

## Judge Carr Hears Last Of Criminal Cases On Friday

### Hung Jury Results In Mistrial In Speeding Case Against Bus Driver

After clearing twenty-nine cases from its criminal docket and continuing seventeen others, Judge Leo Carr ordered a week-end recess early last Friday afternoon marking the close of the first week of a two-week term of the Martin County Superior Court.

The tribunal, encountering long, drawn-out cases, worked slowly but surely, searching out justice at every turn. A few defendants squeezed their way out of the hands of the law via the jury route, but there were more convictions than acquittals by the jury.

The speeding case against Henry Frank Crumme, bus driver, claimed the spotlight during the criminal trials last week, and resulted finally in a mistrial. The case attracted expert witnesses, and just about all of Thursday morning was given over to the trial. Taking the case at noon Thursday, the jury deliberated the issue a short while and took time out for lunch. Returning for the afternoon session, the jury tied up nine to three when the court asked for a progress report. At 5:10 o'clock that afternoon, the court was ten to two, and Judge Carr started to arrange for a mistrial. However, he told the jurors to take the case home and sleep over it and try for a verdict Friday morning. When no decision had been reached at 10:55 Friday morning, Judge Carr directed the withdrawal of a juror and ordered a mistrial. It was reported that the court stood ten to two for conviction.

The case was first heard by Judge Peeler in the county court where the defendant, Crumme, was adjudged guilty. Appeal was noted and bus line officials appeared in court to support the plea of not guilty. Machines were introduced in evidence, tending to show that the bus had not exceeded the speed limit. The State offered witnesses who maintained the machine was inaccurate. The case is now on the docket for trial at the December term.

Other proceedings in the court not previously reported, follow: Pleading guilty of being drunk and disorderly and resisting arrest, Charles B. Andrews was sentenced to the roads for sixty days. The sentence is to begin November 1, and the defendant was required to give \$200 bond for his appearance before and surrender to the sheriff of the county on that date.

## P. T. A. Holds Its Opening Session

With about 300 members in attendance the Williamston High School Parents-Teachers Association held its opening session of the 1954-55 scholastic year in the high school auditorium last night. A social hour followed with parents and teachers getting acquainted and discussing individually their mutual problems of the year—the training of the children of the community.

The organization got off to a good start in its aim of increasing its membership by 10 per cent over the 522 enrolled last year. A committee is to be appointed to review and possibly revise the rules and by-laws of the association and have the approved by the state headquarters.

Rev. Thomas L. Hastings reviewed the recent history of recreation here and told of the revival of the program through the organization of a Youth Club which has elected officers and set up a temporary program which it is hoped will develop into a permanent one. In telling of the effort, he said that parents and friends of the young people will be called upon to help in the work with both time and money.

President James Bulluck presided with Miss Velna Collins as secretary. Door prize was won by Mrs. Jack Hardison. It was contributed by the Muse Jewelry Co. Attendance award went to Mrs. Dorothy Manning's room.

## Battery C Of National Guard In New Home



Members of Battery C, 150th AAA Gun Battalion of the North Carolina National Guard are now at home in their new \$100,000 Armory, corner of Highway 64 and the new truck route around Williamston. The guardsmen moved in early this week, and are planning a formal opening in late October. Pictured are, kneeling, Sgt. Wilbur L. Jackson; First row, standing left to right, Sgt. George D. Reason, Pvt. Willie B. Bullock, Pfc. Geoffrey H. Corey, Lt. Hugh G. Horton, Jr., Capt. Elbert S. Peel, Jr., Lt. Garland B. Wynne, MSgt. Paul T. Peele, Jr., Sgt. Russell E. Keel, SFC Noah R. Peeler and SFC Charles D. Edwards, Second Row, left to right, Sgt. George C. Moore, Pfc. Bobby C. Moore, Sgt. Al G. Mills, Pfc. Cleon C. Latham, Pfc. Herman D. Holliday, Pfc. Ernest H. Godard, Pfc. Calie S. Biggs, Pvt. James D. Ward, Pvt. John R. Pierce, Jr., and Pfc. Dewey C. Simpson, Third Row, left to right, Pvt. Aubrey S. Rogerson, Pvt. Willie J. Beacham, Pfc. Bonnie R. Pilgreen, Pvt. Joseph L. Peaks, Pfc. Archie D. Coltrain, Pfc. James H. Coltrain, Pfc. Tommy W. Gardner, Sgt.

