

## Court Nears End Of Trial Of Its Criminal Docket

### Tribunal Set To Hear Civil Cases In Second Week Beginning Monday

Sitting in the first week of a two-week term, the Martin County Superior Court is plugging along and will have cleared a greater part of its criminal docket by late tomorrow, according to reports coming from the old hall of justice about noon today.

Next Monday, with Judge Leo Carr of Burlington scheduled to continue on the bench, the court will hear divorce cases and other civil actions.

Criminal proceedings not previously reported follow:

Much of Tuesday morning was spent hearing the assault case brought against Elijah Manning. It was brought out that Manning was attending a fish fry in the home of Emma White on Williamston's Hunter Street last March, that Clayton Wilkins was stabbed in the back. The jury argued the case for several hours before returning a verdict favoring the defendant.

The case in which Woodrow Little was charged with forgery, was remanded to the juvenile court after the 13-year-old defendant had pleaded guilty.

Pleading guilty of the larceny of an automobile, Lester Roberson was sentenced to the roads for two and one-half years.

In the case in which W. H. Joyner was charged with issuing a worthless check, the defendant pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to the roads for sixty days. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of the court costs, it appearing that the check had been paid.

Found guilty by jury, Benjamin Harrison Lewis was fined \$100, plus costs, for drunken driving. He loses his operator's license for a year.

Charged with disposing of mortgaged property, Alma Thurston was found guilty in a matter of minutes. It was brought out that she owed Ernest Rogers a \$200 grocery bill and had mortgaged a cook stove and washing machine to secure the account. The stove was disposed of, and the action was started against her. It was

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## Ruritan Club Gets Charter

The newly formed Ruritan Club of Williamston held its first meeting Tuesday night at the Switch where its charter was presented to President D. W. Brady by the Roanoke District Governor Kenneth E. Stokes of Severn, N. C.

The meeting was presided over by Roanoke District Lt. Governor V. B. Hairr, of Jamesville, until the club officers were elected. At that time Mr. Hairr introduced Ruritan National Vice President Frank Kellam of Princess Anne, Va., who made an inspirational installation of the officers.

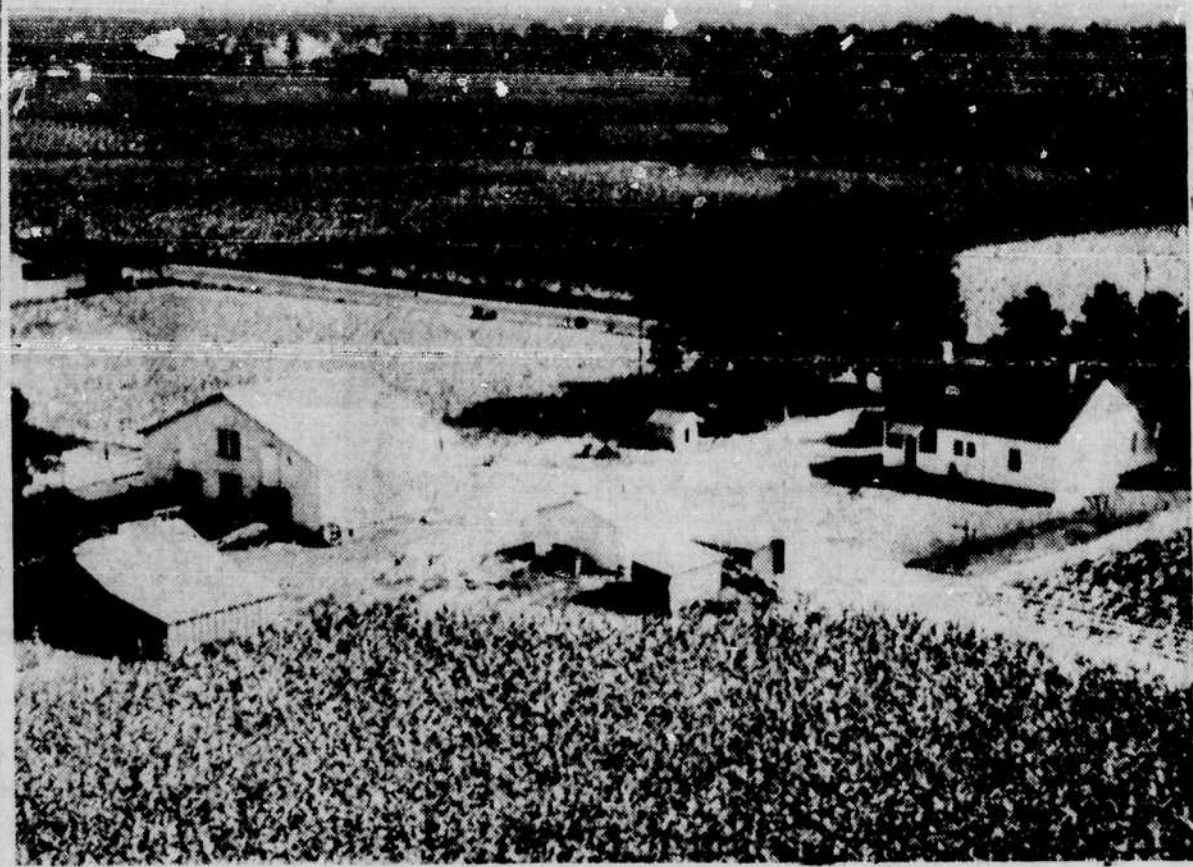
The elected officers for the first year are: President, D. W. Brady; Vice President, Henry Winslow; Secretary, Kenneth Lindsley, Jr.; Treasurer, J. H. McBrayer, Jr.; and three Directors, H. F. McKnight, Luther Peel, Jr., and Harvey Baggett.

