

Judge Walter Bone Defends Courts In Grand Jury Address

Judge Outlines the Duties of the Jury in the Handling of Indictments

Judge Walter J. Bone, presiding over his first term of Martin County Superior Court here yesterday, ably defended the record of the courts of this State in his address to the grand jury. Without employing sensational tactics, the Nashville jurist directed a sane and instructive charge to the grand jury in his address that lasted hardly 30 minutes.

"We are here to engage in a serious and important business—that of passing on the rights and liberties of our fellowman," Judge Bone said in appealing to the jurymen to lift themselves above passion and prejudice and serve without fear or favor.

Continuing, he said, "Much criticism of lawyers and courts has been heard in the past. Some has been unjustifiable, and some has been unjustifiable, but the court should welcome constructive criticism. Perfection in administering justice does not exist, nor does perfection exist anywhere. The courts are made up of humans and they are subject to mistakes. There have been cases of corruption and prejudice, but those cases have been few and far between in the superior courts of North Carolina are the most democratic institutions under our form of government." The jurist, numbered among the youngest if not the youngest on the bench in this State, attacked that criticism that tends to destroy the courts and their usefulness.

Ranking jury service along with that of the legislator, Judge Bone outlined the duties of the body in the handling of indictments. He instructed the members to inspect all public institutions and the county offices, explaining that the investigations should be handled not with suspicion but as an assigned duty. Particular attention should be given the inspection of the county home, the jurist said, explaining that the uncertainty of life may "require you and me to spend our last days in such an institution." The jurist was instructed to report the names of any orphans in the county without guardians, and the accounts and management by guardians should be inspected, the jurist pointed out.

In conclusion, Judge Bone again stressed the importance of duty as a jurymen, and he urged the members to perform efficiently and without partiality their duties that a greater respect for the courts may be created.

Mr. C. L. Nelson, of Hassell, was named foreman of the body, and Mr. W. A. James was sworn in as officer of the grand jury. Names of the jurymen are:

J. Herbert Moore, Perlie Rogers, G. H. Wilson, Warren W. Waters, W. J. Johnson, Jr., R. H. Smith, J. G. Forbes, C. L. Nelson, O. S. Coltraine, S. L. Andrews, W. B. Bennett, J. T. Vick, Jno. E. Griffin, J. T. Barnhill, W. J. Nelson, Aubrey L. Oakley, H. J. Etheridge and J. D. Padgett.

Arrest Three Men For Theft Of Flour

Julian Williams, Ben Ward and Ben Bennett, colored men, were arrested here yesterday afternoon for the alleged theft of a quantity of flour from Harrison Brothers and Company. They were given a preliminary hearing before Justice Hassell later in the afternoon, and they are scheduled for trial in the superior court this afternoon or tomorrow morning. Ward and Bennett are said to have admitted the thefts.

The three men, employed by the flour in small quantities from the store warehouse and sold it to select customers at reduced prices.

After missing a number of sacks of flour, the owners started a watch and yesterday afternoon they saw two of the men slipping out a box partly filled with several sacks. One of them ran, but he was overtaken and the flour was recovered from behind a pile of wood.

Fourteen Arrests Made In County Over Week-End

Fourteen men, seven white, were arrested in the county last week, the sheriff's office explaining that the number was the largest on record for a similar period.

Seven were arrested for alleged violation of the liquor laws, the other seven cases charging violation of various laws including non-support, carrying concealed weapons, and so on. None of the cases was recognized as of any serious consequence.

Believe Martin Farmers Will Favor Irish Potato Control

A referendum on a proposed acreage goal for Irish potatoes to be planted for harvest in 1938 is being held in Martin County this week, early indications pointing to a strong support of the proposal. Ballots were mailed to 175 growers in the county last Saturday following a meeting of county agents and farm committeemen held in Washington the day before. Everyone of the ballots returned so far has favored the goal plan, it was learned from the office of the county agent this morning.

