapped In Local Store

Leisurely attending to his own business in a secluded corner, Paul Williams, 15-year-old Williams Township youth, was unintentionally trapped in the Martin Supply Company store on Washington Street here yesterday when the doors of the business were closed about 12:30 for the observance of the town's first half holiday of the year.

Learning his plight, the youth went to the front and attracted the attention of a passerby and Mr. Irving Griffin, one of the owners, returned and let him out.

The half-holiday schedule was uniformly observed here yesterday.

Rotarians Elect Officers Tuesday

At their regular meeting held at the Switch Tuesday noon, Williamston Rotarians elected officers for the new year beginning in July.

A. L. Jameson was moved up from vice president to president, succeeding Robt. H. Cowen. F. M. Manning was named vice president and N. K. Harrison was retained as secretary and treasurer.

The elections were by acclamation. C. T. Roberson, holding perfect attendance record, was named sergeant-at-arms. The board of directors includes W. M. Tetterton, Wm. Everetts, Dan Sharpe and Asa Crawford.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

After starting the first few days of the current year with a twelve-accident bang, motorists traveled through the second week with a record still far from perfect but far better than the one recorded during the first ten days.

The second-week record looks good in this county when compared with the 20-death count in other parts of the State during the past week-end.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time

2nd Week		Wrecks Inj'd Killed Damage		
1954	6	1	0	\$ 785
1953	5	0	0	580
Comparisons To Date				
1954	18	12	0	\$8,485
1953	20	3	0	4,060

A Look Ahead For Agriculture This Year In The State

Prices This Fall Expected To Hold To About The Same Level Of 1953

Prices farmers receive for their products in 1954 are expected to average close to 1953 prices. This is the consensus of economists in the Agricultural Marketing Service, after a careful analysis of business conditions, expected trends in employment and income and purchasing power, together with prospective supplies of agricultural products.

No marked change in the domestic demand for food and other agricultural products appears with 1953. Also, foreign takings of farm products, while sharply reduced in the 1952-53 marketing season from other recent years, are expected to continue at about present levels over the next year or so.

Supplies of most farm products are expected to continue large in 1954. Carry-over stocks may increase further at the end of the current marketing year, but a large part will be held by the Government, under the price support programs.

Acreage restrictions will bring smaller wheat and cotton crops; and price supports for these and several other commodities will continue to cushion the impact of large supplies on farm cotton, peanuts, some types of tobacco and rice will continue at 90 percent of parity for 1954 crops since marketing quotas for individual crops were approved by growers. The support levels for oats, barley, rye, and grain sorghums will be continued at 85 percent of parity. But because of lower parity prices, support prices will be a little lower for each crop except rye, which will be the same. The price support for flax-seed will be at 70 percent of the mid-September parity price, compared with 80 percent of parity for the 1953 crop. Support levels for other commodities have not yet been announced.

Unless drought next year forces liquidation of herds, cattle prices may continue relatively stable, close to current levels. Current indications suggest that marketings of hogs in 1954 are not likely to be increased until the second half of the year. Price prospects for hogs are fairly favorable, at least through the first half of 1954.

Farmers' production costs were reduced slightly in 1953 and may decline further in 1954. Prices paid by farmers including interest, taxes, and wage rates held relatively stable in the first 9 months of 1953, but at levels about 3 percent below 1952. Most of the decline from last year was due to lower prices for feeder livestock and feed. Prices of these major items are not likely to change much from current reduced levels. Prices of fertilizer and other industrial products purchased by farmers have stabilized in recent months and probably will change very little in 1954. Price concessions, however, are likely to be

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'Child Welfare' P-T.A. Subject

The first meeting of the new calendar year for the Williamston Parents-Teachers Association will be held in the High School auditorium here on Monday evening at 7:45. Attendance before the holidays was excellent and President Asa Crawford is urging the members to start the new year right by coming out Monday evening when an interesting program has been arranged.

'Child Welfare' will be the subject of the program and the speaker will be Mrs. Holley Mack Bell, child welfare specialist of Bertie County. The former Clara Bond, Mrs. Bell was for a while a case worker, with the Martin County Welfare Department and is well known here. She is an excellent speaker.