Following the installation of officers the Charter was presented and signed by the following members present: D. W. Brady, Henry Winslow, Kenneth Lindsley, Jr., J. H. McBrayer, Jr., H. F. McKnight, Luther Peel, Jr., Harvey Baggett, Claude Parker, Dennis Bazemore, Charlie Gray, W. W. Harrell, Everett, Grady Godard, Edward L. Grady, Charles Hawley, L. L. Hodges, Claude Leggett, Rudolph Peele, Horace Ray, Ralph Taylor, and John Whitley. Those yet to sign are: W. W. Gurganus, K. P. Lindsley, Sr., Raymond Rawls, Haul Reddick, W. T. Ross, and J. W. Sneed.

Other visitors at the meeting were: Johnnie Sledge of Oak City, Roanoke District Lt. Governor, A. R. Thompson, past President of Princess Anne Club; Edwin Lindsley, member of the Princess Anne Club.

It was decided that the Williamston Ruritan Club shall meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p. m., at the Switch.

## Aerial Photo Of Martin Farm Home



Making his first flight over this county, an aerial photographer for Zekan-Robbins, photographers of Harlan, Iowa, made about fifty pictures of unidentified farm homes a short time ago. And, intentionally or unintentionally, the aerial photographer made it a bit difficult to establish the identity of some of his pictures. The above aerial photo, the ninth in the series, shows a rear view of some farm home. The scene looks a bit familiar, but the publishers are calling on their readers to identify it. The original pictures may be had at the newspaper office at cost. The picture last week, No. 8 in the series, was identified as that of the Green farm operated by Mr. Wiley Woolard on Highway 17 about six or seven miles from Williamston. The identification was made by Miss Lorraine Woolard and Mr. William Gurganus.

## Grand Jury Files A Routine Report In Court Tuesday

### Attention Of Jurymen Called To Increase Of Piccolos and Fish Fries

Swamped with bills of indictments and charged with many duties, the Martin County Grand Jury, R. G. Harrison, Jr., foreman, could not complete its work in one day, but the tasks were handled and the report was filed in open court Tuesday.

The report, for the most part, was of a routine nature, but it was learned that the jurymen's attention had been called to the increased "planting" of piccolos in private homes and fish fry events where liquor is sold freely and crime flourishes.