Any person harvesting as many as 200 bushels or more of potatoes is entitled to participate in the balloting, which ends on Saturday of this week.

The national potato goal would necessarily be an acreage which with average conditions would give an adequate supply of potatoes. The goal for an individual farm would be that farm's share of the national potato goal. The establishment of goals for individual farms would be limited to designated commercial producing areas and to those farms in such areas normally growing three acres or more of potatoes. Goals will be established if two-thirds or more of the persons voting in the referendum in designated competitive producing areas indicate a desire to have such goals established, County Agent T. B. Brandon said today.

Trial of Roberson Case Opened Today

JURY SHORTAGE

A jury shortage faced Judge Walter J. Bone when he came here yesterday to preside over his first term of the Martin County Superior Court. The fast pace of business activities in this section just now brought many excuses before the court, and when the petit jury was counted it was two below the required number. The sheriff was directed to recruit the ranks, and no great delay was experienced in starting the court machinery.

Showing a willingness to excuse those who had legitimate excuses, Judge Bone found it necessary to tighten down when he saw the jury number dwindling too rapidly.

Goodman Is Named To Head Committee

Plans were announced virtually completed today for forming the country club, near Plymouth, before the first of next month, Mr. R. H. Goodman, recently named chairman of a membership committee for Williamston and Martin County, stating that he had received several applications already. Mr. Goodman pointed out that the club membership was open to citizens of Washington and Martin Counties and that no initiation fee would be charged for those joining before October 1.

"We want to make this club an outstanding recreational center," Mr. W. W. Henderson, manager of the Kieckhefer Container Company, the sponsoring organization, said to Mr. Goodman in extending an invitation to Martin County people to join the club. Annual membership fees are unusually reasonable, the management of the recreational center explaining that it will be operated as a non-profit organization.

Loses Pocketbook And Large Sum Of Money

Miss Verdie Heath, WPA employee, lost a pocketbook containing around \$50 on the main street here yesterday. Miss Heath, traveling from her Elizabeth City home to Raleigh, stopped here for a few minutes and laid her pocketbook on the running board while rearranging some baggage in the back seat. She then entered the car and closed the door without picking up the pocketbook which is believed to have fallen off before the car moved any great distance.

The loss was not discovered until Miss Heath reached Raleigh and she made a quick return trip, but so far the pocketbook has not been reported found.

Tobacco Shipments Move To Foreign Countries

Heavy shipments of tobacco are already underway to foreign countries following the opening of the current marketing season just three weeks ago. The shipments, moving through the Williamston port over the Norfolk, Baltimore and Carolina freighters, are said to be made up of tobacco from the 1937 crop and are believed scheduled for Great Britain. Several hundred hogheads, weighing around 1,000 pounds each, have been placed in the boatline warehouses so far this season.

Last year, thousands of hogheads were cleared through the local port for trans-Atlantic shipment and for delivery to the Orient.

Six Witnesses Were Heard Before Court Orders Noon Recess

Seven Criminal Cases Now on Docket For Trial; Session Tomorrow

Clearing a number of minor cases from its criminal docket yesterday and early today, the Martin County Superior Court started the trial of Mrs. Annie Roberson and her son, Geo. Ben Roberson, at 11 o'clock this morning. At one o'clock this afternoon when Judge Walter J. Bone, presiding, ordered a recess until 2:30, indications pointed to a lengthy trial and it was certain at that time that the seven cases remaining on the docket would occupy much of the court's time tomorrow.

Up until one o'clock this afternoon, the State had offered six witnesses in pushing the prosecution against Mrs. Roberson and her son, who are charged with secret assault with intent to kill Jesse Ben Roberson, their husband-father. Two more witnesses, one an insurance man, are to be heard before the State will rest this afternoon. Action by defense attorneys, J. C. Smith, of Robersonville, and Justus Everett, of Greenville, is problematical.

