

Raymond Venters Facing The Courts On Several Counts

Arrested For Alleged Assault On Two Young Girls and Other Law Violations

Raymond Venters, young Edgecombe County white man, was arrested and jailed here early yesterday morning for allegedly disorderly conduct, drunken driving, carrying a concealed weapon and attempted assault on two young girls, the arrest by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, Night Officer John Gurganus and Deputy Roy Peel bringing to a halt the alleged crimes that were believed to have been pushing toward a serious climax.

Driving over from Edgecombe County, Venters went to the home of a young Miller girl near Oak City about 8:30 o'clock Wednesday evening. She and her company, a young girl from Roanoke Rapids whose name could not be learned immediately, agreed to go with Venters to Fountain's Cross Roads for a cool drink. Venters was said to have persuaded Floyd Wilson, 47-year-old filling station operator there, to go with them to Robersonville. "We won't be gone long," Venters was quoted as saying. According to the sheriff, the two men took one or two drinks at the filling station and proceeded to Robersonville where they admit they stopped and bought a pint of "store" liquor from a bootlegger. Refusing to take a drink, the girls slipped away, but were overtaken by Venters and Wilson, Venters hopping out and ordering them back into the car at a point of a pistol.

The group came to Micky's Inn where the girls again tried to run away, but were threatened again at the point of a pistol in Venters' hands. The operator of Micky's Inn called the sheriff about midnight, and the two men were arrested and jailed, the officer carrying the two girls home.

Venters was also reported to have threatened to part the hair of an oyster bar attendant at the inn with a pistol.

Wilson, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with carrying a concealed weapon, was released under a \$100 bond later in the morning, but bond could not be arranged immediately for Venters. Bond was later arranged, however, in the sum of \$300. The case will be called in the county recorder's court on the first Monday in December.

To Hold Important Baseball Meeting

The fate of baseball in Williamston for next season will be discussed at a public meeting to be held in R. H. Goodman's office next Monday night at 8:30 o'clock. Club President L. T. Fowden announced yesterday.

A complete review of the past season's operations will be outlined in detail by the board of directors along with a discussion of several important business topics.

Final plans for the coming season are hardly to be expected at the meeting, but interest shown at that time will have a direct effect in shaping the plans for the future, it was pointed out. A statement of operations will be submitted.

All baseball fans and the general public are invited to attend the meeting and express their wishes for or against the game for another season.

Hunters Turn To Fields For Sport

The inviting weather yesterday afternoon was too much for four sportsmen to stand, so they turned to the fields to watch a bird dog work. They did not trouble themselves with a gun or ammunition. They were truly sportsmen who were more interested in the sport itself than they were in bringing down a choice bird.

Mayor J. L. Hassell, one of the group, admitted that he had never seen a bird dog point. Messrs. Kenneth Roberson and Latham Roberson went along just to recall the old days, and Dr. John D. Biggs furnished the dog and was the party host.

Mayor Hassell was a bit optimistic following the hunt, making the declaration that he could have killed at least two birds if he had had a gun. "It was a pretty sight," the mayor said in commenting on the dog's work. "There seems to be plenty of birds this year," he added.

Two Fined For Hunting On Club Reservations

C. L. Brown and Francois Hohl were fined \$10 each and taxed with the cost of court by Justice J. L. Hassell a few days ago for allegedly hunting on the Broad Creek Hunting Club reservation in the lower reaches of the Roanoke River without permission.

A third defendant, S. E. Overton, facing a similar charge, failed to appear for trial and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Peanut Prices Stronger After Market Sag Earlier This Week

Peanut prices, sagging under heavy deliveries earlier in the week, are now holding quite firm at five cents. While minor price fluctuations are possible in accordance with market activities, all indications point to a firmer tone with the possibility that the price trend will be upward.

Apparently the growers are out to set a new marketing record this season, reliable reports stating that between 60 and 70 per cent of the crop has already moved. Between 15 and 18 thousand bags of the goobers are moving daily on the local market, and delivery schedules are booked for several days in advance. It was predicted today that a major-

ity of the crop will have been moved by the growers within the next two weeks, that only a few of those loose farmers are in no hurry to sell will be left in the country. One report today stated that at least 90 per cent of the crop had been sold in some sections of the county.

