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The Johnstonian-Sun

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Famous Strickland Case Not Over Says Hobbs

Upon His Return To Selma E. G. Hobbs Comments On Famous Texas Lawsuit Which Took A Whole Year To Try, And In Which Millions of Dollars Were Involved.

Upon his return from Conroe, Texas, a few days ago, Attorney Edward G. Hobbs of Selma, who spent a whole year representing certain claimants to the Wilson Strickland oil interests in Texas, has had to answer many questions with reference to the disposition of the case. Mr. Hobbs said he represented 400 of approximately 3,000 persons in the fabulous suit, in which oil lands valued at from Ten million to thirty million dollars were involved.

Hobbs said that the verdict which the jury brought out last Sunday was a week ago in the case did not end it by any means, but rather that it would be back in Texas the last of August, and that September 3 the presiding jurist, Judge E. T. Murphy, would act on a petition of claimants to have the verdict set aside.

The lawyer declared further that if the judge denied the motion to set the verdict aside, the case would be appealed successfully, if necessary, to the Texas Civil Court of Appeals in Beaumont, the Texas Supreme Court, and if necessary, the United States Supreme Court.

The question answered by the jury was "Is it more reasonably probable from all the facts and circumstances in the evidence that Wilson Strickland transferred the Wilson Strickland Survey to W. D. Strickland than that he did not?" Hobbs declared, and said that the jury answered the issue "No."

He said that the case was decided in favor of the Humble Oil Company and its associated oil companies by reason of the fact that the jury held that the Humble company had obtained a five-year limitation title by reason of its getting possession of the land under the W. D. Strickland title, but according to Hobbs, the jury held further that Wilson Strickland never did give title to W. D. Strickland, of Nash County, N. C., who died in 1901 near Nashville.

Hobbs said that Wilson Strickland was a child of Philip and Catherine Strickland, of Columbus county. He said that in 1828, Wilson and Elias Strickland, along with Susan Strickland, left Gayway Swamp section, in Columbus county, and moved to Henry County, Ala.

Subsequently, Hobbs claims, Wilson Strickland went to Texas, which at that time was a part of Mexico, arriving there in 1829.

It is Hobbs' contention for his claimants that Wilson Strickland never conveyed the title to the land to William Dorsay Strickland of Nash county, from whose heirs, Hobbs said, the Humble Oil and Refining Company purported to have obtained title to the land in 1932.

Wilson Strickland, who left the land on which oil was discovered many years after his death, never married, so he has no direct descendants.

The attorney said that the case was tried with 11 jurors, one jury having been dismissed during the Christmas holidays because of a foot injury.

Johnston County Man Sent To State Hospital

Thaddeus W. Allen, son of Mrs. Ridley Allen of Elevation Township, who was in court Wednesday on a charge of attempted criminal assault upon a little girl, granddaughter of Mack Dupree, with whom Allen was staying, was ordered by Judge Burney to be committed to the State Hospital at Raleigh to be treated and cared for until "discharged according to law."

After hearing testimony by Mrs. Allen and Mr. Dupree, also statements by Solicitor C. C. Canaday, the Judge empaneled a jury to pass upon the sanity of the man, and it found that he was of insufficient mental capacity to undertake his defense or responsibility, and it was deemed that it was good as well as for that he be confined. He is now in court pleading guilty

County Home Getting Rugs Made In Selma

The county home will soon have a rug for every room as a result of expert work done by the WPA weaving project at Selma.

Up in the welfare office approximately 50 brightly colored rugs and 20 bath mats are now ready for distribution to the county home and the county tuberculosis sanatorium. The articles represent the first efforts of a group of WPA women who knew nothing about weaving until the project began recently.

New machines were bought and the workers carefully instructed in the art of weaving. In a short time the women were turning out rugs and other woven materials with professional skill. The vari-colored rugs which will go to brighten up the county home were made of scraps, many of which were dyed by the workers themselves.

Around 20 or 25 women are employed in the WPA project under the supervision of Mrs. Maggie Chamblee. Materials are bought by the welfare department and supplied to the project as needed. Articles made by the workers may be sent to any tax-paid institution at the discretion of the welfare department.

Welfare Officer W. T. Woodard, Jr., said a large variety of woven products would be turned out by the WPA project as the workers learn more and more about the work. Sheets, pillow cases, dresser covers, blankets, and a number of other items in addition to rugs and bath mats will be supplied to the welfare department for distribution.

Mr. Woodard pointed out the attractiveness and durability of the rugs and mats now on hand as indicating the high quality of work the women are doing. The sheets which they are to make will be of a type that will outlast ten or twelve ordinary sheets, he said.

