

## Teen Ager Booked For Burglary In County Saturday

Henry Thomas' Store Robbed Again Near Hamilton Sunday Morning

Richard Dickens, 18-year-old youth, faces a charge of burglary in the first degree in the superior court this week following his arrest in the Kader Hardison apartment in Oak City about 1:30 o'clock last Saturday morning. Dickens, given a hearing before Justice Edmond Early in Oak City that morning at 4:00 o'clock, was denied bond and placed in the county jail to await trial during the current court term.

Using a ladder, Dickens made his way through a second story window into the Hardison apartment over the store of Bunting and Son. Hardison, his wife and their small daughter were sleeping and did not hear Dickens, but Roy Casper, occupying another apartment on the same floor of the building, heard Dickens, and he called Hardison. The two men left the building by an outside stairs, saw Dickens in the store on the ground floor and called Officer Garland Bunting.

Dickens, after gaining an entrance to the second floor, reached the first-floor of the store down an elevator shaft. When the officer reached the scene, Dickens had retraced his route up the shaft and was arrested in the kitchen of the Hardison apartment just as he was making ready to jump out a window.

Officer found on Dickens' person \$7.50 in cash taken from the cash register, four cuts of tobacco, three boxes of rifle bullets and four cigars.

Dickens told the officer that he wanted to live to see the day when he would get out of prison and return and "get him."

It was the second time the store had been robbed in recent months.

Sometime during late Saturday night or early Sunday morning, robbers entered the Henry Thomas store at the Sherrod farm near Hamilton and carried away merchandise valued at about \$100, including 20 or 30 cans of cigarettes and 10 or 15 quarts of wine. The robbers broke a glass in the front door, reached in and unlocked the door. Officers are working on the case but no lead had been established early today. The store was robbed several weeks ago by teen-agers.

An expensive cash register stolen from the Eubanks store in Haskell on March 7 was found in Onocho Creek at Butler's bridge on Highway 125 last Wednesday by R. S. Howell who was hitchhiking.

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## Brief Review Of Red Cross Work

As the current Red Cross fund drive settles down it is well to review briefly the work of the organization right here in the state and at home.

Most of the people in Martin County are acquainted with the relief made available to flood victims in and around Tarboro during the recent flooding of the Tar River. There were 318 other disaster relief operations handled throughout the country, the Red Cross extending aid to more than 25,000 families.

Many telegrams were sent for veterans' families in this chapter, and other services were extended.

Last year the Red Cross collected 82,000 pints of blood in North Carolina, and it made available 86,880 cubic centimeters of gamma globulin for protection against polio. More than four million pints of blood were collected in the nation by the Red Cross and made available to the hospitals and for use making gammaglobulin. Nearly fifteen million dollars were spent on the blood program alone.

In the Martin County Chapter last year \$4,517.74 was spent by the Red Cross, including \$1,735.02 given to the national organization. Home service costs were placed at \$505.06. The blood program in the county cost \$645.59, and administrative costs amounted to \$1,557.85, according to a report released by Mrs. Lucille Cowen, executive secretary for the Martin County chapter.

## Nearly Two Hundred Blood Donors Here

### SEINE FISHING

Seine fishing in the Roanoke will get underway at Jamesville tomorrow, Mr. C. C. Fleming, owner-operator of the Jamesville fishery, announced yesterday.

Most of the day will be spent wading the large seine, but normal operations are expected within a short time.

Fairly large catches of herring and perch have been reported during the past several weeks by individual fishermen, and a favorable season at the fishery is anticipated.

## Mrs. Julia Wynn Dies In County

Mrs. Julia W. Wynn died at her home in Cross Roads at 2:00 o'clock last Friday morning. Seventy-six years of age, she had been in declining health for a long time and was an invalid for six years. She was born and lived all her life in Cross Roads. She was the daughter of the late Robert and Nancy Wynne. She was a member of Christian Chapel Church, Cross Roads, and her pastor, the Rev. E. Cayton, conducted the funeral service there last Saturday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Interment was in the Wynn family cemetery.

