

STIFF SENTENCES BEING GIVEN IN SUPERIOR COURT

Grimes Given Freedom In Fourteen-Year-Old Murder Case

A supposedly insignificant criminal docket took on a rather serious dress before Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, of Snow Hill, called it a day in the Martin County Superior Court here Monday. Two and three year sentences were meted out one after another, and one defendant drew from 10 to 12 years in prison. Fines were not in order when drunken drivers went to the bar of justice, the judge calling for a sentence of three months on the roads for the lone defendant charged with mixing gas and liquor.

Small crowds were on hand for the first-day proceedings, but, after the court started its activities after a delay earlier in the day, the sentences put those on hand to talking.

Leamon James, colored man who was charged with breaking and entering a store near Dardens just a short time ago, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for two years, the sentence to begin at the completion of a 90-day sentence imposed in the county court for an assault.

Harvey Lewis Modica, charged with drunken automobile driving, was sentenced to the roads for three months.

George Blount, the colored man who ran away from the roads just two days before his term expired and broke into J. S. Ayers' store at Everetts, was sentenced to the roads for two years. His term begins just as soon as he completes a 6-month sentence imposed in the county court for running away from the roads.

The case charging Weldon Biggs with breaking and entering and larceny was nol prossed with leave.

A continuance was granted in the case charging F. N. Caldwell with the embezzlement of insurance money. Counsel in the case is a member of the legislature and when several other legislators appealed for continuance Judge Frizzelle asked if the General Assembly was holding a one-day session in Williamston.

A continuance was granted in the case charging Elijah Moore with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Prayer for judgment was continued in the case charging Raymond McCoy and Eber Kurtz with stealing a car from James E. Griffin in Williamston several weeks ago. McCoy's father, a steel worker in Coatsville, Pa., appeared in court and made a good witness for the two youths who are only in their early teens. The boys were turned over to McCoy with instructions to report them to the Coatsville police, and the two wayward youths with McCoy and his family started late Monday afternoon for an all-night ride back to their homes.

Hoyt Smith, the colored man who shot and seriously wounded Australia Peel, colored woman, in the Free Union section, a few weeks ago, was sentenced to the roads for from 10 to 12 years. Smith said that 10 years were a long time to spend in prison, but he expressed great joy that he escaped the gas chamber.

The only jury case during the first-day session was that charging Howard Griffin with forgery. The trial of the case required little time, and the jury was not long in reaching a verdict, Judge Frizzelle continuing the speed when he meted out a two-year road sentence to the young Griffins Township white man.

Clyde Baker, young white man, was sentenced to the roads for two years for breaking and entering the Harrison Wholesale Company store. Herbert Page and Chester Terry stole three hogs, two from Jim Station and one from Farmer Barefoot just a short time ago, and each hog cost them one year on the roads. They start their three-year sentences this week.

Modica, Blount and James were moved out of the county jail late Monday afternoon to start serving their road sentences.

A verdict of not guilty was directed by the court in the case of Oliver Grimes, colored man charged with the murder of Richard Smith, colored man in the upper part of the county 14 years ago. Grimes, thru his attorney, E. S. Peel, pleaded self-defense and won his acquittal.

Robert Davis, colored man charged with breaking into the Norfolk Undersellers store, was found guilty by jury and sentenced to the roads for three to four years.

The Ollie Page manslaughter case was again continued.

The case charging Robert C. Hayes, Alabama man, with forgery was not pressed.

Completing the criminal docket, the court recessed until tomorrow, when civil actions will be heard.

Field Work on County Farms Temporarily Halted by Rain

Martin County farmers turned to their fields in numbers last week to launch the open season on farms in this section. Conditions for the operation of turning plows and harrows were ideal, and it is believed that more teams were in the fields during the period than at any time in any early spring during recent years. Activities were temporarily interrupted yesterday by rains, but the farmers, tired of an extended holiday forced by unfavorable con-

ditions, will be turning again to their plowing immediately.

The season does not get underway without worry for some farmers. Inspections show no tobacco plants coming up in the beds, and that is cause for grave concern, since there is a wide open season for tobacco plantings and production. No signs of seed are reported in many beds prepared and sowed more than six weeks ago. However, no serious plant shortage is in sight just at this time.

Judge Favors Longer Term for Grand Jury

CHECKS SOON!

Soil conservation checks for Martin County farmers are expected within a short time, but no definite date for the arrival of the approximately \$140,000 has been announced. More than 1,000 farmers, it is estimated, have qualified for payments in this county.