Negro Is Sentenced For Fatal Shooting

"That is another whiskey case. Seventy-five per cent of the murder cases I've ever tried, whiskey was at the bottom," declared Judge John J. Burney of Wilmington, who is holding court in Smithfield this week, as he sentenced John H. Newkirk, Princeton Negro, Wednesday afternoon, for the fatal shooting of Herbert Davis, Negro, on July 26.

Newkirk, 22, who was without counsel, entered a plea of second-degree murder, and after hearing the evidence, the Judge sentenced him to 25 years at State prison at hard labor.

The Negro claimed that Davis called his girl, Newkirk's, to the car and that he forbade her going. Whereupon Davis, claimed the defendant, made some remark about shooting, and "I saw him coming out of his pocket," continued Newkirk, who admitted shooting twice, but not meaning to kill. He said he had never been in any trouble before, but admitted that he had had a drink of whiskey before the shooting.

When the judge tried to find out where he got his gun the Negro made such unconvincing explanation that Judge Burney stopped him, saying, "You have started to lying, come down."

Former Selma Man Dies In Charlotte

Albert Norkett, 24, native of Selma, died at the Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, his death resulting from injuries received while employed by the Mercury Cotton Mills of Charlotte.

Funeral services were held from the home in Charlotte and from the Presbyterian church at Wade. Burial took place in the family cemetery near Wade.

Surviving are his wife, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Norkett, of Wade; four brothers, William Norkett, of Selma; Grover, Carl Lee Norkett, of Charlotte, and Ernest Norkett, of Panama; two sisters, Mrs. Matt Yandall, of Charlotte, and Mrs. Jack Taylor, of Charlotte.

DR LASSITER INDICTS 20 IN SYPHILIS CASES

Twenty indictments for failure to continue the treatments for syphilis were made by Dr. Will H. Lassiter, County Health Officer. Two of the indicted are white men, the others are Negro men and women.

This is the second time in the past few months that Dr. Lassiter has preferred charges against persons delinquent in taking syphilis treatment.

Approximately 200 are being treated in two clinics conducted in Smithfield; one is being held each Thursday afternoon in the health office and one Wednesday afternoons at Opportunity Hall in Belmont, a Negro section. This number, says Dr. Lassiter, is about one third of those who should be taking the treatment.

Dr. Lassiter states that housewives in Johnston County are not complying with the law which requires that domestic servants have a health certificate or show that they are taking treatment. Violation of this law, Dr. Lassiter points out, makes the housewife liable and not the servant.

Johnston Farmers To Meet Next Tuesday

County Agent M. A. Morgan announces that a meeting of the AAA committee in Johnston County will be held at the Legion Hut in Smithfield August 19 at 10 o'clock for the purpose of stimulating and expanding farmer compliance with the 1941 AAA program.

The meeting will be open to the public, and it is expected that a number of farmers will sit with the committee and hear the discussions.

The farm leaders, headed by Mr. Morgan, will go over the government program, checking off what needs to be done to clear the year's records, and laying plans for securing county-wide farmers' cooperation in soil-building practices. The program for next year will be outlined.

Methodist Revival To Begin Sept. 3rd

The Revival Meeting for the Methodist Church in Selma has been planned for September 3-12. The Board of Stewards, under the leadership of A. K. Eason, have completed the arrangements for the services, which will begin on Wednesday evening, September 3rd, at 8 o'clock. Services will be held daily at 9 a. m., and at 8 p. m., through September 12th.

The Rev. O. L. Hathaway, pastor of the Edgerton Memorial Methodist church, has secured the Rev. F. B. Joyner, pastor of the Fairmont Methodist church, as the evangelist for the occasion. Mr. Joyner is an outstanding preacher of the North Carolina Conference and has been successful as a teacher and director of youth work in the field of Religious Education.

The pastor will use for his sermon subject Sunday morning, "The Solidarity of the Family." Church School at 9:45 a. m.

Wiley Preston Crocker Died Tuesday Afternoon

Wiley Preston Crocker, 35, of Kenly, Route 2, died Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, following a long illness.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock daylight saving time, from Bethany church, conducted by the Rev. J. T. Green of Four Oaks Methodist church, assisted by the Rev. S. C. Creech, pastor of Bethany church, Kenly, Route 2. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Lillie Daughtry Crocker; one son, William Kenneth Crocker; one daughter, Retta Ann Crocker; his mother, Mrs. Cherry Crocker, all of Kenly, Route 2; two brothers, Ivey C. Crocker, of Selma, R. F. D., and John P. Crocker, Kenly, Route 2; two sisters, Mrs. Ronnie Narron and Miss Ruby Crocker, both of Kenly, Route 2.

Touring Western Section Carolina

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Woodard, of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Woodard left Tuesday for a trip through Western North Carolina, and by Columbia, S. C., where they will visit Fred Woodard and expect to bring him home with them Saturday for a furlough.

