

Schedule Hearing At 7:30 Tonight In Robbery Cases

Eight Youths Involved In One or More of Thirteen Three-County Break-ins

Seven teen-age boys, all of or near Williamston, will be given preliminary hearings before Justice of the Peace W. M. Tetterton in the court room here this evening at 7:30 o'clock in connection with a series of four robberies in this county. Warrents, involving several of the group in eight or more robberies in Beaufort County, are being prepared for service, possibly at the close of the hearing here this evening.

Warrants have been drawn as follows:

James Moore, William Roberson, William Hardison and James H. Price are charged with having broken into Dewey Leggett's corn mill in Bear Grass Township last December 22 and carrying away about sixty bushels of corn, valued at about \$100.

On January 6, William and Harold Barnes, James Moore, James H. Price, Edward Reason, Bobbie Mims and William Roberson are charged with breaking into the Everetts school and removing goods valued at about \$50.

Ten days later, James Moore, William Roberson, Albert Cherry, Edward Reason, William Barnes, William Hardison and James H. Price are charged with breaking into Henry Thomas' filling station at the Sherrod farm near Hamilton and carrying away goods valued at \$100.

Onward Reason, Bobbie Mims, James Moore, William Roberson, William Barnes are charged with having broken into Noah Roberson's store in Farm Life on January 29 and carrying away cash and goods valued at about \$350.

A late report from the sheriff's office states that some of the boys have been connected with at least eight robberies in Beaufort County, and one in Washington County, near Plymouth.

An outdoor motor, stolen at a camp near the "Y" in Beaufort County on January 29, was recovered in Conroy Creek, about five miles from Plymouth. Other goods, stolen at various places, has been recovered and officers in the three counties are still searching for more.

Another radio was recovered last week-end, and a wrist watch, the owner of which has not been determined, was turned into the sheriff's office. Sheriff M. W. Holloman said one of the boys claims he bought the watch from a drunk in a local pool room for \$2 and sold it for \$5, the last purchaser surrendering it voluntarily when he learned of the robberies.

Moore, Roberson and Hardison are at liberty under \$1,000 bonds, and Harold Barnes was not jailed. Albert Cherry entered the service last week and has not been returned.

Sheriff M. W. Holloman stated this week that the Reason youth was not dishonorably discharged from the service.

The officer, commenting on the serious crime wave instituted in the three-county area during recent weeks, said that the parents had cooperated splendidly in clearing up the details of the robberies.

At the same time it was learned that conditions in some of the homes invited lawlessness. Two of the boys' fathers were said to drink freely. In other homes the boys fared all right. In still another, unemployment plagued the household, it was said.

In most of the cases the youths allegedly wandered around all night and slept and maintained headquarters in pool rooms by day, working little at any time.

Firemen Called To Bailey Farm Saturday

Firemen were called to the Bailey farm, two miles south of here last Saturday morning at 11:20 o'clock when a wood pile fire threatened other property. The fire, fed by lightwood poles, was confined to the wood pile.

Firemen received their second call of the day when fire, starting in an old automobile, threatened the parking lot at Parker's junk yard on West Main Street shortly after six o'clock Saturday evening. No damage was reported.

Work Advancing Rapidly On U. S. 17 Truck Route

Started last November, work on U. S. 17 truck route around Williamston is now going forward rapidly with the possibility that the project will be ready for use by or even before next June.

All of the route has been cleared and most of the tiling in the terraces has been laid. Most of the ravines have been filled in, and work was started on a fill across the lower end on the Peele farm.

A representative of the J. S. Hill Construction Company of Washington, the contracting firm, stated last week-end that the fill across the Peele property would require approximately 27,000

yards of dirt, that they were now moving in the dirt now at the rate of about 500 yards each day. The operation will be speeded up within the next few days, weather permitting, the company representative explained. The fill will be as high as seven feet in some places, it was learned.

It is possible that the truck route will present a problem near the bridge where the new link crosses the road leading to the Sinclair Oil Company plant, and to the Standard Fertilizer plant, not to mention the railroad track. The track is to be raised about three feet where the road is to cross it.

FORUM

A county-wide industrial forum is to be held in the county courthouse on Wednesday, February 17 at 10:30 o'clock, it was announced this week by Ed Grady, executive secretary of the Williamston Boosters.

A special invitation is being extended to county officials, mayors and other officials of the several towns, civic club leaders and other interested citizens.

The N. C. Department of Conservation and Development will send representatives to the meeting to discuss timely topics, Mr. Grady said.