Just as soon as the checks arrive, farmers will be notified directly by the county agent's office when to call for the money.

Beaufort farmers are being paid approximately \$100,000 this week, and farmers in other counties will start receiving their checks shortly, it is believed.

Contracts Are Being Received From Ball Players; Order Suits

Manager Will Not Tolerate "Dunks" or "Bums" On Local Team

"Arrangements for professional baseball of the class 'D' order here this season are coming along nicely," R. H. Goodmon, president of the local club, announced today. Suits for the players have been ordered and player contracts are coming in right along, the club official added.

Art Hauger, the new skipper from out Minnesota way, is preparing contracts with 10 to 15 western cowboys and plans to report here about three weeks from now. In a letter received here this week, Hauger said he was finding the boys quite anxious to sign and that a "hustling ball club was in the making." The new manager said that he did not have much time to waste with a loafing ballplayer, adding, "Your ball players are going to be gentlemen on the ball field, as I will not put up with drunks or bums as they do not do the club any good, or the town."

Four contracts with old players here last year are now in the hands of local club officials, and it is likely that the personnel will have taken definite form several weeks before the season opens about May 10.

Local Welfare Department Confronted with New Case

The local welfare department is faced with a new problem, as evidence in the following item from there:

"The welfare department has had many problems to solve in the past few months; however, one is on hand now that the wits of the welfare department staff have not been able to find a solution. It is a beautiful black animal that persisted in walking up and down in front of the office in the cold drizzle of rain last Monday morning. The heart of the department finally melted and the animal was taken in to enjoy the warmth of the office. A few hours later four tiny babes were born. It was first believed the home of the poor black mother cat was learned, but, alas, his cat was at home. The problem is now to find a foster home for the mother and four kittens. What shall we do about it?"

Local Seniors To Stage Play Thursday Evening

"Here Comes Charlie," three-act comedy, will be staged by the local senior class Thursday evening of this week in the high school auditorium. Directed by Miss Annie Shields VanDyke, the cast has 10 well-chosen characters, and the performance is expected to surpass all past productions on the high school stage here.

CHANGE HOURS OF ABC STORES IN THIS COUNTY

Board To Employ Regular Enforcement Officer First of Month

Martin County's alcoholic beverage control board, meeting here last evening, formulated a double-barrel attack on bootlegging of illicit and legal liquors, the action being the most direct yet taken by the board, either under the old Pasquotank act or the county liquor option law just recently passed. Longer hours were ordered to give the bootlegger competition early evenings, and an all-time enforcement officer will be employed to head a drive against the illicit manufacture of liquor and its sale.

Beginning this evening the Williamston and Robertsonville liquor stores will remain open from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. without interruption. The new hours the stores at Oak City and Jamesville hold open are: 9 a. m. to 12 noon, and 1 to 6 p. m. and from 7 to 8 p. m. "We are experimenting with the hours, and they are subject to change," V. J. Spivey, chairman of the board, said. Action on the new hour schedule was taken when near-by counties started observing longer hours. The new law prohibits the stores to remain open between the hours of 9 p. m. and 9 a. m.

Reports from several stores where the longer hours have been observed during the past several days state that no appreciable gain has been noticed in the sale of liquors, but that the sales to legal bootleggers had been considerably lessened.

An enforcement officer was named by the board at its meeting, but announcement is pending his acceptance, Chairman Spivey said. Enforcement activities, under the new officer's supervision, will probably get underway not later than the first of next month. No salary figure was mentioned, and no definite details were disclosed in connection with the manner in which the officer will work. An officer is required under the new liquor act, it was pointed out.

Local Lions Club To Meet Friday Night

The newly organized Lions Club of Williamston will hold their second meeting on Friday evening, at which time they will be hosts to a delegation of Lions from Plymouth, the visiting delegation being headed by Lion President Eugene Still of that club. The Plymouth Lions Club was recently chartered with 44 charter members, one of the largest clubs to be chartered in this section of the state.

J. H. Edwards, first vice president of the Lions Club, has been appointed chairman of the membership committee of the club, and other members of the committee are Eugene Rice and Herbert O. Peale. Several new members have been elected who will be received into the club on Friday evening.

Larry Slater, International representative of the Lions, will return to meet with the club this week and assist the local officers in formulating their plans for charter night.