It could not be learned if the complaint reached the grand jury, but individual citizens were said to have considered advancing a report to the jurymen, alleging a "cover-up" of crime by some officers and others in this county.

The routine report follows, as addressed to Judge Leo Carr, presiding:

We, the Grand Jury of Martin County, for the above mentioned term of Superior Court, submit to you our report as follows:

All Bills of Indictment were passed upon by us.

The Reports of Justice of the Peace were checked and found filed with the Clerk of the Court and all fines paid to the County Treasurer.

We found the Jail in excellent condition with 1 white male inmate and 4 colored male inmates. We inspected the County Home and T. B. Ward. We found 12 inmates in the County Home—6 white females—2 white males and 4 colored males. In the T. B. Ward we found 11 patients—4 colored females and 7 colored males. We also found the entire building being painted inside as previously reported.

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## Science Show In The Local School

Previews of Progress, a dramatic, non-technical science show sponsored by General Motors, will be shown in Williamston on September 28, at 10:00 and 10:50 o'clock, in the local high school and under the auspices of the school. There will be no admission charge, and the public is invited.

Witnessed by millions of Americans, Previews of Progress will graphically present many of the most recent developments in scientific research, which will contribute to a more enjoyable and comfortable life in the years to come.

The purpose of the presentation is to portray the story of progress through engineering and science.

## INQUEST

Coroner W. W. Biggs will hold a formal inquest tomorrow evening at 8:00 o'clock in the courthouse following the death of William Ambrose Maye, 10 months old, in an automobile accident at the intersection of Highway 64 and the new truck route near the army last Saturday morning.

As far as it could be learned no witnesses to the accident have been found, but the drivers of the two cars, James LeRoy Williams, and William Maye, will be questioned along with the investigating officers.

## County Official Talks To Rotary Club On Tuesday

### Reviews Duties And Gives Interesting Facts About County

Addressing a regular meeting of the local Rotary Club at the Switch last Tuesday noon, Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger briefly reviewed the duties of his office and offered some interesting facts about the county.

Elected to the office thirty years ago, Mr. Getsinger said that the duties were varied, and, at times, rushing. While the office records papers of just about all types except wills, there are many other duties connected with the post, Mr. Getsinger explained.

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## Parents-Teachers Meet On Monday To Open New Year

### New Committees, Assigned By President James Bulluck, Are Announced

Williamston's parents and teachers will hold their first associational meeting in the high school auditorium next Monday evening at 7:45 o'clock, it was announced by James Bulluck, the new president. A large attendance upon the meeting by the Other officers of the association for the current year are: J. Don Skinner, vice president; Miss Velma Collins, secretary; and Mrs. W. T. Ross, treasurer.

Committees for the new year were announced by the president this week, as follows:

Program: Mrs. Ben Courtney, Chairman; Mrs. Harrell Everett, Mrs. W. C. Manning, Jr., Mrs. Irving Margolis, Mrs. Selma Bunting, Miss Mary W. Foy.

Membership: Mrs. Iverson Skinner, Chairman; Mrs. Lucille Cowan, Mrs. V. J. Spivey, Mrs. Raymond Gurkin, Mrs. D. R. Davis.

Finance: Mrs. Joseph Griffin, Chairman; Mrs. William Everett, Mrs. J. Shep Holiday, Mrs. Joel Muse, Mrs. R. D. Elliott, Mrs. H. F. McKnight.

High School Lunch Room: Mrs. H. A. Bowen, Chairman; Mrs. rison, Mrs. B. F. Lilley, Mrs. Bruce Chesson, Mrs. J. C. Gurkin, Mrs. Don Skinner, Mrs. Edna Bonardant.

Luncheon Grammar School: Mrs. Reg Simpson, Chairman; Mrs. J. H. McBrayer, Jr., Secretary.