Surviving are her husband, George M. Wynn; three sons: John and Irving Wynn of Cross Roads and Ernest Wynn of Paramele; three daughters, Mrs. Leland Williams of Cross Roads, and Mrs. Jesse Fulford and Mrs. Richard Jelfus of South Norfolk, 13 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

## Funeral Friday For Jas. Bryant

Funeral services were conducted in the Fountain Baptist Church last Friday afternoon for James Oscar Bryant, 66, brother of Mrs. Jerry James of Williamston. Mr. Bryant died in Memorial Hospital at Chapel Hill Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. Interment was in Queen Anne Cemetery, Fountain.

Mr. Bryant had been connected with law enforcement work in Pitt County for nearly a quarter century, serving as chief of police in Fountain for more than twenty years.

Besides his sister in Williamston he is survived by his widow, the former Miss Ann Harrell, three daughters, two sons, five sisters and five brothers.

## Winner In "Big Change" Contest

Miss Joan Carol Coltrain, Williamston High School student, won the first round in the "Big Change" oratorical contest sponsored by the North Carolina Bankers Association last Thursday afternoon. Miss Coltrain won the \$25 defense bond when no competition presented itself, and she will appear in the group competition in Greenville Wednesday afternoon of this week. The group includes sixteen counties in this section of the State but hardly more than five are expected to enter contestants.

The winner of the elimination (Continued on Page Eight)

### ROUND-UP

There was a flare-up on the crime front in this county during the past week-end, a review of the jail showing seven persons arrested and jailed during the period.

Two were booked for breaking and entering, two for assaults with deadly weapons, and one each for speeding, public drunkenness and drunken driving. Two of the seven were white and the ages of the group ranged from 16 to 57 years.

## Great Response To Bloodmobile Call Last Week

Two Hundred And Twenty-Nine Visited Center To Set A New Record

The Red Cross Bloodmobile, making its twelfth visit here last Thursday, set an all-time record when 194 pints of blood were donated. It was the greatest response to any call yet made for blood in this chapter, and the people—229 of them—reported to the center to offer blood. Others volunteered their services in handling the registrations, book work and operating the canteen.

The only weak point in the last Thursday program was centered in the pledges. It was reported that 179 pledged to give blood, but only 130 of them reported to the center. However, the drop-ins moved in to the count of 99 and offset the loss. In addition to making up the pledge deficit, the drop-ins absorbed 35 injections and went on to give the blood center 44 pints of blood in excess of the 150-pint quota.

The names of those reporting to the center last Thursday follow: William Lanier, Clyde Barber, Mrs. Clyde Barber, Lester Bryant, George Bonds, Martha Gurganus, Elsie Roberson, Mrs. Lance Johnson, Molly Padgett, Fred R. Silverthorne, Clyde Manning, Cecil Brown, A. J. Manning, Mrs. Maggie Hardy, Henry Gray Corey, R. J. Hardison, Leslie Godard, Fred Hardison, Donald Frank, Mary Louise Taylor, Melvin O'Neal, Ora Lyons, V. J. Spivey, Bryant Reason, Bill Beacham, Dolmus Bazemore, Lela C. Bonds, James E. Bullock, Johnny L. Beacham, Mrs. William S. Peele, Mrs. Archie Coltrain, Mrs. Ollie Keel, Earl Brown, Frances Hayes, Mrs. Seth Davis.

Mrs. Robert Harden, Harry Leiner, Mrs. Hester Davis, Mrs. Roland Coburn, Mrs. Robbie Waters, Mrs. Albert Tyre, Albert Tyre, Mrs. Melvin Wynne, William Decato, Joe Vann, Ben H. James, Dalmar Gurkin, Mrs. Wilford Griffin, Wendell Peele, Dick Bender, Simon Lilley, Jr., J. C. Coltrain, Reba Boone, Walter Jones, Paul Bailey, Garland Anderson, Clabon Summerlin, Mrs. Carlyle Langley, Mary L. Britton, Mrs. Bessie B. Robinson, Henry Bullock, Benita Strawbridge, M. K. Bennett, Paul Bailey, Mrs. Earl Manning, Paul Griffin, S. C. Griffin, Jr., William Earl Clark, Morris Brown.