In announcing the names of charter members last week, those of J. H. Edwards, K. P. Kinsley, Dr. A. J. Osteen, Asa J. Manning, R. E. Manning, Henry S. Manning, and W. H. Carstaphen were inadvertently left out.

Mrs. J. D. Biggs Improving Following Recent Accident

Dr. John D. Biggs, of High Point, visited his mother, Mrs. Fannie Biggs here Sunday. Returning to High Point, he went by way of Scotland Neck to take Mrs. John D. Biggs, recovering from a recent automobile accident, home with him. Mrs. Biggs is said to be getting along very well at this time.

Colored Woman Dies At Williams Township Home

Cora Williams, highly respected colored woman, died at her home in Williams Township last Saturday evening. Burial was in the family cemetery, near Oak City, yesterday afternoon. She was 45 years old.

Masons To Hold Meeting Here Tonight 7:30 O'clock

James C. Manning, master of Ske-warke Lodge, No. 90, A. F. and A. M., announced yesterday that there would be a special communication of the lodge tonight (Tuesday) at 7:30 p. m. There will be work in the third degree.

Fisheries With Small Catches Operations Get Under Way at

Seine fishing was started in the Roanoke at Jamesville yesterday, reports stating that while the first catches were unusually small the operations were off to a good start. The fisheries are operating earlier this season than in several years, and successful operations are expected between now and May.

No shad had been taken up until about noon today, and the herring catches are averaging around 100 to the haul, it was learned. The size

of the catches will increase almost daily, and the season will be in full swing within a week or two, depending upon weather conditions.

The fishing activities on the Roanoke attract thousands of people to Jamesville each year, and record visits are predicted this year. During the past several years, high waters and unfavorable weather have greatly interrupted the operations of the seines, but present indications point to a very favorable season.

Bar Here Split 6 To 4 For Judicial Changes

People of Section in General in Favor of President's Proposal

Judge Paul Frizzelle States Stand In Favor of The Reorganization Plan

Divisional lines on the President's Supreme Court retirement and enlargement proposal continue to form, a poll of eleven members of the Martin County Bar Association finding six wholeheartedly lined up for the President and his plan and four taking places with the opposition. The opposition was in no sense bitter, Judge J. Calvin Smith, of Robertsonville, explaining that he was for the retirement feature but did not know so much about "that packing business."

Attorneys Horton and Roberson took similar stands, but Lawyer Smith added that he guessed he would be found on the President's side should there be a show down and he was to decide the whole matter. His doubt about "that packing business" placed him on the side with Attorneys Horton, Roberson and Martin. Attorney Jos. W. Bailey withheld his vote.

Dubious about the plan at first, Lawyer Carter Studdert this week unreservedly expressed his position as favoring the President's court plan. From his bed in a Richmond hospital, Attorney W. Hubert Coburn, who is on a temporary leave of absence as solicitor and practitioner in the Martin courts, sends word that he is strongly in favor of the plan, just as are his brother, Senator Robert L. Coburn, and Attorneys B. A. Critcher, E. S. Peel and Henry D. Hardison, other members of the county bar polled on the question.

Questioned this morning after recessing court for the day, Judge Frizzelle stated that he favored the President's court proposal, explaining that this nation's progress would be retarded by a 150-year-old document that could not be changed.

The court question is attracting minute attention over the nation, and the United States Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to be in session for several weeks hearing evidence. The general public is reportedly in favor of the plan, certainly in this section.

North Carolina's General Assembly is seen-sawing on the question, the body sending a resolution favoring the plan back to committee last week without taking a count. The lawmakers did, however, reject a resolution, introduced earlier in the session by a Republican member, endorsing Senator Bailey's stand in opposing the President's recommendations.

A compromise was in view this week on the price of automobile license tags. It was first thought the rate would be reduced from 40 to 30 cents a hundred pounds, but later action places the license basis at 35 cents a hundred pounds.

The liquor question continues in a muddle, and the latest wrinkle is to require a license of each purchaser. The annual permit would be \$1, and it is designed to raise \$400,000 from North Carolinians and \$200,000 from tourists.

A bill for a little NRA in the warehouse business was killed, and a child labor bill, picked of all warming feathers, is nearing enactment. The boys tightened down on salary increases for judges and department heads, but they resorted to bond issues to build more buildings.

Last rites were conducted for the Rev. Charles Williams, former local minister, in the Murphy Baptist Church last Saturday morning at 10:30 o'clock by the family pastor. Interment was in the Murphy Cemetery.