Hubert D. Smith, Pfc. William E. Chesson, Pvt. Chester M. Nicholson, Pfc. Thomas W. Revels, Fourth Row, left to right, SFC George B. Selby, Sgt. George W. Williams, Pfc. Dallas F. Coltrain, Pfc. Shelton R. Long, Pfc. Earl T. Sills, Pvt. Comer G. Griffin, Pfc. William R. Mobley, Pfc. David L. Hughes, Pvt. Reginald W. Rawls, Pfc. Johnny W. Bowen and Pvt. Elton W. Williams.

National Guard Boys not in the picture: MSgt. Reginald W. Coltrain, MSgt. Leslie T. Fowden, SFC Alton M. Hargrett, SFC John R. Wobblaton, Sgt. Alfred F. Craft, Sgt. James T. Perry, Cpl. William H. Mobley, PFC Spencer A. Avers, PFC Billy S. Biggs, PFC George A. Green, PFC Jerry G. Savage, PFC Earl T. Sills, PFC William R. Whittaker, Pvt. William C. Bailey, Pvt. Gene C. Bennett, Pvt. Herman S. Bowen, Pvt. Levi C. Oglesby, Pvt. Alfred Perry, Pvt. Ervin A. Bowen, Pvt. Russell C. Bowen, Pvt. Jimmie D. Bullock, Pvt. William F. Edmonds, Pvt. Donald J. Meeks, Pvt. William J. Moore, Pvt. John R. Peaks, Pvt. Robert L. Reesen, Pvt. Wallace M. Smith, Pvt. Samuel M. Worsley.

## Fatal Auto Wreck Said Unavoidable By Coroner's Jury

### Says Signs Insufficient On Truck Route; Injured Victim Improving

The two car collision at the intersection of Highway 64 and the new truck route near the National Guard Armory on Saturday, September 18, was ruled "unavoidable" by a six-man jury following a hearing in the county courthouse last Friday evening. The jury went on to point out that the accident was traceable to insufficient signs on the new route.

The accident claimed the life of seven-month-old William Ambrose Maye of Portsmouth, Va., and resulted in the serious injury of his mother who is reported improving in a Durham hospital and who is expected to be able to return to her home within a few days.

Conducting the inquest, Coroner W. W. Biggs called several witnesses. LeRoy Williams, driving one of the cars involved in the fatal crash, said he was driving toward Williamston on Highway 64, that he was near the intersection when he saw the car approaching the spot from the east on the truck route. "I was already slowing down and immediately..."

## Wrecks Auto On A Local Street

Losing control of his 1950 DeSoto on White Street near Broad at 1:30 o'clock last Thursday morning, George Willis Lee did considerable damage to the machine when he drove it into a tree, turning it over by only a foot or two.

The car went out of control in deep sand, Officers Verble Jones and Arthur Perry said following their investigation. Damage to the machine was estimated at \$400.

Neither the driver nor his companion, Emma Watts, was injured, the officers said.

## Thief Steals Money From Filling Station

Breaking a pane in a window, a thief reached inside and stole several dollars in cash from a cigar box in Ernest White's filling station between Williamston and Hamilton last Saturday night or early Sunday morning.

## Native Of County Died Saturday At Baltimore Home

### Funeral Conducted In Baptist Church Yesterday For Matthew L. Nicholson

Matthew L. Nicholson, a native of this county, died at his home in Baltimore Saturday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock. He had been in failing health for several years and critically ill for some weeks.

A son of the late James Nicholson and wife, Susan Irene Nicholson, he was born near Williamston 78 years ago on August 6, 1876, and spent his early life on the farm and in Williamston where he engaged in the building trade. He was married to Mrs. Lilley Mizelle Ward of this county about fifty years ago, making his home on West Main Street until about 1912 when the family moved to Smithfield. A few years later he located in Baltimore where he continued in the building construction business. Before leaving Williamston he was also engaged in the mercantile business for a few years. He is remembered here as a worthy friend, and one devoted to his home and family.

He had made regular visits to his old home here, enjoying the renewal of acquaintances with a rapidly dwindling list of old friends. He had retired some years ago.