The State's production of peanuts for picking and threshing from this year's crop is now estimated to be 284,760 pounds, or 23 per cent below last year's record production and 14 per cent above the ten-year (1930-39) average. The yield per acre is estimated at 1,130 pounds, compared with 1,400 pounds per acre for 1940.

JURIST



Recently appointed to the State Superior Court bench, Judge Richard D. Dixon, of Eden, will preside over the special two weeks term of Martin Superior court beginning next Monday. It will be Mr. Dixon's first visit to this county as a presiding judge.

Judge W.H. Coburn Calls Six Cases in The County Court

Tribunal in Shortest Session In Recent Weeks Last Monday Morning

With Attorney Wheeler Martin prosecuting the docket, the Martin County Recorder's court was in one of its shortest sessions in recent weeks last Monday when Judge W. H. Coburn called six cases for trial. The tribunal was in session hardly 45 minutes in clearing the docket, and a comparatively small number of spectators was on hand to hear the proceedings.

Yielding the right-of-way to the Martin County Superior Court for a special term, the county tribunal will enjoy a two weeks' vacation. It will hold the next session on the first Monday in December.

The case charging James Johnson with an assault with a deadly weapon was nol prossed.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly and attempting to commit larceny, Edmond Johnson was adjudged guilty over his own plea of innocence. Judge Coburn sentenced him to the roads for a term of sixty days.

The case charging Harmon Daniel with careless and drunken driving was continued for the defendant until the first Monday in December.

Pleading not guilty in the case charging him with non-support, Oliver Whaley was granted a continuance under prayer for judgment.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with failing to pay his dog tax, Raleigh Hopkins was ordered to pay his dog tax and the costs of the case.

The case charging Harry Thompson with hunting without license was continued for the defendant until the first Monday in December.

Baby's Body Found On Trash Pile Here

Fully developed and preserved in a mustard jar of alcohol, the body of a baby was found on the town trash dump at the river here this morning. The body was found by Sambo Morgan and other scavengers who make a habit of rummaging through the garbage and filth dumped there by the town trash trucks.

Notified of the discovery, Coroner S. R. Biggs started an immediate investigation, but no developments had been reported early this afternoon. The trash collector stated that he did not see the jar when he was dumping trash and garbage from the large cans on the main streets this morning. He explained however, that it was possible for the jar to have been in one of the heavy barrels and that he would not have noticed it.

The color of the child could not be determined. Apparently the body had been in the jar for some time as it was hard, Coroner Biggs said. Plans were made to have the body removed and buried, the coroner stating that he would continue his investigation.

Commissioner Peel Forced To Resign

All doubt as to the legality of Mr. M. Luther Peel's status as a double office holder in the positions of county tax collector and town of Williamston commissioner was cleared away recently in a ruling coming from the North Carolina Attorney General's office. Attorney General McMullan ruled that it would be double office holding which under the State Constitution is not legal.

Mr. Peel tendered his resignation to the board of commissioners at the last regular meeting of the body, but acceptance was held in abeyance until a direct ruling could be had from the attorney general's office. The resignation will be formally accepted at the next regular meeting of the board in December at which time the appointment of a successor to Mr. Peel will be placed on the calendar as a part of the board's business. Mrs. Fannie Staton has announced her candidacy for the place, and it is understood that several others will consider serving as a member of the board.

REMEMBRANCES

By CHAS. SMALLWOOD

Williamston, N. C. DURING 1870's and '80's

When I went to Williamston to live with Mr. Biggs and Sister Sallie, their first-born, Warren, was a tot just crawling around the floor. He had not learned the art of romping around the universe, but he had his notions. He pretty soon began pulling himself up to a chair and stamping his little feet, as much to say — "Let's go, let's go, let's go." Our first entreaties to do so only caused him to shake his head and with it the little curl which "hung down on his forehead," and hid his face in his arms, as if to be ashamed to acknowledge his fear to let go and adventure forth. But one morning he had pulled up and stood solemn faced, as if contemplating I looked at him soberly, and silently held out my hands, and all at once he turned loose and bounded into my arms, making the half-dozen steps without a spill, and with a yell of delight I can almost hear yet. And so, Warren's first voluntary venture at navigation was unto me, and I hope never to be any the less ready to receive him than then, should I be in position to do so. Before many moons rolled by his mother was barring the doors, and sometimes the windows to keep him from venturing whither he knew not. He early learned the way to the drug store through the garden gate which connected the two grounds, and many were the times his father would send me to see him back home and away from pestering his bottles. I would take him to the gate, push him in with a spank, and home he would go, bawling the news of oppression. His mother remarked in later years that she had many times regretted not having a picture of this oft-repeated transaction.