Jesse Ben Roberson, attack victim and main prosecuting witness, offered the same testimony recorded at a preliminary hearing held in the courthouse before Justice C. M. Hurst soon after the attempt was made to end the old gentleman's life in Robersonville on June 21. He claimed that through instinct he knew the feel of his son's hands as the youth pulled him into a cart for what was apparently intended to be his last ride. He explained how his wife had directed him into the backyard where someone wanted to see him.

Mayo Andrews and Bruce Rollings, colored, told of plans alleged to have been advanced by Mrs. Roberson for them to kill Mr. Roberson. Their evidence was substantiated by that of Wm. Gray, Robersonville's chief of police.

Castiana Sutton, colored woman, said she saw young Roberson beating his father with a stick. Mr. Eli Rodgers, a near neighbor, told the jury that he saw young Roberson drive a mule and cart into the backyard of the Roberson home after which he heard some one yell "Murder, murder." He also related that he heard Mrs. Roberson ask, "Georgie Ben, what have you done?" D. A. Roberson, police officer, was also questioned.

A plea of insanity apparently was not in the making as the State unfolded its damaging evidence this morning, but the defense did question several witnesses as to the mental ability of the mother and son. Hesitancy marked the witnesses' answers, but two of them agreed that the young man well knew right from wrong.

Young Roberson, an innocent and neat-looking fellow well in his teens, (Continued on back page)

Brother Of Mrs. Barnes Dies At Zebulon Home

Funeral services for Julian R. Horton, brother of Mrs. Murphy L. Barnes, of Williamston, were held in the Zebulon Baptist church last Sunday afternoon. Mr. Barnes, 39 years old, was the son of Mrs. Annie Glenn Horton, of Knightdale, Wake County, and was a descendent of President Polk. Mrs. Barnes was unable to attend the last rites on account of illness.

Plans For Federal Building Here Are Not Yet Complete

Difficulty In Selecting Site and Governmental Delays Are Expected

Plans for the construction of a new \$78,000 postoffice building for Williamston will not take definite shape until a site is selected, Postmaster Leslie T. Fowden explained. The government today is soliciting proposals for the sale or donation of a site, and the bids will be canvassed publicly at the postoffice the early part of next month. At least one proposal has already been received, and possibly five or more additional ones are expected within the next few days. Application forms and instructions are available at the postoffice to those wishing to submit a proposal for the sale of a lot.

After the site bids are opened an inspector will make an investigation and report to the committee on federal buildings who will make the site selection. Building plans are being held in abeyance until the site is selected. It is understood however, that the government plans to build a one-story and basement structure of semi-fireproof construction.

Local people are somewhat disappointed to learn that the purchase price of the lot, architect's fees, supervisor's expense and cost of furniture and fixtures and improvements to the grounds will be deducted from the original \$78,000 allotment. It is estimated that not more than \$66,500 will be available for actual construction of the building after the deductions are made.

Postmaster Fowden said today that there is one chance in three that construction on the new building will get underway before July 1938. It was also pointed out that there are two chances out of three that the construction work will not get underway before July, 1939, and there is the possibility that the contract will not be awarded until late 1939 or early 1940. There are two factors that are likely to delay the building plans. Difficulty in selecting a site is certain to cause a delay, and even under normal conditions governmental delays are to be expected. While the Congress authorized a \$70,000,000 construction program at its last session, it only made provisions for carrying out one-third of the program in 1938. The lawmakers provided only \$23,000,000 for the first year and about the same amount for the second year, Postmaster Fowden said. It is thought, however, that the urgent need for a new building here will make possible early construction for the handling of the proposed Williamston building.

Start Broadcasting First Of October

The North Carolina State Highway patrol will go on the air October 1, it was unofficially learned here today. The reports, coming from reliable sources, stated that the preliminary tests had been completed and had proved highly successful. All radio receiving sets have been installed on the patrol cars, and it is thought that the system could be placed in operation immediately if necessary.