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## Nominating Farm Committee Groups In Martin County

### New Plan Makes It Inconvenient For Some Farmers To Participate

Martin County farmers will meet next week in various districts to nominate candidates for places on the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation community committees and delegates to the county convention.

The names of the nominees will be printed and the ballots are to be mailed on October 7 to the farmers who are to make their selections and mail the ballots back to the county office not later than October 15 or deliver them to the office not later than October 18. The ballots are to be though tenants are eligible to vote in the election, they'll find it necessary to report to the county office and call for the ballots in person. Intentionally or unintentionally, tenant farmers are all but barred from participating in the elections. Heretofore, the elections were held in the several communities where all farmers found it convenient to cast their

All farmers, however, will find it convenient to participate in the nominating conventions to be held next week, and large crowds are urged to attend and participate.

The nominating conventions are being arranged by Messrs. T. B. Brandon, S. T. Everett, H. F. McKnight, J. C. Eubanks, at the direction of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

All the nominating conventions are to be held at 7:30 o'clock p. m., except the one for Jamesville No. 2 district, which will be held at 8:15 o'clock immediately following a meeting of District 1.

The schedule of meetings, place

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## James B. Peele Heads Auto Group

Washington, D. C.—Announcement of the appointment of Mr. James Bailey Peele, manager, Chas. H. Jenkins and Co., of Williamston, as NADA Area Chairman for Martin County was made today by Mr. Charles C. Freed, President of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Mr. Peele was singled out for this honor in appreciation of his efforts, both locally and statewide, in behalf of automobile dealers and the motoring public.

As an NADA Area Chairman, Mr. Peele will provide close liaison between NADA in Washington, D. C., and Martin County's new car and truck dealers. He will serve to coordinate local dealer action for programs and activities developed by NADA or by his State automobile dealers association.

Mr. Peele has been in the automobile business for 20 years. His dealership handles Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Cadillac and GMC Trucks, on Washington St.

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## Plans Going Forward For Annual Fair October 25th

Plans are rapidly going forward for the annual Martin County Agricultural Fair to be held here during the week beginning October 5, Chairman Fletcher Thomas announced today.

The premium list, offering greater cash premiums than ever before, is being prepared, and all but eight spaces in the exhibit hall have been taken by commercial exhibitors, it was announced.

Sponsored by the local Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, the fair is booking special entertainment features this year, including a unit of Grand Ole Opra out of Nashville, Tennessee, and the Sunshine Boys. The latter group has made several appearances in this county during the past two years.

The entertainment committee is also arranging two amateur night programs, and amateur entertainers wishing to participate in the programs are directed to contact the fair management.

Extensive arrangements are being made to promote the general exhibits this year. The cash premiums have been increased by about fifteen percent, and special plans are being made for a large livestock show, Chairman Thomas explained.

Proceeds of the fair are expected to clear outstanding obligations against the Boy Scout hut on South Smithwick Street, and there has been some talk about promoting a library project in the future.

## Tobacco Prices At A New High Peak Here

### MOVING

The local National Guard unit, Battery C, AAA Gun Bn., is moving into its new home at the corner of Highway 64 and the new truck route, during the week-end, it was announced by Captain E. S. Peel, Jr.

Guardsmen will start moving the equipment Sunday afternoon about 2:00 o'clock to the new \$100,000.00 armory, and complete the task Monday evening during a regular meeting of the unit.

The formal opening of the armory is tentatively scheduled for the latter part of October when dignitaries are expected to take part in a special program.

## Twenty-One Cases On Civil Calendar In Superior Court

### Judge Leo Carr Scheduled To Hear Sizable Accident Damage Suits

Twenty-one cases, in addition to fourteen divorce actions, have been placed on the civil calendar for trial in the Martin County Superior Court when Judge Leo Carr returns to preside over the second period in a two-week term.

In six cases, growing out of automobile accidents, defendants are asking \$72,041.12 damages.