Sunday was my day for going out to see Mr. Whitley and Sister Portia. Not every Sunday, but when I could, I would light-up a "Solon Shingle" cigar, (a little half-grown rascal like myself) and start out, came in hand, one cut from the woods of Whitley-land. And it was great to be there. I had free access to the pantry of pickled-peaches and whatever else there might be there.

They made me feel like I was a coming man. Talked to me of the drug store, business and so forth.

I told them of how I had painted a sign, reading—Garden Seeds for Sale at S. R. Biggs Drug Store, and nailed it up in the big tree at Skeerkey where the Wild-Cat road branched off. I'll wager the whole county put together did not read that sign as many times as I did, when passing on my trips with Dr. Hassell, or otherwise. And I read it for many years, for it was there long after I was grown. And my presumption is now that I must have put plenty of nails in it from a fairly long ladder. Another one of my stick-ups was a four-padded wind-mill, which I nailed high on Sister Portia's high picketed garden fence. The pickets were of rived heart-eypress, which wood virtually lasted till the weather would wear it away. Anyway, the little wind-mill stayed there under Mr. Whitley's guardianship for many, many years; finally wearing out, and falling down, but the standard stood there till the fence was removed. Mr. Whitley said he often enjoyed sitting at the north window on cold windy days, and watch Charley's wind-mill go round. Who can forget a tribute like that?

Some miles in the country lived a family of three blind boys, Simon and Levi Jones, and a third brother whose name I do not recall just now. Simon was the oldest and the leader among them. Mr. Biggs bought firewood from them regularly. Each Saturday they would come in, each with a separate load of wood, each on a separate ox-cart, drive into the lane at Mr. Biggs' house, put the wood in the wood-house, all unassisted, then come to the drug store and I would settle with them, three loads of wood at 35c—\$1.05. Then I learned that three times thirty-five was one hundred and five, with no figuring necessary since, and never atime that I have ever had occasion since to use the knowledge, did I not think of the blind Jones boys, and the three loads of wood.

Mr. Tom Harrell was the town's

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Miss Sarah Brown Dies Near Hassell

Miss Sarah Elizabeth Brown, 73 years old, died at her home near Hassell last evening at 7 o'clock following a lingering illness. She was a highly respected citizen of that community.

The daughter of the late Sebrn and Martha Harrell Brown, she was born on January 10, 1868, and spent all her life in this county. She never married.

She leaves two brothers, Dansford and Zeke Brown, and two sisters, Mrs. J. H. Hyman and Mrs. N. B. Bland, all of this county, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services are being conducted this afternoon at 3 o'clock from the late home by Rev. J. M. Perry, Robersonville minister. Interment will follow in the Zack Harrell cemetery, near Conetoe, in Edgecombe County.

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Changes In Fertilizer Laws Will Be Reviewed At Meeting

Reporting the latest progress in the drive for 1,000 members, the Farm Bureau membership committee with others of the organization will hear C. G. Crockett review the changes in the fertilizer laws at a meeting to be held in the agricultural building tonight at 7:30 o'clock.

Unofficial, but reliable reports reaching here late yesterday indicate that the membership drive is within a dozen or so members of its goal, the membership committee having virtually agreed not to close the drive until the figure is reached. "We believe we'll reach the goal," John I. Eagles, secretary of the organization, said today.

Designed to reduce the number of fertilizer formulas or analysis, the

new fertilizer laws should be of interest to all farmers and others interested in farming. At the present time there are about 64 formulas, and it is understood that the new law will reduce the number by about half.

In addition to reviewing the new laws passed by the last session of the North Carolina Legislature, Mr. Crockett will, in all probability, discuss the fertilizer situation as it relates to the farmer. The Farm Bureau forum program committee believes the meeting tonight will prove of interest and value to those interested in farming, and all members, including business men, are urged to attend. The discussions will be limited to a set time, ruling out a long meeting.