Mrs. Myrtle Rogerson, Milburn Hardison, Rev. John Goff, James S. Griffin, Johnny Pollard, Emmett Mims, Melvin Wynne, Ralph Mobley, Levi Boston, J. S. Hodges, Mrs. J. S. Hodges, J. D. Hines, William H. Harrison, Elliott Bullock, Woodrow W. Holliday, Aubrey D. Ange, Eugene G. Boney, Ernest W. Griffin, Jr., Sidney Christian, Wilbur L. Jackson, Carroll Rogerson, Charlie Terry, William Tetterton, Doc Bullock, Lorene Manning, E. H. Manning, Wheeler Manning, Hugh Hines, Ernest Roughton, Henry Griffin, Haywood Peaks, Darrell Taylor, James Manning, Norman Everett, Jesse Council.

William H. Griffin, Roger A. Critcher, Bill Sessoms, Charles Hill, J. O. Daniels, Alvin J. Peele, James Pierce, Lazarus Williams, Daisy Manning, Joe Manning, Guy Leggett, D. P. Glissner, Mrs. Dick Smith, Junie Peel, Sidney D. Barnes, Wendell Modlin, Alfred Hollis, Sylvester Leggett, Mrs. Nannie E. White, Anna Edmondson, Billy Edmondson, Janie Leggett, Ellis Keel, Rufus Hardison, Mrs. Rufus Hardison, John H. Lynch, Mrs. Sam Roberson, Earl Roberson, John R. Wobbleton, Rex Singleton, Mrs. Walter Wynne, Jack W. Wynne.

Mrs. Frank Weathersbee, Mrs. Grady Whitaker, Mrs. Palmer White, Mrs. Bud Lilley, Mrs. J. B. Nicholson, Mrs. Tom Davis, Fletcher Thomas, Rufus S. Gurganus, Mrs. Jack Grey, Jim Manning, William Riddick, Roger Roberts, Mrs. Louise Gurkin, Mrs. Justus Coltrain, Melba Manning, W. J. Bridgen, Mrs. W. E. Dudley, Benny Daniels, James R. Gurganus, Calvin Warren, Mrs. Charlie (Continued on Page Eight)

## Two Persons Hurt In Seven Highway Wrecks In County

Property Damage Approximates \$3,000 In The Series Of Accidents

Two persons were injured but not believed badly hurt in a series of motor vehicle accidents on the highways nad streets in this county during the past several days. Property damage was estimated at about \$3,000, according to preliminary reports released by the investigating officers.

Damage, estimated at \$175, resulted when a 1953 Pontiac driven by Leona R. Taylor and a 1951 Ford pick-up driven by I. Dewey Leggett were in collision in Bear Grass near the main intersection early in the week. No one was injured.

A second accident in the series was reported a short distance out of Oak City on Highway 125 last Thursday morning at 10:30 o'clock. William Rogerson of Williamston was making a left turn in his 1952 Studebaker just as J. Leon Dormus of Madison, N. J., started to pass in his 1951 Chrysler New Yorker. No one was hurt and damage to each vehicle was estimated at \$300. Dormus said he had been driving cars for 54 years and that it was his first accident.

Driving north on Williamston's Sycamore Street at 12:05 o'clock last Saturday morning, Richard Vine lost control of his 1940 Chevrolet and the machine jumped a large ditch, traveled 129 feet between Hill and Hyman streets and crashed into a utility pole, cutting it in two. Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$450. Vine, suffered face lacerations and a broken collar bone. Clayton Wilkins, riding with Vine, was thrown partly through the windshield and was treated for cuts on the chin and the back part of his head. They were released following hospital treatment.

Two cars, a 1948 Chevrolet driven by Cpl. Leon Dayle of the Edenon marine base, and a 1952 Cadillac owned by Woodrow Ray of Williamston were in collision on Williamston's West Main Street near the railroad underpass at 4:15 o'clock last Saturday morning. As far as it could be learned no one was injured. Damage to the cars was estimated at about \$250 each.

At 11:45 o'clock last Saturday night, Percy Keel of Williamston lost control of his 1939 Chevrolet and crashed into Isaac Whitley's 1949 Ford about three-quarters of a mile east of Robersonville in front of the J. B. Bailey home. Whitley, it was said, had left the road in an effort to get out of Keel's way. Damage to the Chevrolet was estimated at \$100 and that to the Ford at \$300.