Other features of the program will be a discussion of the piano purchase, the awarding of \$1.00 to the person holding the lucky seat down front and center and the presenting of a door prize to the holder of a lucky number. This is the first meeting of the association since last November.

Little Time Left To List Property For County Taxes

Little time is left for listing property for current year taxation in this county. Since the last day of January, ordinarily the end of the listing period, falls on Sunday, Tax Supervisor M. L. Peel announced this week that listings will not be subject to penalty, in accordance with law.

While the lists are far from complete at this time, the work is progressing more rapidly than it did a year ago, according to the supervisor. Several districts have their lists more than 80 percent complete, it was learned.

No definite trend in values has been established in the listings as of this date, but several townships are apparently finding it

difficult to maintain their old valuation schedules. The marked reduction in the price of old automobiles is tearing down the lists, it was explained. Old model cars, including the 1953 models, are showing up in the lists from \$300 to \$400 and more in some cases lower than they were last year. However, it is believed that the new cars will partially offset the loss in old car listings. It is estimated that new car listings, including the 1953 models, will run up to close to a thousand. Several townships are reporting right much new construction, indicating that the total values should top those of 1953 by a small margin, at least.

Manufacturing Company Idle

No official report could be had immediately, but according to information reaching here the Martin Manufacturing Company suspended, temporarily at least, part of most of its operations at its current plant in Robersonville this week. Only a few persons were working yesterday, it was reported.

It was reported that orders, particularly those handled by or through mail order firms, had been canceled and that some orders had been returned from points as far away as California. The company in an effort to maintain production was said to be introducing a new type of product, but it is not certain that the new type of dress will find a large and ready market.

No authentic reports have been released, but it is fairly apparent that unemployment is mounting in this area, late reports stating that a large lumber mill has closed down in Bertie County, and that a fairly sizable number of workers had been dropped by plants scattered here and there throughout the county and area.

Wreck Big Liquor Still In County

A large illicit liquor distillery was wrecked in Griffins Township not far from the Beaufort County line yesterday afternoon by ABC Officers Cecil Bullock and Wiley Craft and Deputy Roy Peel.

The plant was equipped with 34 200-gallon capacity fermenters of the hogshead type, six 50-gallon doublers, two 100-gallon super heaters, two 100 gallon collets, a new upright boiler and two 200-gallon wood stills. The officers poured out 6,800 gallons of beer and about fifty gallons of white liquor. They found at the plant about forty cases of one-half gallon jars and about fifty pounds of damaged sugar.

It was the twelfth plant of about that size destroyed by officers in that area during the past nine months.

The plant was not in operation when the road was made.

Purchase Sunny Side Business

Messrs J. C. Coltrain and D. L. Roberson have purchased the complete stock of the Sunny Side Market formerly owned and operated by Morris Stalls and will still operate under the same name. After renovations the firm was taken over by the new owners this week.

The two young men, Coltrain and Roberson, have been in dealing with the public for a number of years in this vicinity, and are well known for their courtesy and service to their customers and friends. They have announced that they will carry a complete line of fancy and staple groceries and only the best quality meats. New stock and fixtures are planned to be added in the future.

Although no formal opening was planned, Coltrain and Roberson extend a welcome to everyone to shop at the Sunny Side Grocery and Market and assure the best possible service.

Mr. Morris Stalls and Mr. John Vanlandingham will have their formal opening of their new store in the building formerly occupied by Wier Furniture Exchange in the near future.

FUND CHAIRMAN



Hugh M. Martin, local attorney, this week was named fund drive chairman for the annual Red Cross drive in the Martin County chapter. Mr. Martin plans to meet with chapter officials next week and map plans for the drive which get under way in March. He will be assisted in the drive by Wheeler M. Manning, co-chairman. It was announced.

Corporal Byrum Speaks To Club

Stressing the need for "Christianity In Driving" as an answer to the appalling death and accident rate on our highways, Corporal M. C. Byrum spoke to the members of the Williamston Woman's Club and their guests Tuesday night on "Highway Safety".

