

Four Youths Get Suspended Terms On Assault Count

Four Kings Mountain youths received suspended sentences in City Recorder's court Monday afternoon on amended warrants signed by Kings Mountain police department. Each was charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

Original charges of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and attempted robbery against Junior Putnam, Palmer G. Moss, Max Odum and Roland Junior Moss were not pressed by the state after prosecuting witness, Garland Still, owner of the Horse Shoe Grill, testified that he was not sworn to the charges against the four by Sgt. Everett Bridges, of Kings Mountain police department.

New warrants were ordered drawn against the four by Judge Jack White and each were tried on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill after Sgt. Bridges testified that Mr. Still did swear to the original charges. This charge was later amended to read assault with a deadly weapon.

Putnam, Palmer Moss, Odum, and Junior Moss each were given one year road sentences as a result of an assault on Mr. Still around 3 o'clock, December 3, at Horse Shoe Grill. Sentences were suspended on condition that they be of good behavior for two years, not "step a foot nor be seen" on the property of the Horse Shoe Grill as long as Mr. Still is in charge, pay a \$75 fine and costs of court.

Mr. Still testified that the assault on him by the four resulted when the four, after entering the Horse Shoe Grill, became boisterous, and were asked by him to leave.

Mr. Still's testimony was corroborated by Willie Sue Leonhart, an employee of the grill, and David Sipes, a customer in the grill at the time of the incident.

Odum and Palmer Moss testified that the attack resulted after they had been attacked by Mr. Still. Moss admitted striking Mr. Still in the grill while Odum stated that he struck Mr. Still outside of the grill, and only "after he cut me with a bottle".

Junior Putnam and Max Odum did not testify.

A charge of non-support against Burben Lee Burris was not pressed with leave by the state on condition that the prosecuting witness, Eva Burris, wife of the defendant, pay costs of court.

The case of Hubert Link, charged with driving while drunk, was transferred to County recorder's court, at request of defendant, for jury trial.

One defendant was found guilty of a charge of public drunkenness, and one case, that of Bill Beatty, charged with driving while drunk, was continued.

A STRING OF LIGHTS

By Don Wheeler

WE WERE in a dust covered box that sat in the corner of Mr. Barker's attic. All through the year no one ever bothered about us, but now, at Christmas time, we know that once again we would be the center of attraction. Grumbling and grunting, Mr. Barker lifted our box into his arms and started down the attic stairs.

Being a rather plump fellow with a stomach that protruded so far he couldn't see his feet, he was, I regret to say, somewhat clumsy. About half way down the stairs he stumbled and our box went tumbling down the stairs. I was uninjured, but I'm afraid some of my friends suffered from the fall. A few minutes later we were all unpacked and laid on the huge dining room table.

"Well now, let's see, John," said Mrs. Barker. "We can use this string of lights, and this string and, oh! We don't want to use this old string again, John! They've been around here for years. Throw them out in the trash with these other things that were broken when you fell."

I was shocked! For years I had been used to decorate the Barker's Christmas tree, and now, simply because I was getting a little old, they were throwing me out! It is true that my popularity with the Barkers had declined through the years. When I was new I was used at the top, but each year



About halfway down the stairs he stumbled and our box went tumbling down the stairs.

I seemed to find myself placed lower and lower on the tree.

Unwanted Home

My friends, most of them broken in tiny pieces, and myself were cast upon the trash pile in the alley. I felt sorry for them. They had many years of use ahead of them had Mr. Barker been more careful, but now they could never be used again. But what of me? I wasn't broken; only a little old.

For two days I lay on the trash pile with my broken friends, and then, on the third day, a small child, who seemed to be searching the trash cans in the alley to see if he could find something of value, came upon me. With a cry of delight he gathered me into his tiny hands and scampered out of the alley and to the edge of the small town, where he lived in a broken down little old house.

How glad were his brothers and sisters when they saw me! That evening they trimmed their tiny tree, it was scarcely three feet tall, and I was the principle item of decoration. One of my lights was placed at the top of the tree and the rest were wound in and about from top to bottom. Then the tree was placed in the front window and for the first time in my life I, was given the task of lighting an entire tree.

That evening it snowed and snowed and the wind whistled harshly about the corners of the house. I was glad that I was in a warm house instead of being on the trash pile in the alley.

A Visitor Comes

Suddenly there was a loud rap on the door. When Mr. Cullen opened it I heard a man's voice ask, "Have you seen the Granger boy?" He was out playing this afternoon and hasn't come home yet. We think he's become lost in the storm. The whole town is out looking for him. Would you like to help, Mr. Cullen?"

Mr. Cullen quickly put on his coat and scarf and followed the man into the dark cold night. They had been gone only about twenty minutes when again there was a knocking at the door. When Mrs. Cullen opened it, in stepped a tall man, carrying a boy in his arms. The boy's ears and nose were blue from the cold, and his teeth chattered.

"Mr. Cullen," said the man, "this is Tommy Granger. I'd like to leave him here while I go tell his parents we've found him and send word to the others to stop searching. It's no wonder he was lost in a storm like this. I was almost lost myself until I saw the light from your tree in the window."

How proud I was when I heard those words. My lights seemed to brighten and shine as they had never done before, especially the one at the very top of the tree.

Purchases of Grade "A" milk by North Carolina distributors totaled over 345 million pounds for the first six months of 1954—a 12.5 per cent increase over purchases during the comparable period last year.

Lack of sulphur has been detected in some soils in the south according to USDA officials.

Mexican Custom Will Brighten Christmas Party

If you're planning a Christmas party for the kiddies, why not brighten up the affair the Mexican way? Make plans for a "pinata" and we promise it will be the high spot of the gathering.

Widely used in Mexico throughout the year, the pinata is busiest at Christmas time, during the Mexican Christmas Festival which



lasts 21 days. It is constructed of thin, fragile clay, filled with sweets and trinkets, then suspended from the ceiling as a form of decoration.

Sometime during the gathering, each of the guests is blindfolded and given a stick which is brandished in the air until the pinata is shattered and the delicious contents pour forth.

It's a wonderful way to entertain the kiddies, but the game may be—and often is—enjoyed by older folks.

North Carolina farmers were paying slightly less for most food items on September 15 than a year earlier.

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Holiday Plants Need Special Care

Holiday plants require special care if they are to look their best. Just like human beings, they need bright light or sunlight, in the day and a proper amount of water.

Withering, leaf yellowing and burning, leaf drop and premature loss of flowers can be caused by under-watering or over-watering plants. Thorough watering is important as soon as plants are dry, but avoid leaving plants standing in water. Puncture the tin foil or heavy paper on pots at the drainage hole to provide necessary drainage.

Here are some further suggestions:

Lower the night temperature to prolong the life of blooms. Minimum night temperature for poinsettias and Christmas begonias should be 60 degrees. The desirable night temperatures for azaleas, Christmas cactus, chrysanthemums, cyclamen, Jerusalem cherry, Kalanchoe, ornamental peppers, potted bulbs and cut flowers are between 50 degrees and 60 degrees. High room temperatures hasten the maturity of flowers and shorten their life.

Avoid sudden temperature changes and drafts. Keep both plants and cut flowers away from radiators and heat registers and out of drafts. Poinsettias are especially sensitive to sudden temperature changes. They should never be left near a window sill as drafts will cause leaves to turn yellow and drop.

American farmers used more fertilizers this year than ever before but they will probably use even more next year.



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