HUNTING DATES ARE ANNOUNCED

Johnston county game warden, Bill Norton, has released the following hunting regulations as adopted by the Board of Conservation and Development in a recent meeting:

It shall be unlawful to hunt or take any of the following species of birds and animals except during the periods specified, both dates inclusive:

Bear—Oct. 1 through January 1.

Deer (Male)—October 1 through January 1; except in that portion of Cumberland, Moore and Hoke counties. East, south and west of the Fort Bragg area the season shall be September 1 through September 30 and November 1 through January. All of Hoke and Cumberland north and adjacent to the Fort Bragg area shall remain as formerly, October 1 through January 1.

Opossum and Raccoon (with gun or dogs)—October 1 through February 15.

Mink, muskrat, opossum and raccoon (trapping)—November 1 through February 15.

Quail—November 20 (Thanksgiving Day) through January 31.

Rabbit—November 20 through January 31.

Squirrel—October 1 through January 15.

Ruffed Grouse—November 20th through January 1.

Russian Boar—October 20 through January 1.

Turkey—November 20 through January 31.

All previous regulations not specifically changed at the latest board meeting shall remain in effect. The trapping season in Johnston county shall, until further notice, conform with the uniform trapping season of the state.

The game warden announced that prospective hunters may secure licenses at any one of the following places in the county:

Johnston County Hardware Company, Smithfield; Jordan and Holt Hardware, Smithfield; Everett C. Jones, justice of peace, Smithfield; W. M. Smith Hardware, Benson, W. M. Sanders & Sons, Smithfield, Everett Lee, Blackman's Crossroads; Julius Lee, Cox's Pond; M. J. Oliver, Brogden; Floyd C. Price, Selma; W. B. Oliver & Son Pine Level; J. P. Rains, Princeton; Charles Fitzgerald, Micro; Watson and Alford, Kenly; Little Hardware, Clayton; Bill Creech Highway 210; Holt Lake; Jasper Langdon Service Station; W. L. Snipes, O'Neals, Selma, R. F. D. E. O. Wilder, Emit.

Zeke Creech Captures Operators And Still

Constable Zeke Creech of Smithfield made one of the biggest hauls of the season when he single-handedly raided a large 80-gallon liquor still in Meadow township and captured the still's operators—Malton and Luther B. Knowles—at the plant.

The still, an oil-burning type, was located in Mingo Swamp near Parker's Pond, and was in operation at the time of the raid. Seized were 15 gallons of corn whiskey, 300 gallons of mash, 100 pounds of sugar, 100 pounds of shipstuff, a quantity of oil, and an assortment of buckets.

The Knowles men were arrested, and placed under \$200 bonds, pending a hearing Tuesday. The men were taken without much trouble, said Creech. The men had gotten wind of the raid, and started running from the plant when Creech met them in a path. He threw a pistol on them. In a few minutes they were handcuffed and on their way to Smithfield.

Truck Now Carrying Mail From Raleigh To Goldsboro

Since the suspension of two of the Southern's passenger mail trains between Raleigh and Goldsboro, Selma's mail which was formerly handled by these two trains, is now being handled by truck, and Postmaster R. H. Edwards of Goldsboro is quoted as saying that postoffice officials at Goldsboro like the new service.

The truck arrives at Goldsboro at 11:15 a. m. and leaves at 4 p. m., and is covered by a pickup truck operated by W. F. Smith, of Raleigh.

The Associated Press says Brazil now is using wood gas and alcohol as fuel because transportation facilities for imports of petroleum have been reduced.

Local Man Institutes Civil Action Against Frigidaire Company

Major Gurkin Writes From San Juan, P. R.

"It is awfully hot here, but we have a nice breeze most of the time," writes M. M. Gurkin, who is in San Juan, P. R. in a letter to H. H. Lowry, Mr. Gurkin continues: "This is a beautiful place. The people are very nice. I started to work here five months ago with four carpenters. Now I have four continentals under me and I am rated a field superintendent at \$84 per week. I think I will stay here another six months. Each continental has about 30 carpenters and about five labor gangs of 20 men to each gang."

Mr. Gurkin says he is on the electrical underground construction in the air base at San Juan. "I have had a chance to do things here and I have made good," he continued. "I have lost quite a lot of weight but I feel good. I now weigh 185 pounds," he writes. The letter was mailed in San Juan August 12, at 8:30 p. m., reaching Selma on the morning of the 14th, less than two days from the time it was mailed.

BENSON WOMAN FOUND DEAD IN BED

Mrs. Isaac Johnson, 48, well known resident of the Benson community, died during sleep some time Sunday night and was discovered by her small son and husband early Monday morning. She had been in declining health for several months, but was apparently cheerful and as well and active as usual upon retiring Sunday night.

Funeral services were held from the home at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, with Elder Frank Nordan, Primitive Baptist minister of near Benson, officiating. Interment was in the Morgan family cemetery near Benson.