Band Members Do Well At Greenville

Taking part in the band clinic at East Carolina College in Greenville last week-end along with representatives of 33 other high school bands from East Carolina were six members of the Williamston band.

Wave band turned in creditable performances and brought further recognition to the local band program.

Director Jack Butler was pleased with the positions accorded local musicians in the clinic concert. Lib Britton was given first chair in the cornet section, the first time this spot in the clinic band has gone to a girl, Jean Coltrin drew first chair in alto clarinets, Lee Handy, reporting Saturday, was in the first saxophone chair, Janet Ross was first in the second stand of trombones, Jesse Marie Corey, first chair in second group tenor sax, Sandra Margolis, first stand of second clarinets.

Saturday afternoon a bus load of band members went over from Williamston with Miss Maude Thomas and Bill Glover as chaperones and a number of band parents and friends attended the concert Saturday night.

Work is now under way for the Annual Spring Concert to be presented by the Green Wave Concert Band on Thursday, April 1.

Farm Ownership Borrowers Meet

The Farm Ownership Borrowers of the Farmers Home Demonstration will hold their annual meeting Friday, February 12, in the court room of the Martin County courthouse.

The program for the morning will consist of record book summaries, recommendations for crops for 1954, home food supply, and 1954 outlook.

The afternoon will be devoted entirely to disease and insect control, and improved varieties and cultivation methods for tobacco, peanuts, and corn. The public is cordially invited to come at 1:15 P. M. and see the films to be shown on the disease and insect control.

John Deere Day Here Planned For Thursday

The Lindsley Implement Company is planning a big John Deere day here on Thursday of this week, it was announced by Mr. L. P. Lindsley, manager.

Starting at 10:30 that morning, the company will show two special pictures in the Viccar Theater, and in the afternoon a special demonstration on what's new in 1954 machinery will be held at Skewarkey.

Booked For Knife Assault Saturday

Two colored men, Jesse Johnson and Elijah Manning, have been booked for trial in the courts for alleged knife assaults last Saturday night and early Sunday morning.

Going to his rooming house on Jamesville Street Saturday evening, Johnson accused John Henry Pullen with occupying his bed. Said to have been intoxicated, Johnson rushed Pullen with a knife. Pullen ward off the blow with his arm and was painfully cut on the hand. Johnson is under \$100 bond for his appearance in the county court next Monday.

Enjoying a fish fry on Hunter Street about 1:30 o'clock Sunday morning, Manning climaxed an argument by driving a knife into the back of Robert Clayton Williams. A piece of the backbone was chipped away, and the victim continues in a local hospital. Manning is being held in jail pending the outcome of his victim's injury.

Flier Buzzes His Parents-Daughter

Local citizens got a mighty good look at and from fairly close range the Air Force's latest job, the Jet-47, yesterday morning when Major Joseph V. Johns "buzzed" his daughter, Jill, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Johns here.

Completing ten weeks of special flight training at a Florida base, the major was on a routine flight when he circled the town.

His daughter, attending school and making her home here during the past several months, will join him and her mother when the major returns to his base at Savannah, Georgia, later this month.

Six Million Cars Made Last Year

Figures for last year show 6,150,000 passenger cars and 1,209,000 trucks rolled off the assembly lines. This total was second only to the record production of 1950, when output was some 700,000 units higher.

Final 1953 figures show the retail market for new cars began to decrease shortly after the middle of the year, but the three major producers continued to produce and distribute cars at near-record volumes throughout the remainder of 1953. General Motors produced 2,800,000 cars during the year; Ford built 1,550,000, Chrysler built about 1,125,000.

Estimates of sales in 1954 vary, but the trade does not expect production to match that in 1953. Because new models have been out only a short time (some are just coming out), the competitive picture has not yet developed any trend in 1954.

With the automobile having become almost a necessity in the American way of life, the key to greater sales is still found in the same principle that produced the first mass-production facilities in the United States, the principle of selling more cars at lower prices, reducing unit profit but increasing the gross profit.

IMPROVING
Quite ill in a Richmond hospital for some time, Dr. James S. Rhodes, Sr., was reported this morning to be improving. However, it was stated that his appetite was poor.

Youth Critically Injured In Auto Accident Sunday

Murray Bellflower, 11, Continues In Hospital At Tarboro

One person was critically injured in a series of three automobile accidents on the highways in this county during the past week-end. Property damage was rather limited, and no other personal injuries were reported by members of the highway patrol.