Surviving are Mrs. Nicholson, two step-sons, Cornelius and Ronald Ward, and a step-daughter, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Benjamin, all of Baltimore, and several nieces and nephews of this county.

Funeral service was conducted in the Memorial Baptist Church here yesterday afternoon.

## Civil War Diary of Docton Warren Bagley

Installment 14  
(On page 116 of his diary, Mr. Bagley tells about the surrender of Fort Clark on Hatteras Island, as follows:)

"...the soldiers of Company A, commanded by Captain Lamb, who left here on the 20th day of May, 1861, for Hatteras, where under State officers, built a fort called Fort Hatteras, after which they built Fort Clark to which he and his men were ordered, both forts and appurtenances, guns, and even cartridges being shot and insufficient in the face of impor-

## GYMNASIUMS

The Martin County Board of Education is meeting here this afternoon at 2:00 o'clock to receive bids on the construction of three gymnasium projects at Jamesville, Bear Grass and Oak City. The plans call for widening the present structures by about seventeen feet and extending the ends thirty feet.

Few or no bids had been filed up until the week-end, according to one report heard yesterday.

## George W. Smith Died In Hospital Monday Morning

### Funeral Tuesday Afternoon For Retired Jamesville Township Farmer

George William (Jake) Smith, retired Jamesville Township farmer, died in a Plymouth hospital Monday morning at 2:30 o'clock. He had been in declining health for several years, and confined to his bed for two weeks. He was a patient in the hospital several days.

The son of the late James C. and Susan Clement Smith, he was born in this county 86 years ago on December 4, 1867, and lived all his life in the Dardens community of Jamesville Township. He farmed until declining health forced his retirement a few years ago.

Mr. Smith was a member of the Corinth Free Will Baptist Church, and was active in religious and other affairs in his community, serving the church as a deacon several terms.

Funeral service was conducted in the Memorial Baptist Church here yesterday afternoon.

## Seven Divorces Granted Monday In This County

Seven divorces were granted and another marriage was annulled in the Martin County Superior Court Monday. A few other cases were settled by agreement. A \$100 value was placed on a human life in one case, and taken settlements were effected by agreement in other cases.

Judge Leo Carr of Burlington returned to the county Monday to continue his work on the bench after presiding at the trial of criminal cases all last week.

## Several Divorces Granted Monday In This County

### Few Other Cases Cleared From Calendar By Agreement

Surviving are three sons, C. D., William H., and Sutton Carstarphen; one daughter, Miss Mary Carstarphen, all of Williamston; one grandson, W. H. Carstarphen, Jr.; and one sister, Mrs. Aloza Hassell, of Roanoke Rapids.

The last rites were conducted in the Biggs Funeral Chapel Monday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock by the Rev. R. E. Walston, pastor of the First Methodist Church. Interment was in the family plot in Woodlawn Cemetery.

## Mrs. George Keel Died At Her Home In County Monday

### Funeral Will Be Held In Church At Everetts Wednesday Afternoon

Mrs. Caddie Edmondson Keel, well known resident of Cross Roads Township, died at her home there Monday afternoon at 4:40 o'clock. She had been in declining health following an operation in a Rocky Mount Hospital in July of last year, and was critically ill for several weeks.

The daughter of the late John and Florence Edmondson, she was born in Pitt County near Bethel 55 years ago on July 1, 1899, and spent her early life there. Following her marriage in 1921 to George Keel of this county, she made her home near Everetts in Cross Roads Township. She was a member of the Everetts Christian Church for more than quarter a century and was active in church work.

Funeral service will be held in the Everetts Christian Church at 2:00 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

(Continued on Page Two)

## Prominent Citizen Died At Her Home Sunday Morning

### Funeral Service Held For Mrs. Eliza Carstarphen Yesterday Afternoon

Mrs. Eliza Bennett Carstarphen, member of a family for many years prominent in the religious and political affairs of this county, died in her sleep at her home here on North Smithwick Street about 4:30 o'clock Sunday morning. In declining health for many years, having undergone several major operations and prolonged treatment, she apparently was getting along as well as usual when she retired last Saturday night shortly before 11:00 o'clock. She was up and about the home during Saturday, and members of the family found her in normal sleep just a short time before the end. Death was the apparent result of a heart attack. Members of the family, going to her room shortly before 9:00 o'clock, thought she was sleeping, but when she did not waken a short time later they called and received no answer.