Plans for opening the stations have not been formally announced, but the program calls for an address by Governor Clyde R. Hoey. Officials of the highway patrol and possibly others will participate in the formal program as it goes on the air.

The Williamston station was tested the ninth of this month, the inspectors approving the apparatus. C. S. Cavanaugh will have charge of the station here, but his assistant has not been named. According to information reaching here, the stations will operate only two shifts, but the operators will be held in readiness for emergency calls.

AUTUMN

Tomorrow is the first day of autumn by the calendar, the weather man giving notice of the change in the seasons last Friday. There are still a few signs of summer around here, and officially the fall season is not recognized by local people until they see Mr. Warren H. Riggs wearing his overcoat. A compromise with the seasons was in evidence on Williamston streets a few days ago when a colored citizen wore his overcoat and carried a small block of ice in his hands.

New 1938 Agricultural Program For Soil Conservation Announced By Secretary Wallace This Week

Local Market Sales Nearing Four Million-Pound Mark

The poundage figure continues to climb on the Williamston market as prices advance for the medium and better-quality tobaccos, Supervisor Johnson stating that the sales for the season to date are nearly four million pounds. The market is said to be leading all others with one set of buyers, and present indications point to continued success.

At the end of last week, the local market had sold 3,433,608 pounds. Yesterday, the market sold 324,872 pounds, leaving a block that was cleared in about an hour and a half this morning. It is estimated that the offerings today will run around 150,000 pounds.

The better and medium-quality grades appear to be stronger than at any time this season, but the inferior quality grades and common tips are apparently weakening day by day. There are so many of the poor quality tips that the buyers are apparently well loaded, and there is little demand for them. Better tobaccos are doing well, one entire row of this type tobacco averaging 37 cents yesterday. Numerous individual sales are averaging forty cents and above, but those farmers have real tobacco, it is to be admitted.

Few complaints are being heard, but farmers loaded with poor quality tobacco are somewhat disappointed, while a farmer right next to them with good tobacco is more than pleased with his sales.

No heavy sales are expected tomorrow, but blocks are likely the latter part of the week.

Tubercular Tests To Be Made In County Middle Next Month

Survey Asked Some Time Ago by Citizens of Hamilton-Palmyra Sections

Plans are nearing completion for holding a tubercular test clinic in this county about the middle of next month, according to information received here over the week-end. Details for holding the clinic have not been announced, but it is understood that the State Board of Health in cooperation with State Sanatorium authorities will set up necessary equipment in one or two places in the county for making individual examinations. It is also understood the survey will be handled on a county-wide basis.

The survey was asked some time ago by leading citizens of the Hamilton-Palmyra sections, reports stating that an investigation will meet with general approval. The presence of tuberculosis in the county is not causing any undue alarm, but many people are of the opinion that a survey is needed if for no other reason than to make sure that the general public health is not unnecessarily endangered. Reliable information shows that pupils in some of the schools of the county are carrying drinking water from their homes, that their parents are greatly interested in having an accurate survey of conditions.

Patrons in the Hamilton-Palmyra areas were last week said to be considering petitioning the Martin County Board of Education for the removal of their high school boys and girls either to Williamston or Robersonville. Now that a survey has been promised, it is thought that action on the petition requesting removal of the pupils will be delayed. "Conditions may be all right, but we want to be sure," a leading citizen of Hamilton said last week.

Enforcement Officers Tear Down Three Liquor Plants

Three illegal liquor manufacturing plants fell before raiders in this county last week-end, the activities of the enforcement officers so far in September almost equalling those during the first month the special officer was employed several months ago.

Raiding in Free Union on Friday, Officer J. H. Roebuck, assisted by Deputy Haislip, captured a 100-gallon capacity copper kettle and poured out 1,000 gallons of beer. The day before, officers wrecked two plants in Goose Nest Township, but the operators had moved the kettles beyond the search of the raiders. About 300 gallons of beer were poured out at the two plants, and equipment was wrecked.

