

COURT NEWS

The following cases were tried in Recorder's court in Smithfield last week:

Casco Holt, colored, entered a plea of guilty on a charge of possessing 15 pints of illegal whiskey. He was given six months on the roads, fined \$30 and taxed with the cost the road term to be suspended on condition that he refrain from violating any criminal law again in two years.

Lelia Lee was given 30 days in jail for being drunk and disorderly and using profane and indecent language in public.

A. B. Bryant, 32, of near Smithfield, was convicted of driving while intoxicated. A 60 day road term is to be suspended upon the payment of a \$50 fine and the cost on condition that he does not operate a motor vehicle again in 12 months. He took an appeal.

Cleams Cox, colored, was given 90 days in jail for driving while intoxicated, the jail sentence is to be suspended upon the payment of a \$50 fine and the cost.

Lee Sanders, colored, drew a 60 day road term for assault with a deadly weapon on a female.

Ronald E. Cash was charged with the larceny of auto parts from Wade Wood. Probable cause was found and he was bound over to Superior court.

Darius Matthews was found guilty of the larceny of meat from Y. A. Matthews and watermelons from W. D. Strickland. He was given six months on the roads and taxed with the cost, including \$35 for Y. A. Matthews and \$4 for W. D. Strickland. The road term is to be suspended on condition that he does not violate any criminal law again during the next two years.

Gethro Edwards, 31, and Woodrow Whitley, 30, were charged with the larceny of a pig from P. B. Stevens and B. H. Watson. Edwards was found guilty and was given 60 days on the roads, a \$25 fine, and taxed with half of the cost. Whitley was found guilty of receiving stolen property (pig), knowing it to have been stolen, and he was given 60 days on the roads and taxed with half of the cost. Both terms are to be suspended upon condition the de-

Town of Cullowhee Is Swept Away In Flood

By E. V. DEANS, JR.
Cullowhee, N. C.,
September 5, 1940.

Dear Mother,
I hardly know what to write, except this:

Cullowhee is gone!
Friday morning, August 30, the greatest flood in the history of the town swept down the mountains. It was four o'clock in the morning when

fendants do not violate any criminal laws again during the next two years.

Lloyd Creech, who was charged with the larceny of scrap iron from M. G. Futrell, was found guilty. He was given 90 days on the roads and required to pay the cost, including \$10 for M. G. Futrell. The road term is to be suspended on condition that he does not violate any criminal law again in two years. He took an appeal.

Albert Fields, colored, was given six months on the roads for possession of one gallon and two pints of illegal whiskey for sale.

Marvin Renfrow of Selma who was charged with driving while intoxicated, was found not guilty.

Junius Holt, colored, pleaded guilty to the larceny of a pistol from L. H. Holder and was given 60 days on the roads.

James H. Hinnant, colored, was sent to the roads for a period of 60 days for the larceny of \$2 from L. H. Holder.

Otis Wilder, 43, drew a 90 day road term for assault with deadly weapon. On another count charging assault with deadly weapon he was given 90 days on the roads, and on a charge of resisting and interfering with an officer he was given another 90 days on the roads, all three terms to run concurrently.

The state took no process in the following cases:

Arthur Hudson, charged with violating the alcoholic laws; Bernice Temple, resisting and interfering with an officer; J. A. Moore, assault on his wife; D. S. Bailey, abandonment and assault; James Barnes, seduction; Ernest Smith and William Parrish, assault on female; L. W. Lewis, John D. Jones, Eulas Edwards, Clifton Westbrook, C. N. Jackson, Melvin Surles, and Luther Pearce, charged with abandonment and non-

support. The waters came. All the people lost have not been found as yet. Our mountain floods are not like those in the plains and flat country, but are torrents of madness that sweep everything before it. This great flood had its origin in cloudbursts, the most dreaded of all mountain rains. High up in the mountains the clouds collect so much water that they turn it free all at one time. In some places, I have been told, the water dug holes 100 feet deep. These great rains washed every living thing, trees, plants, animals, man, from the mountain sides, leaving only bare hard rock. And when the rain continues to hit those bare rocks, the water is shot back into the air as high as 20 feet or more. Not just one cloudburst hit our mountains, but many, one right after another. In less than two hours nearly 6 inches of rain fell. And all this water poured down the mountain valleys with a force that swept everything away. Great trees and logs collected at the Cullowhee bridge towering about 50 feet and of course the bridge went out. The bridge was hardly 6 years old and a very beautiful one indeed. We all loved it; to walk across the bridge was a favorite pass time; to watch the river flow under it, to watch the boys row their boats and canoes under it, to watch the moon rise beyond it, to watch the stars shine above it—these were happy moments on the bridge which is now crushed and crumbled like a match box. And everywhere is mud, mud, mud, which stinks to high heaven with dead fish and animals; and the workmen on the roads tell me that under all the trash collected at the concrete pillars there are perhaps human bodies! It is terrible to think about. When a flood hits these people, absolutely nothing is left; not even the land, which is carried down the river too. It has been many a day since I wanted to cry, but when I reached Cullowhee Monday night about 9 o'clock (travel slow and terrible over the mountains now) and saw the bridge and the possessions of people I knew, their beds, and blankets, and tables, and clothes, placed along the road side and all covered with a stinking mud, and I saw the great holes in the earth where Brown's store had been and the cafe and the garage and the wood shop and the shoe shop, and when I walked by the little post office and the little drug store and smelt the terrible mud still in them,

and when I saw the lumber that was once a church smashed and jamed against the bank, I sat down in the darkness, dumb and chilled, alone save for the fire light of the road watchman, and tears came into my eyes.

I do not know when school will start: The buses are trapped in the mountains, either by roads being washed out or by land slides which have covered whole farms. Many of the school children have lost everything and I do not see how some of them can get to school at all. But Cullowhee is not the only place that has been destroyed; several small towns up the river were taken out too. The larger ones down the river like Bryson City are in terrible condition. How can anything live again after all they have been covered under 25 feet of water and left covered with mud or when everything they have, their house and goods, and the very land the house was built upon, has gone down the river.

I have one personal loss. I lent my copy of "Gone With the Wind" to a student to read during the summer. The book is now Gone With the River.

Until the bridge is built, my car

must stay about a mile from the place in which I stay. We hope to have a little bridge by next week.

How green was our valley. And now! We never thought this would happen to us. But mountain people, stern, silent, and cold, are returning to the task of living again. But many years must pass before our valley will be green again.

I am well and safe, but have been busy carrying people around in the car, some to work, some to town to get food.

No need to think of Europe or England now. We have our own battle to fight here, a battle which man can never win, the battle against nature.

Love to all,
E. V.

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