

Speeders Had Big Day This Week In Recorder's Court

Fines Fixed At \$1 For Each Mile In Excess Of The Speed Limit

Northern neighbors, in a hurry to get to Florida, and a few others nearer home apparently in a hurry to reach their destinations, had a big day in the Martin County courts this week when twenty-four were booked for exceeding the speed limits. The twenty-four were fined a total of \$280.

The big round-up was traceable mainly to a speed check maintained on Highway 17 south of Williamston the latter part of the week. Very few argued with the speed clock readings, but one or two of the defendants annexed the role of big shots and wanted to be turned loose with a pat on the back.

"If I ever travel this way again, I want to be in an airplane," one defendant was quoted as saying when he posted bond. "And if you are going to travel at the rate of 75 miles an hour, it will be advisable for you to be in an airplane," the judge warned.

One of the speeders, accepting the verdict of the speed clock, was said to have been a policeman in a New Jersey city.

In the ordinary run-of-the-mill cases, Judge H. O. Peele has established a uniform fine, figure at \$1 for each mile in excess of the speed limit.

Clucked at about 80 miles an hour, one northern motorist accepted the verdict and paid the fine and costs without registering a complaint. "Now, if they had caught me speeding 80 miles an hour in my home state, they would revoke my driver's license," the happy man explained. He was a bit bewildered when he was told the violation would be reported to the motor vehicle bureau in his state for action on the part of law enforcement officers there.

The following speeding cases were included in the last Monday trials:

Miles an hour in a mail truck, George Washington Thorne of Rocky Mount was fined \$30 and taxed with the costs.

The case in which Robert Collins Blades of New Bern was charged with speeding 65 miles an hour, was not pressed with leave.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case in which Sam Gordon Evans of Wilson was speeding 55 miles an hour in a truck.

Pleading not guilty of speeding 75 miles an hour and operating a motor vehicle without a registration plate, Harry Lee Arnold of Plymouth was adjudged guilty of speeding 70 miles an hour. He was fined \$15, plus costs.

Robert Fulton Briley of RFD 2, Bethel, pleaded not guilty when charged with speeding 80 miles an hour. Adjudged guilty, he was fined \$25, plus costs. Notice of appeal was given and \$100 bond was required.

Zedcar Franklin Morris of Edenton maintained he was not traveling 75 miles an hour. The court adjudged him guilty of speeding 70 miles an hour and fined him \$10, plus costs.

Pleading guilty of speeding 80 miles an hour, F. A. Dietrick of Providence, Rhode Island, was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with speeding 80 miles an hour, Henry Land of RFD 2, Williamston, pleaded not guilty. He was adjudged guilty of speeding not less than 55 miles and not more than 70 miles an hour. The court fined him \$25, plus costs.

Alton Eugene Bullock of Palmyra was fined \$20, plus costs.

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PEANUT CARDS

Those farmers who have not already done so are being asked to return their 1953 peanut marketing cards to the county ASC office in the agriculture building immediately. The cards have to be checked against the records before production credit can be given, it was explained. It is very important that the records be checked, it was said.

Marked Increase Reported In Unemployment In Area

Without offering a detailed explanation, the local office of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission reported this week a marked increase in unemployment in this area, including the counties of Bertie, Washington and Martin. However, it was pointed out that unfavorable weather conditions and high water in the logging areas possibly had contributed to the unemployed number.

As of January, 1953, the employment office here received 166 claims for unemployment compensation. On the corresponding date of this year, the office handled 420 claims. A year ago, 618 weeks were claimed as compared with 1,683 weeks claimed this year.

Unemployment while traceable to various fields, centered mainly in the lumber and logging business. According to Manager Kelly

A. Corey Announces For Legislature Seat

GLEE CLUB

The Williamston High School Glee Club, under the direction of Miss Mary Wallace Foye, will present a program of sacred and secular music in the high school auditorium here this evening (Thursday) at 8:15 o'clock.

The organization has devoted much time to practice, and a splendid program is assured. A small admission fee will be charged.

Make Plans For Red Cross Drive

Hugh M. Martin, local attorney and chairman of the 1954 Red Cross Fund Drive in the Martin County area, announced yesterday that plans were shaping up rapidly for the annual Red Cross appeal in the townships of Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Bear Grass and Williamston.

Mrs. Camille Rawls and Professor Vaden Hair have agreed to head the drive in Jamesville Township, and Mr. Floyd Moore again is answering the call and will chair the drive in Williams Township. Plans for the drive in Griffins and Bear Grass are pending.