Many Join Church At Cedar Branch Revival

Success marked the one-week of evangelistic services held at the Cedar Branch Baptist church, near Jamesville, last week. More than 20 new members were added to the roll, the baptismal services following Sunday afternoon at Tar Landing. Rev. E. R. Stewart, of Hyde County, assisted the pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington, in the meeting.

Benefit Payments to Be Based on Actual Production of Farm

A Rate of One Cent Per Pound Will Be Paid For Tobacco

The outline of the 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program, which establishes national, state, county and farm goals for soil-depleting crops and for soil-building crops and practices as a part of the effort to restore soil fertility and stabilize agricultural production, was announced this week by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace.

Rewards approximating only two-thirds of those offered in the 1937 soil conservation program.

Reduction of the payments offered last year is understood to have been prompted by two considerations: The fact that tobacco is selling at above parity, and recognition of the impossibility of establishing effective control of tobacco production through the soil conservation act without payments much in excess of what those paid last year.

Tobacco payments, like all others in the 1938 program, are based on actual production by the co-operating farmer, provided he stays within the goal set by the department, instead of, as in past years, upon the acreage withdrawn from cultivation of soil-depleting crops.

"The new program," Secretary Wallace said, "represents a progressive development from the previous programs formulated under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. It follows the broad outlines already established and sets up definite objectives for 1938. These include an increase in soil-conserving crops and soil-building practices to further the primary aim of soil-improvement. Goals for soil-depleting crops were fixed as a conservation measure and to assure an ample and balanced supply of food, feed and fiber crops.

"The Agricultural Conservation program, however, is not a production-control program. In the absence of other legislation, normal weather conditions over several seasons again will result in the accumulation of burdensome surpluses. But this fact does not preclude the use of the present program to further conservation and help maintain economic goals which agriculture has made since 1932."

Salient points in the new program are:

Establishment of national goal for soil-depleting crops and a national objective for soil-building crops and practices. The national goal will be subdivided into state, county and individual farm goals.

Establishment of individual soil-depleting crop goals for the following crops: cotton; corn; flue-cured, Burley, fire-cured and dark air-cured, and cigar filler and binder tobaccos; peanuts and rice. A soil-depleting crop goal for potatoes will be established if two-thirds of the producers so vote in a referendum to be held before October 2. Corn goals for individual farms will be established only in designated areas in the Corn Belt. If potato goals are established, they will apply only in designated commercial areas. Goals will not be established for potato producers growing three acres or less. Other crops included in the total soil-depleting crop goals will be classified together in the general soil-depleting crop goal.

A maximum payment will be calculated for each farm. Payment will be made for keeping within soil-depleting crop goals and for attaining soil-building goals, including the (Continued on Back Page)

Arrest Young Boys For Alleged Check Forgery

Alleged to have forged the name of J. Bynum Roberson to at least five checks, Joe Mabley and another young Martin County youth were arrested in Wilmington yesterday afternoon at the request of the sheriff's office here. They are being returned to this county today.

The youths, said to be around 16 years of age, are thought to have gotten around \$50 from the checks. They were traveling toward Little River in South Carolina when the Wilmington police picked them up.

Large Shipments Liquor Move To Inland Points

A boat load of legal liquor was unloaded at the warehouses of the Norfolk, Baltimore and Carolina line here late last Sunday for distribution in stores at Wilson, Raleigh and Greenville. It was one of the largest shipments ever handled through this port. Delivery was made to the inland points yesterday.

Mrs. W. S. Tilley, of Winston-Salem, is here this week visiting her daughter, Mrs. Jimmie B. Taylor and family.

JUDGE BONE



Recently appointed, Judge Walter J. Bone, of Nashville, is making a very favorable impression in holding his first term of Martin County Superior Court this week.