Surviving are her husband and eight children: Daniel, Dewey, Ralph, Kirby, James, Mrs. Sarah Putnam, Miss Flonnie Johnson, and Miss Lois Johnson.

The deceased was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Barbour of Johnston county.

Selma Representatives At 4-H Short Course

The Selma 4-H Club was well represented at the State 4-H Short Course at State College during the week of July 28-August 2.

The regular delegates from the Selma were M. C. Pittman and Eleanor Thorne, both of Selma Route one. M. C. has been active in poultry projects and Eleanor was last year's room improvement champion for the county.

Selma sent a dairy foods demonstration team to the Short Course. They were Mabel Parker and Frances Kirby. Their demonstration, "Practical Milk Supper Dishes," was placed in the red ribbon group.

Nona Belle Creech represented Selma at the Short Course as the Health Queen of Johnston County for 1941 and took part in the crowning exercises of the State King and Queen of Health.

The other two representatives were Margarette Ricks, who served as a Councillor during the week and Dorothy Wilkins, Sec. and Treas. of the Johnston County Council.

The week was thoroughly enjoyed by the Selma 4-H club members.

Mistrial Is Ordered For Clarence Overby

Clarence Overby of Elevation Township, who was charged with carnal knowledge, and tried before Judge Burney this week, will have to stand a second trial as the jury after deliberating several hours on two successive days, declared that they could not reach a verdict. The judge ordered a mistrial. Overby was represented by Attorney W. B. Wellons and prosecuted by Solicitor C. C. Canaday and L. L. Levinson, both of Benson.

G. C. Hinton Begins Action For \$7,000.00 Damages Against Corporation Following The Cancellation of Contract With Them Without Cause.

G. C. Hinton, local merchant of Selma, has instituted a civil action against R. F. Trant, Inc., Norfolk, Va., distributor for Frigidaire products throughout North Carolina and Virginia, alleging that the Trant Company violated his contract or franchise for the handling of Frigidaire products in this vicinity without cause, thereby doing him irreparable damage.

Mr. Hinton was the original Frigidaire dealer in this community and spent a number of years building up the good will of this product and this company and is considered one of the leading electrical appliance dealers and salesmen in this community. Mr. Hinton says that the action of the Trant Company was a willful, deliberate scheme to replace him with a larger dealer, and that he is advised that other violations exist over North Carolina.

This suit was instituted in the Johnston County Superior Court and later transferred to the United States District Court, Raleigh, by the Trant Company and is expected to be tried during the month of September, this year. Mr. Hinton is asking for \$7,000 damages.

Virginians Say Pipe Line Is Not Necessary

Over around Norfolk and Newport News, Va., where so many North Carolinians are working, the Virginians tell them that all the Government needs to do to get the oil from Greensboro to Norfolk is to form a bucket brigade and pass the oil along.

Seen and Heard Along THE MAINDRAG

By H. H. L.

Selma is soon to have a new drug store—BILL CREECH some time ago took CLYDE JONES over to Goldsboro and showed him the fixtures in one of that city's handsomest drug stores—he told CLYDE that he wanted the fixtures in the new store he is soon to open here exactly like those in the Goldsboro store—and believe it or not CLYDE is doing that very thing—he only had to take a good look and came home and went to work—BILL will have one of the nicest drug stores in Johnston county when completed—he plans to get opened around the first of September—DAVID BALL and this scribe visited Camp Davis and the new Marine Base near Jacksonville Sunday—while there we ran across our old friend CHARLES RHODES, formerly connected with the First Citizens Bank & Trust Company in Smithfield—CHARLES is cashier of the bank at Camp Davis—the handsome new home of DR. E. N. BOOKER is rapidly going up—this will be one of the city's most attractive homes when completed—EDITOR STANCLIL, his better-half, and son, BILL, and little daughter, BETTY JO, left the Maindrag Saturday, motoring to Suffolk, Va., where they spent Sunday with MR. and MRS. STANCLIL'S daughter, MRS. J. A. MARTIN—they report a very enjoyable trip—ERNEST WOMACK was seen sporting a new style straw hat, with a loud band around it—getting young again, eh! ERNEST—ROBERT YOUNGBLOOD, popular clerk at the SELMA DRUG STORE, is back from a vacation spent at the Beach—ROBERT says he had a most delightful vacation—and talking about good-looking girls, they are there, he says—the boys have started calling BLAKE (FARMALL) PRICE "uncle"—makes me feel like an old man, says BLAKE—the new residence of ED CREECH over on Terrapin Hill is nearing completion—FLOYD C. PRICE, SR. was exhibiting two bolls of newly opened cotton Monday which one of his tenants had just plucked from his field—this is the first new cotton brought to the Johnstonian-Sun of this summer.