In Williamston, Mrs. W. H. Abernathy will act as chairman of the drive in the residential areas and Mr. Bill Spivey is heading the special gifts committee. Others are to be named shortly, Mr. Martin said.

The drive is scheduled to get underway the first of next month, and Mr. Martin is hoping it can be completed during the first two or three weeks.

Eight Enlist In The Armed Forces

Eight men in this section enlisted in the army and air force during the month of January, according to a report released by Recruiter Sfc. A. G. Atwood. The recruiter is in Williamston each Tuesday from 9:30 a. m. until 3:00 p. m.

The names of those entering the army last month as recruits are, Luther N. Bryan, Ira M. Jones, David S. Swindell, James Holliday, Odis W. Whitaker and John A. Cherry.

Two, William S. Greene and Theodore H. Rosenthal, Jr., enlisted in the U. S. Air Force.

Sim Smith, 74, Died In Hospital Here Tuesday

Sim Smith, about 74 years of age, died in a local hospital last Tuesday evening at 7:35 o'clock. He had been in declining health for about three years and was a patient in the hospital three weeks.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock, and burial will be in the Everett Cemetery here.

Victim Of Accident Reported Improving

Murray Bellflower, 11-year-old lad who was critically injured when struck by an automobile near his home on the Hamilton-Palmyra road early last Sunday evening, was reported improving in a Tarboro hospital last night. The youngster suffered a severe fracture of the skull and was unconscious the greater part of a day.

No charges have been brought against the driver of the car that struck the lad.

Victim Of Wreck Painfully Hurt Here Last Night

Three Cars Badly Damaged In Accident Near Rail Grade Crossing

Four persons were injured, one of them badly, in a three-car accident on Washington Street near the Dixie Peanut Company plant and just beyond the railroad crossing last evening at 7:45 o'clock. All three cars were badly damaged, one beyond repair.

A west bound Coast Line freight had blocked the crossing and ten or twelve cars were in line waiting for the train to clear the road. Mrs. Johnny Gurkin had stopped her Chrysler sedan behind another car, and J. T. Edmondson was behind the Gurkin car. They had been there several minutes when Hugh Milton Foster of Brookneal, Virginia, plowed into Mr. Edmondson's 1951 Ford with a new 1954 Mercury. The Ford, knocked into the Chrysler and almost turned around by the blow, was left in the pattern of an accordion, mechanics declaring it was damaged beyond repair.

Mrs. Vida Harris Griffin, riding in the Edmondson car, suffered a cut on her head, a neck injury and bruises about the knees. She also suffered shock. Mrs. Gurkin complained with a sore neck, but her injury was not believed to be serious. Mr. Edmondson was bruised and battered on his head and about the knees and legs.

Mr. Foster, an employee of the Flu-Cured Tobacco Stabilization Cooperative Corporation, Raleigh, suffered cuts on his right knee.

No estimate on the property damage could be had immediately, but it is likely to run between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

Mrs. Griffin continued in the hospital and was reported to be getting along very well this morning. The other victims were able to continue following treatment, local police said following their investigation.

Mr. Edmondson told Officers Jones and Perry during the investigation that the Foster car was bearing down on them at a fast speed, but he did not believe the car was going to hit them.

Foster was said to have purchased the Mercury only last Monday.

Foster was cited to the courts and was released in \$500 bond following a hearing held before Justice W. M. Tetterton.

Students Compete For Scholarships

Three local high school seniors are in Wilmington today competing for one of the Angier B. Duke scholarships. The young men, Wilbur Stewart, David Davis, Jr., and William Roberson, accompanied L. Bruce Wynne, chairman for the eastern district, to Wilmington yesterday afternoon for the try-outs today.

The three were selected following general ability tests given in the local school a short time ago. Twenty-five are competing in Wilmington today, and five will be chosen to go to Durham where a final selection will be made.

The school here has had two applicants qualify for the valuable scholarship within the past four years.

Car Damaged In Road Accident

No one was hurt but approximately \$300 damage resulted when a hog ran into Highway 64 near Jamesville Tuesday evening and was struck by Mrs. Eloise Bennett's Chevrolet. The animal, killed instantly, smashed the front part of the car, it was stated.

Witnesses explained that Mrs. Bennett did well to keep the car from wrecking.

The owner of the 300-pound hog could not be located.

CRITICALLY ILL

Suffering from an attack about two weeks ago, Mrs. Della Harrison of Griffins Township continues critically ill in a hospital here. A late report said her condition is gradually becoming weaker.

