

JUDGE MOORE'S CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY

(Continued from page three.)

if you want to go out and have a good time, I'll take you and I know a girl that you can get to go with you, so they get together and go out driving at night, and if they are brought before the court they can be broken up, and if you can get the man that is aiding and abetting in such things and bring him before the court we can put a stop to this conduct, and the men who get drunk and drive automobiles are killing folks; automobiles are killing people in North Carolina at the rate of about three a day and injuring about as many people by driving recklessly, not staying on his side of the road, exceeding the speed limit and driving carelessly and recklessly. A man cannot drive recklessly at any rate of speed whether it is forty or fifty or twenty miles an hour; he must stay on his side on curves and intersections of roads; if a man is going at the rate of fifty or sixty miles an hour and meets a man half drunk, he is liable to be killed or kill somebody that he meets or some good woman who is driving into town to do a little shopping with her children, a reckless, careless driver might kill them all—if he only killed himself, it would not be so bad, he might meet a fool like he is running a car either drunk or sober and of course there is a wreck and somebody hurt or killed. These roads were built for the safety of the people and for the convenience of the people in traveling, North Carolina has made great progress in that direction, and the people all have a right to use the roads and travel them in safety, and to keep the roads safe it depends largely upon the grand jury to see that the laws are obeyed in that respect; they all have a right to the road and have a right to use it in perfect safety; the roads are built for the pleasure and convenience of the people, and if a man rides the road, he must not appropriate it all to his own use, he must respect the rights of others. These are some of the statutes that have come along lately, in the last few years, because of the progress North Carolina has made in road building.

Now, there is another thing that the automobile is doing. Some young man marries a nice girl and starts a family and the first thing she knows the man is driving around all over the country with some other girl he has met up with, leaving his wife at home to take care of the children while he is out with some girl, and after awhile she finds it out, and either a divorce or abandonment takes place; the wife cannot stand that and I don't blame her. I have had cases all over the district where I have been of young men abandoning their families, nice girls whom they have married, splendid young women, and taking off after these prostitutes, and when I get hold of a fellow like that, he won't circulate around in society and among the people long, I'll put him to work, and lots of times while he is out driving with other women, his wife is doing the same thing with other men, and when he finds it out there is another divorce or abandonment.

Now, gentlemen, the prohibition laws of the State are on the statute books, and it is our duty to enforce them whether we agree with the laws or not, it is our duty as sworn officers, your duty as well as mine, to enforce these laws whether we agree with them or whether we endorse the law as a whole or not, as long as they are on the statute books it is our duty to enforce these laws, and you gentlemen of the grand jury are men who are selected and sworn to do your duty, and you are to investigate these matters that come before you and if you find evidence to convict them, we can break it up in a great measure.

Another thing, gentlemen, that I want to call your attention to is cigarette smoking among little boys; it is getting to be fearful. No man nor merchant can give away or give to or sell a cigarette or cigarette papers to a minor, a child under seventeen, or give him tobacco and paper to make one, and if he does, he violates the law. Think of the

consequences. When these young boys begin to smoke cigarettes the time they are twenty-one can hardly hold their hand still enough to write their names, their nose and mouth are stained with the nicotine, their fingers are yellow and their lungs filled with nicotine; when they take a boy who has smoked cigarettes and operate on him, they find his lungs are covered with this nicotine, and the girls are the same way, and what do you expect the harvest to be? You can expect nothing but frivolous empty minds—we are raising a generation of weak, delicate, tubercular imbeciles, that is the report you get from the best medical science and authorities. If we would follow the laws of nature in Western North Carolina and teach the young men and young women to obey and respect the laws we would raise a generation that we would be proud of and one that could whip the world, a generation of perfect manhood and womanhood, and as I say a generation of men and women that would be the pride of any nation on earth if we obey the laws of nature, and it is your duty to teach that spirit among the young people.

I do not think I will charge you longer—you remember the crimes, and when you pass upon the bills, you will examine the witnesses, and if there is probable cause—do not argue the matter—there are some men who think they are lawyers, and to argue, kind of chimney-corner lawyers, who want to argue, but that isn't what we want you to do—we want you to investigate to see if there is probable cause only of a man being prosecuted, and if you find that from one witness, you can mark the bill a true bill, but it not and it takes two or three witnesses to find probable cause, examine them, or examine all the witnesses that are marked, but do not ignore the bill or mark it not a true bill till you have examined all the witnesses marked on the bill.

Now, gentlemen, before you conclude your duties, it is your duty to visit all the offices in the court house and see if the officers are doing their duties, you will visit the Clerk's office and the office of the Register of Deeds and the Treasurer, if you have a treasurer in the county, and see if they are all doing their duty and that the offices are properly kept. You will see that the magistrates in the county have all made their reports; they must report at every term of the court what has been done since the last term, and whether anything has been done or not, the law requires them to make a report, and if a magistrate has not had any criminal cases, or if he has, he must report it, and it is your duty to see that they have made these reports and that these reports are brought before the Solicitor—whether the justices of the peace are doing anything or not, according to law they must make these reports and it is your duty to see they are filed, and you will visit the jail and see that it is kept in a proper condition. The inmates of the county jail are entitled to have a comfortable place to stay, comfortable bedding and wholesome food, I don't mean luxuries, as some of the welfare workers think they should have, but I mean that they are to have clean, comfortable beds and bedding and good wholesome food—some of the welfare workers think the inmates of the jails ought to be fed on the highest diets and have desserts and things of that kind, but that isn't the law, and the welfare people have done some harm in that respect in North Carolina. I think when a man is sent to the road to work, that is what he is sent there for and he ought to work, and some of these people think that he ought not to be touched at all, that the guards must not touch him if he does not obey and the consequence is that some of the judges are holding now that they ought not to be touched, and I was told that a guard took a force out to work on the roads one day and they sat down on the bank of the road and the overseer told them to go to work and they would not do it, and he had to stand there all day and could not force them to go to work, and in charging the grand jury, I charged that the overseer ought to turn them across a barrel and give them about nine licks with a cat-o-nine-tails and the newspa-