Sunday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock John Adams lost control of his 1949 Ford on the Iron Mine road about two miles south of Palmyra, and the machine turned over. No one was reported injured and damage to the car was estimated at \$350.

Driving east on Highway 64, Paul Webster Smith of High Point dropped off to sleep and ran his 1952 Cadillac off the road at the Tom Roebuck curve, a short distance west of Robersonville, about 7:45 o'clock Monday morning. He crashed into a pole and did about \$200 damage to his machine. He was not hurt, the investigating officer said.

## Local Band Gets Excellent Rating

The Green Wave Band of Williamston High School won a rating of "Excellent" in the district music contest in Greenville last Thursday, drawing praise from all for their performance from all sides and leaving their director, Jack F. Butler, "very pleased and proud of them."

While final reports on all the bands in attendance were not released last Thursday when the Williamston band returned home, it was doubted that any of the group would make a higher rating than the Green Wave Band. The judges, in working another district contest on Wednesday had given no ratings higher than "Excellent" and this will qualify the Williamston band to enter the contest at Greensboro if it should (Continued on Page Eight)

## Handled Eleven Cases Monday In Superior Court

Call Breaking and Entering Cases For Trial During Session Today

Opening a two-week term Monday the Martin County Superior Court with Judge Chester Morris of Coinjock on the bench, cleared eleven cases from the docket and continued several others for various reasons before calling it a day at 5:05 o'clock.

The court this morning is completing the trial of the breaking and entering and assault case against Cora Lee. Some evidence was heard yesterday, and upon the completion of the trial, the court will call the breaking and entering cases pending against several white youths and about five young colored men.

After handling the opening preliminaries the court called the case in which Joe Brown was charged with assaulting Eddie Coffield, Sr., and nearly killing him with a piece of two-by-four timber in Oak City a few weeks ago. According to one version of the testimony there was so much fighting going on that no one could very well tell who was hitting who, and the jury found the defendant not guilty. The case was the only one to reach the jury during the first day of the term.

Matthew Keel, Jr., 17-year-old colored boy whose appearance was a bit appealing but whose surliness attracted the attention of both Judge Morris and Solicitor Elbert S. Peel, pleaded guilty of breaking into the Vanderford home near Gold Point on four different occasions and stealing about \$25 in cash. The boy was without his parents in court and had no lawyer. Judge Morris, agreeing that the word, "surlily" described the lad's nature, said he wanted to think more about the lad's case. It is possible the jurist will consider judgment in the case after trials are held in similar cases. The lad is a fifth grade "graduate."

Pleading guilty of breaking in to and robbing the Home Laundry in Williamston, George Brown drew five years in prison as quick as a flash. Brown, said to have quite a long court record in that and other states, explained to the court that he had never raised a finger against society in North Carolina but twice, that he had paid his debt on other occasions and that his record should not be held against him. The plea apparently did not register in the jurist's mind. Lenwood Stewart, of the guilty of receiving goods stolen from the laundry, also pleaded guilty and he was sentenced to the roads for eighteen months.

Charged with drunken driving, L. D. Lanier and Jos. Carnegie Ross, after reaching the high court, turned tail and headed back to the county recorder's court to accept judgments previously handed down there. They are paying \$100 fines and costs and surrendering their licenses.

The entry in the superior court record shows the cases against the two were remanded to the lower court for compliance of judgment.

The cases in which David Laughinghouse was charged with false pretense and Hurly Mae Laughinghouse with forgery were not pressed, subject to be reopened at a later date.

Appealing a drunken driving judgment from the county court, James Clifton Wiggins pleaded guilty of driving to the left of the roadway from a \$125 fine.

The plea was accepted and he was fined \$10, plus costs. No true bill was found in the case in which Edward Harrison was charged with the robbery of person.

The bewhiskered cases in which Walter Freeman stands charged with an assault with intent to kill and breaking and entering and assault with a deadly weapon, were again continued. The court ordered papers issued, calling for the fugitive's arrest.

## Murder Case Plea Accepted By Court

Sentence Hawkins To Prison For 10 To 12-Year Term

Judge Morris Saw Killing As A Climax To A Drunken Brawl

James Hawkins was sentenced to prison for not less than ten and not more than twelve years by Judge Chester Morris in superior court late Monday afternoon after his counsel tendered a plea of guilty of manslaughter in the case in which the defendant stood charged with the first degree murder of James Augustus Hodges in Williamston on February 20.