Proposing Extensive Program For School Plants In County

Thirty-Six Cases This Week In The Recorder's Court

Several Defendants Sentenced To Serve Time On The Roads

Going into an afternoon session, Judge H. O. Peele and Solicitor Clarence Griffin handled thirty-six cases in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday.

Twenty-four of the cases involved speeding, the fines running up to a total of \$390, including \$280 assessed against the alleged speeders. Several defendants were sentenced to the roads and to prison.

Proceedings: Pleading not guilty of drunken driving, Alton Lee Lillet was adjudged guilty of following another vehicle too closely and was fined \$25, plus costs.

Charged with assaulting a female, Daniel Moore was found not guilty.

Pleading not guilty of being drunk and disorderly, Ben Long Stevenson was found guilty of trespassing and was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the court costs, and the defendant is to remain away from the premises of Annie Baker for two years.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle with an expired license, Theodore Roosevelt Harrell pleaded guilty and was fined \$25, plus costs.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs in the case charging James Kelly Moore with violating the liquor laws.

Ben Ward, pleading guilty of careless and reckless driving, was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs.

Facing the court a second time for assaulting a female, Robert Clifton Rogerson pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for six months, the sentence to run concurrently with one imposed on him last Monday.

In return for the contribution made by the citizens of this county it will get seven seats at the affair which will be held in the afternoon of Saturday night of this week.

The following Martin County Democrats plan to attend the meeting: Albert S. Peel, Jim Gray, Sr., Charlie Gurkin, Joe Winslow, Hassell Warren, and Frank Everett of Hamilton.

Senator Spessard Holland, of Florida, will be the featured speaker at the gathering of party faithfuls, but the big news will center around the race for the seat in the U. S. Senate.

Teacher Resigns In Local School

Miss Charlotte Guthrie, popular teacher in the local schools for several terms, tendered her resignation a few days ago, and Mrs. W. H. Farris of Williamston has been named to the position.

Miss Guthrie explained that her resignation was imperative on account of illness in her family. She had been at her mother's bedside in Morehead City since Monday of last week.

Mrs. Farris, a graduate of Meredith College, has two years experience in the profession, having taught in the Godwin and Central High School in Cumberland County.

Funeral Today In Local Church For Oliver Bonds

Funeral services are being conducted in the Cornerstone Baptist Church on West Warren Street this afternoon at 2:00 o'clock for Oliver Bonds, 50, who died in a local hospital last Sunday night at 10:35 o'clock. Coming here from Wilson twenty years ago, he had suffered with a heart condition for several years.

Make Plans To Start Work On Store Building

Contractor Hand of Charlotte was here this week making arrangements to start work on a new store building for Belk-Tyler. Actual construction work is slated to get under way next Wednesday, it was learned.

STREET SURVEY

A preliminary survey is nearing completion in connection with a proposed town-wide street paving program. Engineer Henry Rivers said the field survey will be completed today, that several days will be required to handle the inside work and determine the approximate costs.

The engineer plans to submit his report to the local town commissioners at or before the next regular meeting scheduled for March 1.

Democrats Raise Quota For State Dinner Saturday

Interest To Center Around The Race For United States Senate

Jim Gray, Sr., of Robersonville, chairman of the Martin County Democratic executive committee, stated this week he was certain the county's quota for the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner would be raised before the end of the week.

Mrs. E. S. Peel and Clarence Griffin solicited Williamston's quota of \$143.50. The county chairman personally raised Robersonville's quota of \$100.00. In Gold Point precinct Messrs. Joe Winslow and Hassell Warren turned in its quota of \$25.00. In Jamesville, which was allotted a quota of \$50.00, the entire amount was either solicited or contributed by Charlie Gurkin.

Mr. Gray pointed out that several precincts had not reported but he was of the opinion they would give favorable reports before the end of the week.

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Education Board Has Problem In Appraising Plan

Projects Outlined By Local Committees Would Cost About Two Million

Apparently bubbling over with optimism, local school committees in the several districts in this county are proposing an extensive program for the various school plants. No figures have been advanced but it is roughly estimated that the proposed projects would cost about two million dollars, and possibly more.

With a promise of several hundred thousand from the special State fund and with a possibility that local appropriations would be increased, the several local committees were recently asked by the Martin County Board of Education to make a study of their plant needs and submit their findings and proposals. The last of the findings and recommendations were received a few days ago by the county board, and its members are still reeling from the shock of the impact.

No comment is to be had on the over-all program, but it is fairly evident that the plan is beyond the realm of present and expected financial support.

Just what action is to be taken and when could not be learned, but somewhere, sometime someone must evaluate the program and fit it into the financial structure.