pers made some comment on the charge and the overseer told me the next morning he read that article in the newspaper to the convicts and he said he never had had a better day's work out of them in his life. They are sent there to work as a punishment and they should be made to work. Now you have no convict camp in your county, but you will visit your jail, as I say, and see that it is well kept, it cannot be kept in a condition like your own home, because the riffraff of the world sometimes get in there and they are so nasty and unsanitary that it is hard to keep a jail in good condition, but it must be kept the best you can. Then, last of all, go to your county home and investigate that, that is the most important home, and it is your duty to go to that, and in visiting that to see that it is properly kept, because that ought to be the best home in the county, the county home belongs to all the people and it ought to be kept in such a manner and condition that any citizen could go there any day and take a meal with those old people and get a comfortable good meal. We want these old people to be cared for; the people who go to the county home are unfortunate people and they are entitled to be taken care of and provided a comfortable place to sleep and have comfortable bedding and good wholesome food. Take for instance some old man who has raised a family and worked hard all his life but he did not have the gray-matter in his head to take care of his earnings and somebody took advantage of him, somebody reaped the benefit of his labor all these years, and he did not have the capacity and ability to take care of himself and somebody got the benefit of what he made and he comes down to old age when he can work no longer—it is a tragedy, about one of the saddest traged-

ies of life to come down to old age and have no home and no place to go and no place to lay his head and nobody upon whom he can depend except the county, and when he comes to that he ought to be taken care of by the county. He may have been profligate and not what he ought to have been, but that is a misfortune of nature, a misfortune we are all heirs to, but if he comes down to want, the county ought to take care of him, and there may be some old mother who has labored hard all her life to raise her family, and her back is bent from stooping over the washtub, and her hands calloused from hard labor, and when she comes down to old age and want, and her children are gone God knows where and she is left alone—it is a sad fact and we have got to take care of her; it is our duty to take care of her and we want to see that she is cared for, so gentlemen, you will visit the county home and see that it is properly kept and these unfortunate people properly taken care of.

Now, gentlemen, I have gone over about what I wanted to this morning, and if there are any further instructions at any time that you want, I want you to ask me, and I will be glad to give you any instructions. We want to work in harmony, and if a witness fails to answer any questions, just send the name of such witness up here to the court, and I will see that he answers any questions, and I hope we can work in perfect harmony throughout the term of this court and do some good for the county and make it feel that this court has been worth something to Cherokee County and put it on better footing and make it a better and safer county to live in; it is a good county and you can make it a better county and a county where people will love to come and live. There is no condition that exists in this

county that could not be made better, and you can make it a splendid county and a county where people will love to come and make their homes, and you can do this if we will do our duty.

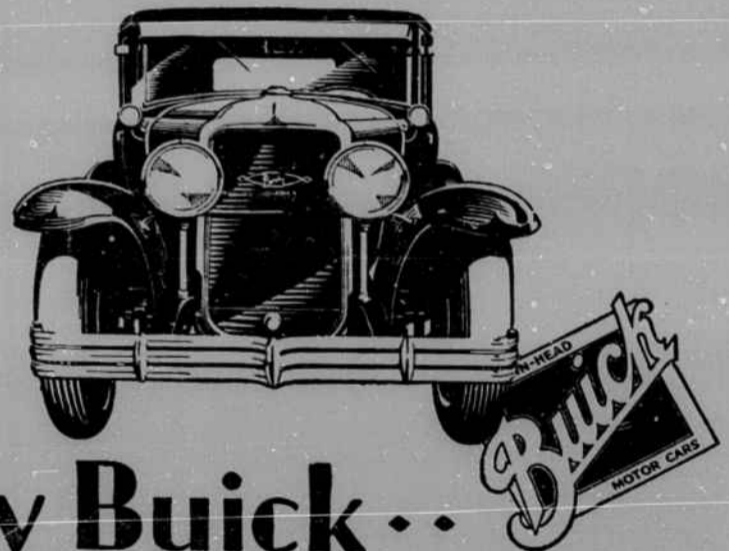
There is another thing, gentlemen, you are sworn to secrecy, and that does not mean just during the term of the court, but it means on the balance of your days—keep your counsel, the State's counsel and that of your fellow-man and when people want to know how the grand jury's report was, that is none of their business, you must keep it a secret always.

And then there is another thing, gentlemen of the grand jury, you want to be prompt, to be punctual, and if you promise to be at a certain place at a certain hour, be there don't be ten minutes late, but be there on time, because time is worth money these days, and we will meet gentlemen at 9 o'clock in the morning.

CANTON HI'WAY LINK IS OPENED SATURDAY P. M.

Opening of the new Canton-Asheville Highway which has been under construction by the State Highway Commission for several months, was opened Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, according to announcement made by J. G. Stikelather, Commissioner for the 9th District.

Completion of this link of highway gives a high grade route all the way from Asheville to Murphy. A small section of it at the underpass on the Murphy branch of the Southern Railway will not be hard-surfaced at present in order to permit the fill to settle.



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