Sarah Lee Smith, by her general guardian, Lela G. Smith, is suing H. O. Warren, owner of a car driven by his daughter, Betty Lou Warren, for \$31,443.80. The plaintiff was riding with Miss Warren on Highway 301 near Fayetteville September 5, 1953, when

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## Fourteen Divorce Cases Calendared In Superior Court

### One Plaintiff Seeks to Have Marriage Declared Illegal And Void

Fourteen divorce actions have been calendared for trial in the Martin County Superior Court during the week of September 27 when Judge Leo Carr of Burlington returns for the second of a two-week term of the tribunal. All of the first week, beginning next Monday, has been set aside for the trial of criminal cases.

Thirteen of the divorce actions are based on grounds of two years of separation. In the fourteenth case, the plaintiff is asking the court to declare her marriage illegal and void, alleging that at the time of the proposed marriage the defendant was already married and the father of a child. In her complaint against Ernest Carl Finley, the plaintiff, Helen Girvin Finley says marriage was proposed on October 3, 1953, that at the time the defendant was already married to another woman unknown to the plaintiff, that the defendant had one child and that he misled the plaintiff in becoming married to him.

Other divorce cases, all based on two-year separation grounds, follow:

In her action against James Edward Blackwell, Lilly Blackwell says they were married June 18, 1935, and separated January 15, 1939, that no children were born of the union.

Janie Mae Stokes, suing Charles Henry Stokes, says they were married October 1, 1948, and separated 25 days later on October 26, 1948, that no children were born of the union.

In the case of Cora McNair Pegese against Lucius Pegese, Sr., the plaintiff points out they were married October 25, 1936, and separated August 15, 1939. The two children born of the union are with and are being supported by the plaintiff who is asking their permanent custody.

Lillie Hand Freeman, in her case against Walter Freeman, says they were married December 24, 1945, and separated middle of June, 1951, and that no children were born of the union.

Suing Wm. Doughty for divorce, Mary Doughty says they were married in 1935 and separated December 29, 1950, that the three children born of the union are in the custody of and supported by the plaintiff.

Helen Louise Roberson Kirkman, in her case against William Roosevelt Kirkman of Nash County says they were married October 20, 1934, and separated in September, 1947. She points out that

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## Youth Jailed On Burglarly Charge

David L. Higgs, 17-year-old colored boy, is being held in the county jail without privilege of bond for the confessed burglarly of the Pete Johnson home near Robersonville last Saturday night. Up until yesterday Higgs denied the charge, but officers confronted him with damaging evidence and he told all about the crime.

Hanging around a piccol joint known as Bell's place in Robersonville Township, Higgs left there late on Saturday night or 10:00 o'clock and went to the Johnson home. Peeping in a window, he found a baby sitter and withdrew, taking a stand in the bog lot until Mr. and Mrs. Johnson returned home. About 10:30 he entered the home through a door, went to the bedroom where the Johnsons were sleeping and took a pair of trousers off a chair. The pants were found the next morning and \$30 missing from the pockets.

Suspicion centered on Higgs when it was learned he had been without money earlier in the evening at Bell's place, and that late Saturday night he appeared to be well stocked.

Deputy Dennis Roberson, making the investigation, matched the prints of Higgs' shoes with those found at the Johnson window. At a preliminary hearing this week, probably cause of guilt was found in the capital case and Higgs was denied bond by Justice of the Peace W. M. Tetterton.

## Plans Completed For Band Drive

Plans were completed this week for the annual fund drive for the Williamston High School Band and canvassers are working in a few areas today to make the campaign assigned them by Co-Chairmen A. J. Manning and Marvin Britton.

Under their new director, Clyde Wade, the youngsters are busy getting ready for their first football half-time show here next week at the Littleton game and it has become apparent that some \$800.00 worth of new uniforms are needed to keep the band in the class to which it is accustomed.

Some new instruments are also needed and repairs to others are being made creating a demand on the band funds that will be heavy this year. While no official goal has been set, Co-Chairman A. J. Manning said today it will take at least \$2500.00 to meet obligations already undertaken.

The band is to attend the Duke-Tennessee game on October 2 with details to be announced the first of next week.