Murray Bellflower, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bellflower, suffered a severe head injury, bruises and considerable shock when he was struck by a 1950 Ford driven by William Bullock, Jr., of Scotland Neck, on the Hamilton-Palmyra road about 5:45 o'clock Sunday evening. Bullock, accompanied by several members of his family, was driving toward Palmyra, about eight miles from Hamilton, and was being met by the Bellflower boy and a younger brother at the N. M. Hyman home. The Bellflower boys were on the ditch bank and just before the Bullock car reached them, the older boy ran into the road and into the path of the car which was meeting another vehicle at the time. The victim's head struck the hood, and the lad was knocked into two feet of water in a roadside ditch. The younger Bellflower boy saved his brother's life by holding his head out of the water until Bullock and others could reach him.

The victim, removed to a Tarboro hospital, did not regain consciousness until Monday morning, it was learned. Still confined to the hospital, the lad is expected to recover if no complications develop. The driver of the car removed him to the hospital. Speed finally caught up with Milton Baines, young colored man of Everetts, last Saturday night about 10:00 o'clock when he lost control of his 1949 Chevrolet on a curve in a dirt road near the Arthur Taylor home in Robersonville Township. After tearing down a right ditch 150 feet, the car bounced out and skidded and swerved another 150 feet before turning over. Baines was not hurt and damage to his car was estimated at only \$100. The investigating officer, pointing out that Baines had been cited for speeding only the afternoon before, apparently was traveling too fast to make the curve in the road Saturday night.

A hit-and-run accident as reported Sunday night about 10:00 o'clock at the intersection of the Prison Camp road on Highway 64. Milton Morris Evans, traveling west on 64, started to make a left turn and was struck by a 1952 Ford. The driver of the second car continued into the Amoco station nearby, and ran away. Damage to each vehicle was estimated.

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Ask Information On Centenarians

Raleigh.—Information concerning all person in the Tar Heel State who have passed their 100th birthday is being sought by the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina. The information about centenarians existing in our state is being made for research purposes throughout the country. Recent estimates have placed the probable number of North Carolina residents who are past their 100th birthday at slightly more than 200.

Anyone in the state having information about persons of 100 years of age or more are invited to communicate with the Medical Society of North Carolina, Post Office Box 790, Raleigh North Carolina.

ROUND-UP

Including seven youths who were taken into custody from the middle to the latter part of last week, fourteen persons were jailed in this county last week-end. Three were charged with public drunkenness, and one each with larceny, assault with a deadly weapon and reckless driving. Nine of the fourteen were white, and the ages of the group ranged from 16 to 32 years.

Candidate States His Platform In Race For Senate

Washington Attorney First To Announce For Second District Position

"I'm against secrecy, for a balanced budget, for making Eastern Carolina attractive to industry, and for a well rounded program of progress for all our people."

This is the basic platform which L. H. Ross, 44 year old Washington attorney stands for, as he announced his candidacy for the North Carolina Senate from the Second Senatorial district of the State.

Beaufort Native
Mr. Ross was born and reared in Beaufort county at Edward near Aurora. A veteran of World War II, he served with the U. S. Navy for three and one half years.

He attended the University of North Carolina and later the University of Louisville Law School where he graduated in 1936. He was licensed to practice law in North Carolina that same year.

Married to the former Miss Lyle Golden of Mississippi, the Ross family has one child, Elizabeth, aged six.
Mr. Ross is a member of the First Christian Church of Washington and a member of the Board of Deacons. He is also a member of the American Legion Veterans of Foreign Wars, Elks, and Improved Order of Red Men.

In his political life in the area, he has been an active Democrat all his life. He has served as judge of recorder's court, city attorney, on the city board of education, and at present is serving as Beaufort County attorney.

Broad Platform
In announcing his candidacy, Mr. Ross said that he would work for the repeal of the secrecy law enacted by the last legislature.

"I believe that there should be no secrecy on any government level in our state. I believe that all sessions of committees, sub-committees, boards, and other governing agencies should be open to the citizens at all times."

"Sound government demands that we work for a balanced budget at all times," said Mr. Ross. "Good business practice dictates that we should spend no more than we take in in revenues," he added.

"Our farmer is the backbone of our state, and if elected, I shall work at all times for what I consider the best interests of our farmers," he added.

"Eastern North Carolina is now seeking more and more industry. It is my thought that we should make our section of the state as attractive to industry as we know how to do," he said. "We cannot and must not forget our school and their needs, and I shall devote full effort toward help in this direction," he added.

"Progress is the goal which we should ever work toward. If the voters of the Second Senatorial district should honor me with this high office, I shall represent all the people of my district, and if elected, shall at all times do my conscientious and honest best to do a good job for my fellow citizens."