Funeral services, first scheduled to be held last Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock, were delayed by the late arrival of the body from Hampton, Virginia, where the minister-writer died last Wednesday afternoon.

Several Williamston people were present for the last rites which were attended by large crowds.

POULTRY CAR

The third poultry car of the county this week, reports from Jamesville, where the cooperative car is located today, stating that the purchases were rather small during the early part of the morning.

Loadings will be made at Williamston Wednesday, at Robertsonville on Thursday and at Oak City Friday. The size of the loadings this week will determine the future schedule, Agent Brandon said this morning.

LEGISLATURE IS NOT LIKELY TO QUIT THIS WEEK

House Members Heartily Approve President's Court Plans

Certain relief expected in the adjournment of North Carolina's General Assembly on Saturday of this week is likely to be postponed until some time next week, unless the legislators work faster than they have at any time during the past 70 days. Representatives home for the week-end stated they believed it would be possible to clean up and check out late Saturday, but activities the early part of the week brought the assembly little closer adjournment than it was when time was taken out for the week-end.

There are a lot of twists and turns to be taken, and the last-minute business to be handled before the lawmakers can quit the capital city.

The high spot in the legislative halls this week was the unqualified endorsement by the house of President Roosevelt's Supreme Court plan, but the action was without a record vote.

In creating a bill for the reorganization of the highway commission, an endless maze is in the making. It is planned to have the county commissioners first receive recommendations or complaints from the people. The commissioners would then report to the commissioner for the district every now and then, and the commissioner would report to other commissioners and so on and so on.

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INSTRUCTIONS TO TAX LISTERS AND ASSESSORS GIVEN

Revaluation and Property Listing Work To Get Underway April 1

Final instructions for listing Martin County property for taxation and for eliminating many recognized inequalities now on the tax books were issued at a joint meeting of the county commissioners, tax list-takers and boards of assessors here yesterday morning. Much time was spent in setting base values for personal properties, but throughout the meeting the elimination of inequalities was stressed by J. E. Pope, chairman of the board of commissioners, who has pushed for an overhauling of property values.

The revaluation of real estate for taxation is not expected to effect any marked change in the total valuation, the commissioners having instructed for a revaluation on present base values. When the last revaluation was made, farm land was listed at \$60 an acre. Several years ago, a horizontal decrease of about 33 per cent was ordered, placing the land value for taxing purposes at about \$40 an acre. It is understood that this figure will be used as a general basis, but this particular feature was not discussed at the Monday meeting. The main objective in handling the listing of real property will be to effect an equalization of values between individuals and between townships.

In the smaller districts, the assessors will sit with the list-takers, but in the larger townships, information will be entered on revaluation sheets and placed before the boards of assessors. Tax Supervisor Clarence Stallings is scheduled to give his entire time to the work and keep the values in the several districts in line.

Personal property base values were shifted upward, but bases for the major items were unchanged. Corn values were jumped from \$2 in 1936 to \$3 this year. Hay will be taxed at the old rate, 20 cents a bale. Meat and lard, valued at 12 1-2 cents, is 2 1-2 cents higher this year than last. Horses, valued at \$150, and mules, at \$250, are based at about two-thirds market value. The milk cow is worth \$50 when it comes to taxation, sheep \$2 a head, and goats a lone dollar. Probably a nuisance tax would net more returns from goats. Soy beans increased in value from 50 cents a bushel last year to \$1 this year, and are still valued at 66 2-3 per cent of the market. Cotton will be entered on the books at \$50 a bale against \$40 a year ago. Peanuts will carry a rate of \$3-a-bag, and sweet potatoes 50 cents a bushel. Live hogs will go down at 6 cents a pound, and bee hives will carry a rate of \$1 and \$2, depending upon the type of home the buzzer buzzes in and around. All other personal holdings, with the exception of automobiles and trucks will be valued at whatever figure the list taker, assessors and supervisor can bargain for.

About two years ago values placed on automobiles increased personal property listings, but a decided drop was made possible by a change of codes last year and a code similar to the one in effect for 1936 will be used again this year. The code will gather in all the wrecks from 1929 up.

Last year the \$300 personal property exemption was extended to include mules and horses and a reduction followed in 5 of the 10 townships.

Miss-Marie Lilley and Mrs. Ruby Winborn, operators in the Atlantic Hotel Beauty Shop, have just returned from the New York Beauty Culture Show. While there they met outstanding hair stylists in this and European countries and attended lectures by prominent international beauticians. Subjects important to the science of beauty culture were discussed.

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