The daughter of the late William Henry and Mary Elizabeth Bateman Bennett, she was born in Hamilton 74 years ago on March 8, 1880. When a child she moved to Williamston with her parents, making her home here since that time.

She was married April 24, 1901, to Charles Daughtry Carstarphen who died in 1929.

Mrs. Carstarphen was a member of the First Methodist Church here for many years, contributing to its work and participating in its services until she was forced into virtual retirement by declining health. She was an able student of the Bible, and was devoted to her family and friends, living the life of a true Christian and lending encouragement to other in her daily walk through life.

Surviving are three sons, C. D., William H., and Sutton Carstarphen; one daughter, Miss Mary Carstarphen, all of Williamston; one grandson, W. H. Carstarphen, Jr.; and one sister, Mrs. Aloza Hassell, of Roanoke Rapids.

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## Tobacco Prices Hit Record Peak Monday

### Market Here Set To Reach Twelve Million Pounds

Average Of \$60.91 Established Here Yesterday For 388,788 Pounds

Starting a noticeable climb last week, tobacco prices on the Williamston market moved on to a record peak yesterday when 388,788 pounds were sold for an official average of \$60.91 per hundred pounds. It was by far the highest sale of the season, beating by almost three cents a pound the previous high to \$58.09 recorded for the sale last Friday.

Up until this morning, the market had sold 8,518,518 pounds for an official average of \$54.84 per hundred pounds.

The shift from tobacco to the peanut harvest is beginning to make itself felt on the market, but a fairly large sale is in progress today on local warehouse floors. It is estimated that between 65 and 70 percent of the crop in this area has been marketed, but reports from the market point to a season total of more than twelve million pounds.

The following report, covering activities on all the markets in the belt for the week and for the season to date, was released by the government marketing services:

Volume of sales was heavy on the Eastern North Carolina flue-cured tobacco markets last week. Average prices by grades from an over-all standpoint were about in line with quotations of the previous five-day period. The Federal-State Market News Service reports the quality of tobacco continued to improve.

The highest weekly average of the season was established as 60.032,878 gross pounds returned an average of \$53.57.

Average of \$60.91 per hundred pounds. A few more gains than losses were observed. Demand strengthened for smoking leaf grades as most of these averaged \$1.00 to \$2.00 higher. Several leaf offerings declined. Season averages are lower for practically all grades when compared with the corresponding period last year. Losses range from \$1.00 to \$8.00 per hundred pounds with most \$2.00 to \$5.00. The largest declines are centered on primings and lower quality grades of smoking leaf and lugs.

Fair to choice marketings increased in percentage. The production of the season is estimated at 12,000,000 pounds.

(Continued on Page Five)

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## Several Wrecks On County Roads During Week-End

### No One Was Reported Badly Hurt In The Series Of Accidents

No one was reported badly hurt and property losses were comparatively small in a series of automobile accidents on the highways in this county during the past week-end.

In addition to the highway wrecks, two accidents were reported on Williamston streets, boosting the property damage by more than \$400, according to preliminary reports released by officers.

Mrs. Selma Rawls was rendered unconscious at 8:15 o'clock Sunday morning when her car, a 1935 Chevrolet was struck in the left side by a 1948 Chrysler, driven by William Earl Hudson of RFD 6, Greenville. An ambulance was ordered to the wreck, but the victim quickly recovered from the shock and a trip to the hospital was not necessary, the investigating officer quoted her as saying.

Mrs. Rawls was said to have driven from Brierley's station a few miles from Williamston on the Prison Camp road, into the path of the approaching car which was traveling toward Williamston. The Chevrolet was knocked around and into a ditch. Mrs. Rawls fell into the ditch. Damage to each car was estimated at \$500.

## Badly Injured In Playground Fall

The first showing of the new director will come Friday as the band holds its annual tag day by visiting the warehouses and the business district, parading and offering tags for sale. Friday night, the band will put on its first show at the town square. The band will have a tag day on Saturday afternoon when the band enters Duke stadium at Durham to participate with other high school bands in a show at the Tennessee-Duke football game. It is reported the Williamston band is the only one invited from this immediate section.

The band has been working at every opportunity to shake out the kinks left from a summer of idleness and the marching seasons have been long and arduous. There will be plenty more of the same between this time and Friday.

Meanwhile, canvassers have at...

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