Tag day will be Friday, October 1.

## Civil War Diary of Docton Warren Bagley

Installment 13  
In this, the 13th installment of Mr. Bagley's diary, the treasurer makes about the last entries in the *Martin County Volunteer Fund*.

The following entries show additions to the fund:  
W. E. Everett, subscription, \$10. "To this sum received from Mr. Hassell for advances made to free black men who worked on fortifications, \$136.70; Received of Judge Asa Biggs for 44 yards of blue jeans left on hand, \$5.50; Joseph Griffin for account, \$1; Joel Smithwick, subscription, \$100; William H. Harrell, remainder of subscription, \$25; C. B. Hassell for blank bonds, \$10; A. C. Williams, remainder of note, \$15.50; D. L. Browns, note for subscription, \$25; W. A. Matthews, note for subscription, \$25; Handley Coburn, note on subscription, \$10; J. A. Page, note on subscription, \$25; Kinchen Nelson, note on subscription, \$5. A \$50 item, turned into the fund, is credited to no one.

The items above were recorded during the period from August 25, 1861, to January 14, 1862. The following entry appears at the bottom of page 112 of the diary: "By this sum carried to County Trustees Book to balance, it being in part for order on the Trustees at the Court at July term, 1861, as a credit, \$693.69. The Volunteer Fund stood at that time of balance at \$11,830.40. Most of it had been raised by public subscription, the subscribers paying of it in fish, pork, bacon, meal and peas.

On Page 113, Mr. Bagley enters just about the last of the bookkeeping entries under the Volunteer Fund heading. Between January 14, 1862, and the following March 23, the fund received on subscriptions and notes almost \$400, as follows: J. R. Nelson, \$5; McIlbra Robason, \$25; George O. Robason, \$50; Orman Gray, \$25; William Albert Robason, \$25; Willis Manning, \$10; M. G. W. Nelson, \$10; Jos. B. E. Andrews, \$100; R. D. Matthews, \$25; H. P. Gibson, \$50; A. Burrough, \$5. The following accounts were also received: Peter G. Foster, \$8.60; H. P. Gibson, \$80, all adding up to \$463.00, which amount was turned over

to the county Trustees.

**Martin Volunteers**  
In addition to the several hundred Martin County men who volunteered at the companies raised in this county, quite a few Martin men volunteered and went to war with companies formed in surrounding counties. Mr. Bagley lists the names of those volunteering with other county companies as follows:  
Company captain, and branch of service as follows:  
Samuel A. Whitley, Daniel D. Robason and William Huff volunteered in the infantry in Pitt County under Captain Singletary.

John H. Hyman, McG. Hyman, Needham Hyman, M. W. Hyman, Jackson Lowe, William P. Jones, Theodore Hyman and R. B. Salsbury volunteered in the cavalry in the same county but under Captain Whitaker.

E. G. A. Cotten, M. A. Cotten, William W. Marriner and Jesse B. Robason volunteered in the infantry in Edgecombe County under Captain Bridges. G. A. Curry volunteered in the infantry under Captain Battle in Edgecombe.

The following also volunteered in Edgecombe in the infantry but under Captain Jenkins: J. H. D. Nelson, William R. Nelson, Joseph White, Thomas Nelson, G. F. Roebuck, John Purvis, W. F. Hoard, M. B. Staffs, Henry Nelson and Wright Nelson. Henry Slade is also listed as an infantry volunteer in Edgecombe County under Captain Lloyd.

William Pease volunteered in the cavalry in Halifax in the infantry under Captain Bell, and Thomas E. Darden, who was later to become vice president of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, volunteered over in Beaufort County under Captain Satterthwaite. The diary lists him in the cavalry with a question mark, making it uncertain whether Darden served in the cavalry or some other branch of the service. By the name of Jesse B. Robason is the word "died" in parenthesis.

Most of those volunteering in Edgecombe County were in the 33rd Regiment.

In the next installment, No. 14, Mr. Bagley reports on the fight along the North Carolina coast.