When the case was called for trial Monday afternoon the State announced it would not ask for a verdict in first degree but would work for one in second degree. At the conclusion of the State's evidence, defense counsel, Robt. H. Cowen and Edgar Gurganus, jumped at a chance to submit a manslaughter plea, and it was accepted by the State. Judge Morris, commenting on the case, explained that the murder was the result of a drunken brawl.

Robert Everett, colored man, who had been with Hawkins and Hodges the greater part of the day stated that Hodges was stabbed to death in the home of Rosalyn Stokes on Martin Street, admitted he lied in offering testimony at the preliminary hearing, leaving the impression that all three were so drunk that none knew what he was doing at the time of the attack.

Everett, after telling at the preliminary hearing that he saw no knife and that he did not see Hawkins strike Hodges but once, told the jury at the trial that he saw Hawkins strike the victim first in the chest and then drove the comparatively long pin knife blade deep into Hodges' back.

At the preliminary hearing Everett said he struck and knocked Hawkins down to "get some sense into his head." At the trial Monday, Everett said Hawkins attacked him and he knocked him out to protect himself.

Everett claimed that Hodges got up from the kitchen table where he was eating and went over to Hawkins in the same room and placed his hand on his shoulder. Other witnesses maintained that Hodges did not get up from the table, that he was too drunk to navigate.

One witness after another described the knife as one with a push button and a red striped handle. The knife has never been found.

Everett admitted that he had been in court at least five times for fighting, that he used any kind of knife he had available.

Earline Mobley said she saw Hawkins stab Hodges in the back. Coroner W. W. Biggs described the two wounds, saying that either of them in his opinion, could have proved fatal.

Rosalyn Stokes, the common law wife of the victim, told about the same story she related at the preliminary hearing, but she was able to describe the knife she had failed to tell about at the preliminary hearing.

Officer Chas. R. Moore who arrested Hawkins three-quarters of a mile away at the Hawkins home on Hunter Street, said that Hawkins told him he had stabbed Hodges.

Cpl. M. C. Byrum and Octoria Williams were the last witnesses called by the State, and they corroborated evidence offered by (Continued on Page Eight)

## Man Jailed For Brutal Attack On His Wife

Will Rainey, 40-year-old colored man, was jailed late Sunday night after his arrest for brutally assaulting his wife at their logging camp home between Hamilton and Oak City earlier that evening. He was released in bond Monday and is booked for trial in the county court on the 29th.

Removal and death were the only excuses recognized when citizens were called for jury duty in the Martin County Superior Court. Meaningful notations were made when one or two jurors failed to appear on time.

Will Parker, when it was learned he had died, was excused along with Oscar Taylor who moved out of the county some time ago. Court attendants tried to draft another to fill Parker's place, but the death excuse prevailed.

Several talesmen were rounded up to insure the court an available jury at all times.

## Bloodmobile Gets A Big Push Here

The Red Cross bloodmobile was given strong support in this chapter last week when one hundred percent cooperation was shown in the recruitment program and the projects attracted the efforts of numerous volunteers.

The response to the call for blood was traceable to home demonstration clubs, ministers, churches and civic organizations and individuals. One club at Dardens not only solicited pledges but five of members donated blood. Individual recruiters included, Mrs. Fate Gurganus, Oscar White and Mr. and Mrs. Ben James in the Poplar Point area, Mr. and Mrs. Grady Godard over in Williams, Mrs. Edgar Brown and Jamesville Woman's Club members in the Jamesville section, Jim Manning, Manning and Gurkin's store, Dewey Perry's store, Mrs. Henry Griffin, Mrs. Joe Gray Corey, Worth Mobley, East Side Service Station, Fisher Harris' store and Mrs. Walter Wynne in the Griffins, Bear Grass and Williamston areas.

The S and V supermarket supported the program by giving a quart of Maola milk to each blood donor. Up until late yesterday approximately 150 quarts of milk had been delivered to the blood donors at the store on Washington Street.