The following requests are now on file in the Board of Education office:

Jamesville is asking for its white schools, a new elementary building with a lunch room, band room and auditorium. The committee also recommended that the old teachers be sold and a new one built. A new physical education building is also in the program, and the committee would have the present lunch room and shop renovated and made into a separate building.

A building program is already in progress and nearing completion for the colored schools in the Jamesville district.

In Williamston the committee asked an additional class room, agriculture class room and shop, and a new gymnasium. Included in the recommendations is a request for a large stage in the auditorium.

At the E. J. Hayes school, the committee recommended that the elementary building be enlarged to house fifteen rooms, and that seven rooms be added to the high school building. A vocational building was also recommended along with an enlarged gymnasium.

The Bear Grass committee is asking a new gymnasium, suggesting that materials in the old one be used to build an agriculture shop.

The Everetts white elementary school, the committee pointed out, needs storage facilities for its lunch room.

In its report the Robersonville committee pointed out the general condition of the white elementary school building and recommended two additional rooms. The committee included in its program a homemaker unit, an additional class room and a principal's home.

The committee recommended the consolidation of the Everetts and Gold Point elementary Negro schools with the new plant already planned in Robersonville. A central heating plant and a library room for the Robersonville colored school were also recommended. A heating plant and assembly room were included in the plans for the Parmele elementary school.

Pointing out that its gymnasium was too small and without heat, the Oak City committee recommended a new vocational building and additional rooms in the white school for music, speech piano and first aid.

The Oak City committee also recommended a new elementary building and lunch room for the Oak City school, and suggested the consolidation of the Which-

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Hearing Held In Robbery Charges Tuesday Evening

Four Defendants Continue In Jail. Unable To Raise \$400.00 Bonds

Eight teen-agers involved in a series of robberies in this and two other counties were given preliminary hearings before Justice of the Peace W. M. Tetterton in the courthouse here Tuesday evening. The hearings, bringing out very little if any new evidence, were nothing more than formalities. The courtroom was fairly well filled for the hearings.

A ninth defendant, Albert Cherry, was not present for the hearing, officers explaining that he had entered the armed forces before the robbery cases were solved. His return for trial at the March term of the superior court is expected, however.

Late developments in the series of four robberies in this county indicate that one of the boys, Harold Barnes, is an innocent victim. It was learned that the youth was in the group that broke into the Everetts school on the night of January 6, but that he did not enter the building. It is maintained that he rode with the boys to Robersonville and remained in the car when they returned and parked back of the school in Everetts. However, the youth waived preliminary hearing and he continues at liberty under \$300 bond. His brother, William Barnes, and two others, James and William Roberson, also waived preliminary hearing.

In the December 22 robbery at Dewey Leggett's corn mill in Bear Grass Township, William Hardison and James H. Price pleaded guilty. It was brought out that 47 bushels of corn were stolen there and sold to a store in Greenville for \$71.27. Mr. Leggett, a witness at the hearing, said he found a back window broken and was of the opinion that more corn had been stolen.

Onward Reason pleaded not guilty and James H. Price and Bobby Mims pleaded guilty of the Everetts school robbery. Probable cause of guilt was found as to Reason.

Reason, Price and William Harrell were charged with the Henry Thomas filling station robbery near Hamilton on the night of January 16, but Price maintained he did not enter the place.

Mims pleaded guilty and Onward Reason pleaded not guilty in the Noah Roberson store robbery in Farm Life on the night of January 29 when goods valued at \$350 were stolen.

With the exception of the young Barnes boy whose bond was fixed at \$300, \$800 bonds were required for all the others. Unable to arrange bond immediately, William Barnes, Bobby Mims, Onward Reason and James H. Price were returned to jail to await trial during the March term of the Martin County Superior Court beginning the 15th.

Mims, changing bond Wednesday, is now at liberty, leaving only three of the defendants in jail.

Hundreds Attending John Deere Day Here

Several hundred farmers from this and several nearby counties are attending John Deere day here today. Following several interesting picture reels in the Viccar Theater, the group repaired to the Skewerkey area for lunch and are witnessing field demonstrations this afternoon.

Firemen Called To Grass Fire Yesterday

Volunteer firemen were called to a grass fire on West Main Street here yesterday afternoon shortly after 5:00 o'clock. No damage was done and no general alarm was sounded.

ON STRIKE

Its mechanism out of order for months, the old town clock, after a brief mediation, started sounding the hour for a day or two, the 47-year-old time piece, struck again and is now recording the time without making any fuss about it.

The nature of the mechanism trouble is not known, but efforts are being made to have it fixed.