

# GAIL WINDS

by: Gail L. Roberson

There's a very good reason for lawyers. Think how boring the world would be if everything was as simple as it really is. We may as well accept the fact that none of us can live without the lawyers. It's for certain we can't die without one.

The minute I read something I can't understand, I am sure it was drawn up by a lawyer. Not all of us are cut out to be counselors of the law. Thomas Reed Powell declared that, "if you think that you can think about a thing, inextricably attached to something else, without thinking of the thing it is attached to, then you have a legal mind." Like I said, not all of us can do such things.

Our country has created over 32,000,000 laws. However, we have not yet improved upon the Ten Commandments, which, if they were properly abided by, would deem the 32,000,000 useless anyhow. For generations we have fought for our freedom. For generations, we have accumulated laws to take it all away from ourselves.

I agree with Calvin Coolidge who said, "I sometimes wish that people would put a little more emphasis upon the observance of the law than they do upon its enforcement." That's a great statement there. All laws are really useless anyhow, for good men don't need laws at all, and bad men are made no better by them.

Getting yourself caught up between two lawyers is like a fish landing on the ground between two huge tom cats. You'll be lucky to escape with your bones. You may as well open an oyster without a knife as a lawyer's mouth without a fee, so save up your quarters if you plan to seek legal advice. A lawyer is a learned person who rescues your estate from your enemies and then keeps it, or most of it, for fees due his firm.

Unfortunately, despite best intentions sometimes, many laws today resemble a spider's webs. They grab hold of the little flies and gnats which fall into them, but the mighty and rich will break and run through them at will.

While I was laying the foundation for my writing career, I was a legal secretary for seven years. I owe much to my employers, who, along with a weekly income, also taught me many lessons of law, both in the courtroom and personal observations. The greatest lesson I acquired from them, however, was that these particular lawyers were as honest as the day is long, as hard working as a convict on a chain gang, and as dedicated to law and order as they were to winning in the courtroom. It was wonderful to study some of the more interesting aspects of this vocation at the feet of such people.

I never think of lawyers, however, that I am not reminded of one particular man who certainly had his day in court. Paul Harvey once told about a defendant in Battle Creek, Michigan, who was before the court, charged with assault. He was being badgered mercilessly by the prosecutor that day, and was fastly reaching the end of his patience.

The prosecutor said to him . . . "You say you didn't hit the plaintiff, you just SHOVED him a little?"

"That's right," the defendant replied. I just SHOVED him lightly.

"On, now, IS it?" snarled the prosecutor. "Well now, I want you to come on down off that witness stand right now and show the jury just how hard you SHOVED the plaintiff. You can pretend I'm the plaintiff."

The defendant stepped down from the witness stand, doubled the prosecutor over with a hard blow to the stomach, bloodied his nose, and finally knocked him half-conscious to the floor. He then turned to the jury and said . . .

"Ladies and gentlemen . . . about one-tenth that hard."

## Obituaries

### Joe S. Dudley

Joe Spencer Dudley, 79, of Rt. 2, Box 263, Vanceboro, died Saturday at his home.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel in Vanceboro with the Rev. Ellis Bedsworth officiating. Burial was in Celestial Memorial Gardens.

Surviving are his wife, Vera Foy Dudley; four sons, Joe W. Dudley and David S. Dudley, both of Vanceboro, Max Dudley of Askins and George T. Dudley of High Point; two sisters, Mrs. Hazel Smith of Norfolk, Va., and Mrs. Myra Vincent of Jasper; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was a native and lifelong resident of the Pitchkettle community of Craven County. He farmed all his life and was a member of the ABC Board for 18 years. He was a member of Lane's Chapel United Methodist Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 2007 S. Glenburnie Rd., New Bern, N.C. 28560.

### Gerald G. Green

JACKSONVILLE — Ms. Gerald Gardner "Jerri" Green, 45, of 806 Onslow Pines Road, Jacksonville, died Saturday at Craven Regional Medical Center in New Bern.

The funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. Monday in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel in Vanceboro by the Rev. Roger Carroll. Burial was in Celestial Memorial Gardens.