Quoting from the Bible, Corp. Byrum used his text, Nahum 2-4 "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broadways; they shall seem like torches, they shall run like lightnings" and from the Ten Commandments, "Thou shall not kill", "Thou shall not steal".

The safety of the public is of great concern to the State Highway Patrol, and Corp. Byrum warned against stealing the right of way of the other drivers with improper passing, higher speeds than permitted by the law, and the use of blinding lights.

He also told the audience that we teach so much to our children in the home but neglect to teach the principles of safe driving, bicycle riding and walking along the highway.

Following the talk by Corp. Byrum the film "A Day In Court", very vividly portrayed the basic rules of which he spoke. Stickers bearing the slogan "Courtesy is Contagious" were given to each person present as suggested in the film.

Mr. McBrayer of the V. E. & P. Co., showed the film which had been borrowed from the U. S. Navy by the Virginia Electric and Power Company for this program.

Two Marriage Licenses Are Issued In County

Two marriage licenses were issued by Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger in this county last week end.

One of the licenses went to Rufus C. Barber of North Houghton Street, Williamston, and Dolores Santos of San Luis Obispo, California, and the other to Willie Edward Baker of Hamilton and Dorothy Virginia Brown of Oak City.

Funeral Today At The Home for Mrs. A. J. Manning, Sr.

Well Known Resident Dies Suddenly Here Last Tuesday Evening

Mrs. Blanche Hodges Manning, well-known and greatly beloved local citizen, died suddenly at her home on Simmons Avenue Tuesday evening at 9:25 o'clock. Recovering rapidly from a hip fracture suffered last December 10, she had just retired for the night and apparently was getting along all right. A few minutes later she complained of a pain in her chest, but assured members of the family that she would be all right. Other members of the family were called and reached the bedside along with a doctor just before the end. She had been in a wheel chair that evening and chatted with neighbors.

The daughter of the late James W. and Amanda Stancill Hodges, she was born in the Old Ford community of Beaufort County 76 years ago on August 24, 1877, and spent her early life there. Following her marriage to Asa J. Manning on January 1, 1900, she made her home in Ayden where he taught in Carolina Christian College until 1904 when they moved to Jamesville. After teaching in the schools there for two years, they went to the old home in Farm Life where he farmed and engaged in ministerial work, locating in Williamston in 1915. Mr. Manning died in July, 1927, and for a number of years she and a daughter made their home on Simmons Avenue.

In early girlhood, Mrs. Manning joined the church at Old Ford, marking the beginning of a life devoted to religious activities and to the finer ideals of life. Possessed of a noble soul, she turned back wrath with gentleness and in her humble walk through life set a perfect pattern worthy of others to follow. In times of stress and even in adversity, she lived for others, always lending words of encouragement that pierced the darkness and opened the way for a brighter tomorrow. She was a charter member of the Maple Grove Christian Church and figured prominently in its support, maintaining a great interest at all times in religious programs in her other adopted communities down through the years. Asking little for herself, she, by her goodness, enriched the lives of others and left her home and adopted communities better places in which to live. She gave freely of her time and talent to all worthy causes and played the role of a real friend to everyone.

Surviving are four sons, James C. Robert E., A. J. and Chas. H. Manning, two daughters, Miss Ruth Manning and Mrs. W. H. Sessoms, all of Williamston; fifteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and a sister, Mrs. L. H. Ross, of Washington.

Funeral services are being conducted at the home this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by the Rev. John L. Goff. Interment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Make Plans For Truck Terminal

Plans are rapidly shaping up for locating a truck terminal here for one of the major truck line operators in this section of the State.

Meeting Tuesday evening in the Williamston Boosters office, members of the newly formed industrial commission called for two plans for a building, and it is believed one of the plans will be adopted. The project details are to be announced following another meeting of the commission within the near future, Booster Executive Secretary Ed Grady said.

HOG KILLINGS

It is estimated that hog killings on the farms in this county are about half completed, reports stating that the task is possibly eighty percent complete in some communities.

While most farmers are killing and packing a sufficient supply of meat for home use, little surplus is being packed away on the farms. Surplus meat is being sold on the hoof.