The Democratic primary takes (Continued on Page Eight)

Charge Man With Larceny Of Hogs

Mosses Lee Williams, 25-year-old tenant farmer of Cross Roads Township, was jailed last week-end for the alleged larceny of a number of hogs from Farmers Clark and Moseley on the Wynne farm not far from Everetts. Sheriff M. W. Holloman stated that possibly twenty hogs had been stolen.

When arrested last Friday, Williams said he had sold some hogs for a friend by the name of Barr Steele of Beaufort County. Checking with Steele, the officer learned the story was unfounded. Williams then maintained the animals were running loose, that he cornered and sold them. He is being held in the county jail until a hearing can be arranged.

Given a preliminary hearing Monday afternoon before Justice W. M. Tetterton, Williams admitted the theft of five hogs, four on December 28 and one on January 29. Bond was fixed in the sum of \$500. He is to appear in the county court next Monday for trial.

Seventy-Five Pupils Plan College Course

Future Plans For Seniors Discussed In County Meeting

Representatives Of Nineteen Colleges And Hospital Talk To Seniors

Approximately seventy-five Martin County young men and women plan to enter college next fall, according to a report released following a meeting of 190 county high school seniors and college-hospital representatives held in the Williamston High School Monday.

A goodly number plan to enter East Carolina College in Greenville. About twelve are making preparations to enter Women's College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and an equal number of young men are planning to go to the University at Chapel Hill. Three plan to go to Wake Forest, and three others stated they planned to enter Duke at Durham. With about three exceptions, all the institutions represented at the meeting will share in the current crop of seniors, it was stated.

Traveling by special conveyance, the 190 seniors from all over the county entered the meeting at 9:00 o'clock and were introduced to the representatives of the various colleges who made brief talks. All were then asked to meet with the representative of the college they planned to attend.

The following colleges, schools, hospitals and the military were represented:

Atlantic Christian College, Williamston; James E. Fulghum; Campbell College, Buies Creek; Dean Hart; Chowan College, Murfreesboro; President Nixon; Duke University; Brooks M. Wagoner; East Carolina College, Ed J. Carter; Greensboro College, Clark College; Guilford College, Charles C. Hendricks; High Point College, Grady H. Wheeler; Kings Business College, Orville T. Smith; Louise Obici Memorial Hospital, Suffolk; Miss Friend; N. C. State College, E. C. Thurlow and F. H. Spain, Jr.; Salem College, Edith A. Kirkland; University of North Carolina, Ed French; The Woman's College, C. W. Phillips; Wake Forest College, J. C. O'Flaherty; Meredith College, Mary Bland Josey; Virginia Intermont College, Bristol; Audrey Hasting; Hardbarger's Business School, W. R. Covington, and the U. S. Military Service, Arlice C. Atwood.

A goodly number of the young men questioned the military representative, and it is believed that the current senior class will be well represented in the armed forces next fall.

Following lunch which was served in the cafeteria, the students planning to enter the professions heard the following representatives: Dr. G. G. Hemmelwright and Miss Mary Taylor, medicine, pharmacy, nursing and allied fields; H. F. McKnight, agriculture; Allen Hadfield, engineering; J. C. Manning, teaching and business education; and E. Gordon Conklin, ministry and religious education.

Those students who plan to enter the vocations heard the following: Mrs. Lucy Mobley and Bruce Strickland, telephone operators and linemen; Ernest Mears, clerks and salesmen; Mrs. Earline Hollis, office clerks, bookkeepers and stenographers; Robert Haislip, farming; A. L. Jameson, electricians and mechanics; George Nicely, filling station attendants.

County Represented At Cancer Detection Clinic

Martin County was represented at the recent cancer detection clinic in Rocky Mount. Several persons were there from various parts of the county, it was learned.

The clinics are held each first and third Wednesday at 9:00 o'clock in the Municipal Building, Rocky Mount, under the auspices of the American Cancer Society and supporting agencies. They are held free for persons forty years of age and older.

Suggesting Few Changes Be Made In Zoning Plan

Public Hearing Held In The Courthouse Here Last Thursday Night

Holding a public hearing in the courthouse here last Thursday night, Williamston's zoning commission members received a few minor recommendations for changes in the proposed zoning ordinance. The suggestions are being studied and it is expected that the proposed ordinance will be submitted to the town board for adoption or rejection early in March.

Attended by only twenty persons, including members of the commission, the meeting suggested that the area designated for business be extended to Watts Street on East Main and to Sycamore Street on West Main. "While there is apparently no immediate need for it, we think it should be provided now," proponents of the change pointed out. With few or no other recommendations, the plan advanced by the zoning commission remains virtually the same as it was when first drafted by Leigh Wilson, representative of the N. C. League of Municipalities, Raleigh.