Surviving are a son, Mike Green of Beaufort, S.C.; a daughter, Maisie Green of the home; five sisters, Mrs. Ivor Ruth Cox of Anderson, S.C., Mrs. Maxine Highcove of Jacksonville, Fla., Mrs. Hazel Willis, Mrs. Joyce Ippock and Mrs. Nadane Waters, all of Vanceboro.

Ms. Green, a native of Craven County, lived her early life in the Vanceboro community. For the past 17 years she had made her home in Jacksonville. She was employed at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base.

## Our Opinion

### Constitutional Convention Not Too Practical For N.C.

It is very true that the Constitution of North Carolina makes provision for a constitutional convention for the state. But the process is both unusual and somewhat cumbersome.

In looking over the processes necessary for a state convention to change or amend the state constitution, first of all, the General Assembly would set a tentative date for such a convention and a two-thirds vote of both the House and Senate is necessary. Then the proposition is submitted to the people for a vote on the clear-cut proposition of "convention" or "no convention."

If the people reject the call for a convention, of course the matter dies right there. If the people vote in favor of a convention, it is then called as specified by the legislature. But this convention can only consider matters previously laid out as convention business.

Such a state convention would be made up of the same number of members as the N.C. House or 120 and they must come from each of the 120 legislative districts. No member of the legislature can be a delegate to the convention.

Now any matter adopted by the convention regarding a change in the constitution or an amendment must then be submitted to the people of North Carolina for approval or non-approval. That is the way a state constitutional convention works.

Now for a constitutional change in this state of North Carolina, the simple and usual way is for the legislature to adopt a resolution putting a constitutional question before the people for a "yes" or "no" vote. If the vote is "yes" then at the next session of the legislature, the will of the people is carried out. If the people vote "no," that ends it without question.

So the call for a constitutional convention, made recently in the state House, is hardly any practical answer. It is so easy to change our constitution by the usual route through the assembly with approval of the people. It would be so difficult and cumbersome to amend our constitution in a state convention. Perhaps the introducer of the bill calling for a state convention has not studied the state constitution fully. While we feel quite confident that any call for a state constitutional convention will die in the legislature, the very fact that one is considered by a legislator is somewhat puzzling.

It is true that there are several matters involving constitutional changes now before the legislature. But the assembly can handle all the constitutional calls without going the cumbersome route of a state convention.

Maybe some feel that a state convention will do what a legislature refuses to do. But there is always the fact that only the people of North Carolina can change or amend our constitution.

So we feel such a state convention is both unneeded and really impractical. If a change is worthy, then let the legislature submit the proposition to the people for approval or non-approval.

### Weird Bills Introduced In Our General Assembly

There is an old saying that goes something like "some people have something to say; others have to say something."

That saying might also apply rather aptly to some of the legislators who are introducing bills so far out as to sound ridiculous at times. As of this writing, we read that 2,206 bills have been introduced to date.

Many of those 2,206 bills will help North Carolina not at all. These so-called weird bills will hardly get out of committee. If they do get to the floor and the members debate weird bills, then this state will have reached a new era in public debate. Really, how does a legislator debate a ridiculous proposition?

For instance, we have a lot of bills of questionable value. There is a bill which says that if one steals a neighbor's cat or dog, it could possibly get the thief 10 years in prison. Some pet owners, we read, are having their pets tattooed.

Another bill would make it illegal to own a ferret. A bill would make the use of helmets optional with motorcycle operators. A bill would ban the sale of beer from open coolers, barrels, or containers. There is a bill which, if passed, would ban the Sunday sale of beer at places which also sell gasoline.

While we think we need to bear down harder on those who deliberately give worthless checks, there is a bill which could get 10 years in prison for anyone who gives a bad check in excess of \$400. Another bill would ban the use of state tax money to build a school with a flat-top roof.

A bill which surely would hit a lot of good people, if passed, would ban anyone using a hook and line and natural bait from fishing in the county of residence without a license. There is a bill to ban profanity on school grounds. There is a bill which would make it a crime to possess a milk crate bearing the name of the owner.

Then there is a bill regarding the size of a loaf of bread. A bill says that one might buy a hot dog from a street vendor but the vendor will be regulated. Just what the regulations are do not appear in the bill, we read. There is a bill to make the Plott hound the official dog of North Carolina. Then there is a bill which would require reporters to wear name tags in the legislative building and at all functions termed formal receptions for legislators.