Numerous Civil Cases Removed From Docket

Most Of The Suits Were Cleared from Files by Agreement

Clean Sweep by Judge Stevens Leaves 104 Cases Pending in Superior Court

Conducting an extensive house-cleaning at the recent term of the Martin County Superior Court, Judge Henry Stevens ordered 120 aging civil cases removed from the court files, the action leaving 104 pending in the superior court. Fifty-two of the 104 are on the calendar for consideration by the court during the term opening Monday for the trial of civil cases for two weeks. Thanksgiving excepted, of course.

Several factors supported the action of Judge Stevens in removing the 120 old cases from the court files. Time, healing old differences and softening men's ways, made it possible to remove most of the cases, some of which were bewhiskered during ten or even more years. Then quite a few of the litigants had settled their difference outside of the court and never troubled to have their action entered in the records. Judgments of non-suit were entered in those cases. And then some of the litigants have passed on to their reward, their cases in court dying with them.

In addition to the 104 regular civil cases awaiting the attention of the court there are 129 old tax suits "hanging fire." Some of them date back to 1926, and just what action will finally be taken, no one is quite certain.

Cases removed from the files by Judge Stevens are as follows: D. E. Parker, trading as Suffolk Storage Co., vs. W. W. Walters. Plaintiff failed to prosecute case.

C. E. Gardner against D. G. Matthews and others. Plaintiff failed to prosecute his case.

Chas. Davenport, trustee, against W. W. Walters. Settled by agreement.

J. F. Roberson against W. Z. Morton. Plaintiff failed to appear in court and case was non-suited.

American Agricultural Chemical Co. against Mary L. Berry. Case settled by agreement.

Mrs. T. H. Hopkins against Joe Boston. Plaintiff failed to appear in court and case was non-suited.

Jesse Keel and J. S. Ayers, trading as J. S. Ayers and Co. Plaintiffs did not prosecute case, and non-suit was ordered.

Johnson Rogers against Ruth Rogers. Non-suit ordered when plaintiff failed to appear and prosecute case.

W. I. Skinner and Co. against J. H. Jenkins and son. Controversy settled and case dismissed.

Mrs. Emily E. Smithwick against Theodore Mobley. Case settled and dismissed.

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Dog Owners To Pay Tax Or Go To Jail

Virtually completing a round-up of delinquent real and personal property taxpayers, county tax authorities, including Special Collector S. H. Grimes and Full-Time Collector M. L. Peel, are laying the law down for those owners who have not paid their dog taxes.

One case has already been referred to the courts where the defendant was required to pay the tax and court costs. Another alleged non-payer was thrown in the common jail yesterday, and gained his release only after paying the dog tax and all his personal property taxes, amounting to approximately \$34.

According to the records, there are sixty dog owners in a single township in this county who have not paid their taxes for 1940. Action against those and others in the remaining nine townships is pending, according to Tax Collector Peel. And the verdict is to pay up or go to jail and face the courts.

UNION SERVICE

The Union Thanksgiving Service That Has Been Growing In Favor Among The Christian People In Our Community Will Be Held This North Carolina Thanksgiving Day At 10 o'clock in the Episcopal Church with Rev. Z. T. Piephoff. All the churches taking Thanksgiving offerings for benevolence or religious education may make the same at this service in the envelopes provided by each congregation unless other provision has been made.

The local ministerial association urges all our people to attend this service and share in a genuine Thanksgiving for what we are and the possibilities of what we may become with a world background so shot-through with pain and suffering and want.

Making Survey Of Trucking Facilities As Part Of Defense

Questionnaires To Be Mailed To Truck Owners in the State Next Week

T. B. Ward, North Carolina Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, today seconded the recent statement by Governor Broughton regarding the national defense truck and bus inventory, and announced that 150,000 questionnaire cards have been addressed to truck and bus owners and will go in the mail on the 17th of November, 1941.

"With 4 1-2 million trucks in this country today compared with about 1-2 million during the first World War, the United States need not experience again a transportation paralysis like that of 1917," the Commissioner emphasized. "The truck and bus inventory will provide information for Federal officials in planning improved highway transportation facilities for national defense."

The inventory offers an opportunity for truck and bus owners to make a contribution to the defense of the nation, the commissioner said. With complete returns from the survey, it will be possible to make detailed records of all available highway transportation facilities by regions and on a central basis. With such records, the country can be organized to meet any transportation emergency.

Two units of the Federal Works Agency will conduct the inventory in cooperation with the State. The Public Roads Administration will direct the inventory and the WPA will analyze and list the returns.