Reviewing the success of the bloodmobile visit, Dr. J. S. Rhodes, Jr., blood program chairman; Mrs. Lucille Cowen, chapter chairman, and the blood program committee including Mrs. Edna Bondurant, Mrs. W. Iverson Skinner, Mrs. A. L. Jameson, Mrs. Victor Brown, Mrs. Henry Griffin and Mrs. W. T. Ross declared they were greatly encouraged by the response, that they appreciated the cooperation on the part of all.

## Junior Glee Club Rated 'Superior'

The Junior Glee Club of Williamston High School, under the direction of Miss Mary Wallace Foy, earned a rating of Superior in the music contest at Greenville last Friday.

The Senior Glee Club ran into some tough luck and came off with a rating of Good this year after having captured Excellent ratings for the past several years.

The Senior club sang "Alleluia" by Thompson and "The Ash Grove," a Welsh folk song tune. The numbers rendered by the Junior group have not been reported. The numbers rendered by the Senior group are listed in Group Four.

### ONE ADJUSTMENT

Meeting as a board of equalization and review, the Martin County commissioners received only one complaint against a tax assessment during a two-hour session.

Explaining that he had forgotten to appeal until it was too late year after year, Gomer Taylor presented his case and the board dropped the assessed valuation from \$1,727 on a two-acre residence tract to \$1,000.

## Grand Jury Hears Charge By Judge Morris On Monday

Lawrence Hyman Of Oak City New Foreman Of Jury For Six Months

"Do your sworn duty and there need be no fear that our government will disintegrate," Judge Chester Morris, presiding over the current term of the Martin County Superior Court, told the eighteen-member grand jury Monday morning in a 30-minute charge. Nine new members were added to the jury, including R. G. Harrison, H. L. House, Lester Cherry, David R. Rogers, James C. Williams, James R. Jenkins, S. C. Griffin, Jr., Dalmer Gurkin and M. D. Wilson. Serving six months on the jury, Lawrence Hyman was made foreman of the group. Mr. Hyman succeeds Reuben Everett who recently completed a tour of duty as a member and foreman of the grand jury.

Judge Morris was heard by a packed courtroom, including members of the Jamesville eighth grade. Opening court a few minutes ahead of time, Judge Morris told the jurymen they were members of an important body. "Some say the grand jury is outmoded, but I do not think so," the jurist said, adding that it was a serious arm of the law, and the guardian of the entire citizenship of this county.

The jury system was set out in the organic law of the land, and its members occupy a unique position in society, the jurist said, adding that the community looks to each member of the jury to do his duty and uphold the law in a manner that will be of benefit to all people.

"The farmers of our Constitution were anxious about the rights of the individual and wanted to make certain that no one would be deprived of his liberty, that no innocent person would be prosecuted for malice," Judge Morris said, explaining that was why the grand jury was created. "It is impossible for any one to consistently violate the law without out one or more of your body knowing it," the jurist continued. Criminal cannot be tracked down unless the law is enforced.

The judge interrupted his charge at this point to pay Elbert S. Peel, the new solicitor, a compliment. "It has been my pleasure to work with Mr. Peel much of the time since early January, and he is rendering a valuable service to his State and country," the jurist declared.

"He'll send you bills of indictment and it is for you not to try the case, but to weigh the evidence and act on the bills," the jurist said, explaining methods of procedure. The presentment of crime not detected by law enforcement officers was pointed out as a sacred duty of the jury members. "You come from all parts of your county and it is your solemn duty to call to the attention of the court any law violations that have not been detected. All you have to do is to set forth the charges in a paper writing, list the witnesses and turn the writing over to the solicitor in a sealed envelope."

The jurist reviewed briefly the wording of the oath subscribed to by the jury members, and explained its meaning. "Much has been said about secrecy, but no one is against secrecy," he declared, explaining the value of maintaining secrecy there. "Some look upon jury service as a duty to be passed on to another, but the man who serves is doing a service that means a better type of law enforcement, better citizenship and that the law will triumph over immorality, indecency, and those things that tend to tear down our form of government," Judge Morris said, pointing out that if the jurors did their duty we need have no fear that our government will disintegrate. "Our system offers a way to find the truth, and our way surpasses any and all others found anywhere," he added.

The jury was instructed to inspect the several offices and public building, and report their findings. (Continued on page eight)