There are many others too numerous to mention. If we can, just imagine what might happen to North Carolina if all those 2,206 bills should become law. There are always legislators who feel they are not doing their part unless they introduce some bills, regardless of the worth involved.

Yes, there are legislators who have to say something and there are legislators who have something to say.

And there are those who have something to do and there are those who have to do something.

## ASCS Notes

The Craven County ASCS office has the following information:

Participation in the 1989 Wheat and or Feed Grain Program under the soybean and sunflower provision is not binding. A producer may change his intentions.

In doing so, the producer may change his intentions at the time certification takes place.

The producer who does decide to reduce his soybean intentions under the provision may not reduce the soybean acreage below 10 percent of the maximum permitted acreage and receive P. and C.P. credit for the program crop.

The exception to this is where a producer substituted 10 percent of the maximum permitted and

the acreage was reduced 20 percent due to modified soybean acreage.

The acreage may not be reduced the modified acreage and receive planted and considered planted credit.

Producers who are participating in the program may report any changes made as far as their plantings or inability to plant at the time they certify and this will determine how they are actually participating in the program.

What this means is that certification of crops enrolled in the program will actually determine the producer's enrollment status and will be the most binding part of the 1989 program.

If a producer is enrolled in the 1989 program or programs he may receive payments for plant-

ing, not planting failed acreage or prevented planting.

The 1989 programs are not binding.

For example, a producer can be enrolled in the corn program to plant his maximum permitted acreage and be prevented from planting due to wet weather. The producer may certify zero planted acreage and receive payments if he reports C.U. for payment to support payments for 92 percent of his maximum permitted.

Also, the producer must report eight percent of his permitted as C.U. without pay to be eligible. Any producer who withdraws completely out of the program will have to pay back advance payments plus liquidated dam-

ages.

Note that the oat program provision is binding after the sign-up ends. The producer may not change his intentions and plant a crop he has designated as oats without being penalized.

Producers enrolled in the 1988 0/92 program will receive payments in October of 38 cents. Corn program producers requested an advance payment of 44 cents in April, 1988. This year 28 cents was paid in March and 38 cents will be paid in October. These figures will account for the guaranteed \$1.10 that was mentioned at sign-up.

Flue-cured tobacco support amounts will be \$1.468 per pound, up from \$1.442 in 1988.

### Eagles From Page 1

Kanuck had the only two West Carteret hits as the Patriots fell to 0-3, 0-4.

West Carteret 000 010 0-3  
North Lamar 000 021 1-4

BEAUFORT — Despite making eight errors in the field, East Carteret turned two double plays and threw one runner out at the plate as the Lady Mariners (2-3, 3-6) ended a two-game losing skid with their victory against the Eagles (1-2, 3-2).

Stacy Ebron fielded a grounder, stepped on second and fired to first for the initial double play in the third inning. Later, first baseman Georgia Jones snagged a sharp liner and stepped on

first for the second twin killing. Ebron also ended a three-run frame by West Craven in the second when she took a relay throw from left field and fired to catcher Missy Hall.

Ebron batted 3-for-4 with a double to lead East Carteret while Terry Johnson and Robin Parker batted 2-for-3 and 2-for-4, respectively. Patricia Bryant went 2-for-3 for West Craven.

West Craven 000 000 0-3  
East Carteret 303 300 2-6

HAVELOCK — Russell Seaton, a senior left-hander, threw his third straight complete game, allowing just one hit, as Havelock (3-1, 7-3) topped D.H.

Conley.

The Vikings (2-1, 6-3) had just two baserunners — Bill Jenkins singled but was stranded and Scott Seymour walked but was also left on base.

Seaton finished with 12 strikeouts and one walk in improving to 4-0 for the Rams. Hal Conger, 2-1, lasted 1 1/3 innings and had two strikeouts and no walks before being relieved by Travis Clemmons. Clemmons finished with five strikeouts and three walks.

Jeff Smith batted 2-for-2 to lead Havelock.

D.H. Conley 000 000 0-0  
Havelock 050 000 1-5

## West Craven Highlights

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