Trucks and buses are already performing a great service, the commissioner stated.

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Mr. Geo. Crofton Quite Ill At His Home Here

Suffering a heart attack while at work Wednesday, Mr. Geo. Crofton continues quite ill at his home here on North Houghton Street. Although pneumonia has developed, Mr. Crofton was said this morning to be getting along as well as could be expected.

Man Injured In Freak Highway Accident Today

Irving Farmer, young white man, was badly hurt in a freak highway accident near Parmele this morning. Farmer was riding on a peanut picker hitched to a tractor. The connecting link came loose, one report stated, and the peanut picker ran off the road, throwing the man off and injuring his hand and head. The extent of his injuries could not be learned here immediately.

Improved Freight Service Proposed

Promising an improved freight service, the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company petitioned the Utilities Commission in Raleigh last Wednesday for permission to operate trucks on the highways paralleling its lines. Mayor J. L. Hassell, favoring the proposed change, represented Williamston at the hearing. No decision has been made public by the commission as far as it could be learned here today.

It was pointed out to the commission that the freight service along the main and branch lines of the company could be improved by instituting truck operations to handle less than carload shipments. Less than carload shipments would be distributed by truck from a given point, possibly Rocky Mount, for this section. The trains would then be speeded up in handling carload shipments.

According to the mayor, it is claimed that shipments could be speeded up as much as a day in some cases.

HOLIDAYS

All county schools will suspend classes at the usual hour next Wednesday afternoon for the Thanksgiving holidays, the office of the county superintendent announces. The schools will reopen the following Monday.

The schools will close on Friday, December 19th, for the Christmas holidays and reopen on Thursday, January 1st, in accordance with a schedule fixed by the county board of education.

Believe England Is Clearing Decks for Second War Front

Germans Said To Be Planning New Offensive Against Moscow

Moscow

While Russia is calling upon all its people to stand firm in an anticipated removal of the drive on Moscow, rumors of a semi-official nature were heard today stating that England was clearing its decks for opening an extensive second front against Hitler in Africa. The prediction was offered without comment, and if such a move is being considered, connecting details were kept secret.

Germany is throwing thousands of new tanks and tens of thousands of fresh shock troops in the drive against Moscow in what has been described as his greatest and probably his last drive to reach Moscow where he would establish winter quarters. But even as the anticipated drive was being announced, Russian reports stated that new gains had been made against the invaders, that twenty villages had been recaptured and that the Soviet forces were taking the initiative in carrying the war back to Hitler's borders.

Reports from the Crimea are not very encouraging, but Hitler is yet five hundred miles from the pipe lines beyond the Caucasus.

Activities on the war fronts in Russia are about to be overshadowed in the Far East where the tension is admittedly at the breaking point. Nearly 1,000 American marines have been directed to leave China, the order carrying much importance.

President Roosevelt said this morning that it is impossible to say if war with Japan can be avoided. The Dutch East Indies are entering large-scale army maneuvers with the virtual understanding that a "break" is near at hand. During the meantime, a special Japanese envoy is landing in San Francisco this afternoon with a five-point program he will present to official Washington. The mission has virtually been discounted already, and the United States is not expected to backstep.

The 22,000-ton aircraft carrier, Ark Royal, has at last been sunk. In a brief announcement this morning, the British Admiralty said that the "often-sunk" warrior had been sunk in the Mediterranean just east of Gibraltar. Attacked and damaged by submarines, the ship was being towed to port when it went to the bottom, the announcement stating that most of the men had been saved.

Offsetting the adverse report, the British announced that a very successful action had been taken by the Admiralty and the American Navy against the Germans in the Atlantic, the report apparently referring to an engagement not yet officially announced off the coast of Iceland. The unofficial report claims that the Nazis, using a new type of surface raider, and submarines, were "soundly blooded" early this week. The new surface raider was said to have carried mosquito boats just as a ship would carry airplanes.

United States Ambassador to Russia, Laurence Steinhardt, and Soviet Ambassador to the United States, Maxim Litvinoff, more than two days over due in their trip with the head of the British Information Service, landed safely today, according to a report from Cairo.

The labor situation is up in the air, and while it is serious there is still some hope for a peaceful settlement. John L. Lewis, leaving a conference with the President and rep-

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