All the territory from Watts Street to Sycamore Street on Main, from the rear dividing lines of property facing Church Street and on down Smithwick to a point across the railroad, from Main down Washington Street to the Jamesville Road and along Elm and the north side of Pearl Streets, is included in the business area.

Industrial sites are centered in those areas near and beyond the Williamston Peanut Company and to the eastern part of the town toward the river and south of Main Street.

A neighborhood business area is provided in the North Haughton Street section with certain regulations to be met.

The proposed zoning ordinance briefly provides that no residential construction will be in order on lots of less than 8,000 square feet, that the front footage should be at least seventy feet, and for minimum front and side yards.

The ordinance stipulates 35 feet for the front yard, and eight to ten feet for side yards. Where homes are already on a street, a new unit should have a front yard with a footage based on the average of the yards already in existence.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that the proposed ordinance is not one of restriction but rather is one of protection. He explained that it is possible to build a residence in any zone, but that no business or industry could be established in a residential area. The existing order cannot be changed, meaning that a business already established in a residential area cannot be moved.

Mr. Wilson also explained that if a business house in a residential area is destroyed by fire or other causes, it could be replaced, provided action was taken within a year.

He explained that similar ordinances have been upheld in various courts, that violators are subject to indictment.

If and when the ordinance is adopted, a builder would apply for a permit, stating and sketching the type of structure he proposed to build.

FOURTH

Martin County contributed the fourth largest amount for any county in the State to the CROP fund last year, according to a report just recently released. Catawba led the State, shipping two cars of wheat valued at nearly \$5,000. Martin contributed \$2,569.56, according to the final report.

Beaufort listed a \$642.41 contribution. Bertie gave \$698.25. Halifax advanced \$251.14. Pitt's contribution was listed at \$1,515.45. Washington, the other county adjoining Martin, was not listed.

The drive, headed in this county by Farmer Mayo Hardison, has matched the leaders for several years.

Recreation Group Studies Problems

Meeting in the Church of the Advent parish house last Thursday evening, the Recreation Committee of Williamston studied the various problems confronting the movement here, got considerable advice, a little information, and voted to close down the Youth Center at the American Legion hut on Watts Street until more definite plans for its operation can be effected.

A committee was named to investigate the program at Robersonville and report back to the full committee within two weeks. Study of programs in some of the other towns was ruled out when it was noted that those towns are putting thousands of dollars in a full time effort and the Williamston group does not have anything approaching those resources.

On the committee to investigate the Robersonville program are: Mrs. Irving Margolis, Mrs. Carlyle Langley and Lee Reynolds.

Some members of the committee were shocked when one visitor at the meeting arose to take the group to task for not having taken advantage of what he said had been several offers of assistance and opportunities. It appears that the information concerning volunteer workers had come before the Williamston Ministerial Association but never reached the Recreation Committee. The proposal to have full time workers at the Youth Center and have all children checked in and out at each session was again made as it has been at virtually every meeting of the committee for years. And as before, it was necessary for the committee treasurer to remind the group that there was no money for employment of full-time workers and no one at the meeting was willing to go down and check the children in and out each night for nothing.

The proposal of one member that the group study and pray over the problem and come back to the next meeting with constructive ideas and suggestions was well received.

Westinghouse Service School

The Westinghouse Company will conduct a one-day service school at the Boy Scout hut on South Smithwick Street here all day tomorrow, it was announced today by K. D. Worrell, local dealer.

The school is being held for dealers and servicemen throughout this section of the State, from Roanoke Rapids to Columbia and to Elizabeth City. The factory is sending four representatives here to conduct the school which will consider all types of appliances, especially the late models, it was explained.

AMVET MEETING

The meeting of the Martin County Amvets Post No. 61 will be held at the Hardison Farm Supply store in Jamesville at 7:00 p. m. Wednesday evening, Feb. 10th. All members are urged to be present.

Kerr Scott In Race For Senate

The May 29 Democratic primary started shaping up in semi-final form on a State basis last Saturday when W. Kerr Scott formally announced his candidacy for the United States Senate. He placed the clincher on the announcement Monday when he paid his \$250 filing fee in Raleigh. Alton Lennon, Wilmington lawyer, had previously announced his candidacy to succeed himself.

The former governor made a timely statement at his Haw River farm last Saturday afternoon when newspapermen and photographers gathered there for the event. Mr. Scott's announcement was well received by the people in this county, especially the farmers who recall his efforts to get them out of the mud and move the State forward.