

John T. Eggleston Given Sentence Of Life Imprisonment

Negro Changes Plea In Charge of Raping Little Girl

Shortly after The Herald went to press Wednesday of last week John T. Eggleston, 30-year-old Negro, was sentenced to life imprisonment, thus escaping the gas chamber on a charge of raping little Margaret Alexander, seven-year-old white girl, on the morning of February 27 as she was on her way to the Edenton school. At the conclusion of the sentence Judge Chester Morris adjourned court without trying any of the civil cases on the docket. Judge Morris' decision on abandoning trial of civil cases was based on action taken by members of the local Bar, who agreed not to calendar any cases, thus eliminating further expense to the county. In taking this action members of the Bar took into consideration, also, that farmers and fishermen are very busy at this particular season and to serve on a jury would have caused some hardships.

In order to secure a jury to try Eggleston, Judge Chester Morris ordered a special venire of 50 men from Bertie County, 26 of whom reported at the Court House Wednesday morning. Only six jurors were retained after the regular jury list and 50 others in Chowan summoned had been exhausted. Seven of the Bertie

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT
WHEREAS, the untimely passing of the Honorable C. Everett Thompson, a beloved, respected and competent jurist, resulted in the loss to his family of a devoted husband and father and to the citizenship of North Carolina of a most valuable member, and distinguished jurist; and
WHEREAS, the Chowan County Superior Court at its regular March-April, 1947 term, and all officers and officials thereof, individually and collectively, desire to express their appreciation for his life and service and to mourn his death; therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, that to the members of his family there be extended our sincere and profound sympathy; and
RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family, that a copy be sent to The Chowan Herald and to The Elizabeth City Daily Advance for publication, and that a copy be spread upon the Minute Docket of this Court.
Done in Edenton this thirty-first day of March, A. D. 1947.
W. S. PRIVOTT,
JOHN W. GRAHAM,
J. N. PRUDEN,
MARVIN WILSON,
Committee.

jurors were secured from the first 10 examined, so that after the jury was impaneled to try the case, P. H. Bell, Negro attorney of Plymouth, who was assigned as Eggleston's Counsel, entered a plea of guilty to being an accessory before the fact to the crime of rape upon a female under 12 years of age. Eggleston previously had entered a plea of not guilty.

Bell's plea was accepted by Solicitor John W. Graham, who took into consideration the mental and physical condition of the little victim who showed signs of nervousness, and whose competency to testify might have been questioned by answers to questions which would have been asked.

Judge Morris said that he felt reasonably sure the Negro would have been found guilty of rape had the girl testified, but under the circumstances he was in accord with Solicitor Graham's action in accepting the changed plea of Attorney Bell. Judge Morris also complimented the parents of the victim and those in the Court House for their behavior during the trial.

Though Eggleston denied the charge when arrested, officers who took him to State prison Thursday said he admitted having committed the deed.

"State Of The Union" Scheduled April 23

(Continued from Page One)
They presented seven plays that season, two performances each week in Abingdon and three in neighboring communities. They begged and borrowed all equipment, kitchen utensils, chinaware, table silver, tools, stage properties and everything they needed for residence and theatre. The people of Abingdon contributed with generosity and amusement. Most of them doubted that "that Porterfield boy, the actin' one," could make his venture work.

New York producers gave stage equipment and the cast-off set from a "Rose Marie" road company. Bob bought nothing for the simple reason that his total capital upon arrival in Abingdon was one dollar.

All the world knows now that Porterfield opened his theatre on the basis of barter—35 cents in cash or the equivalent in victuals. Eighty-five per cent of the patrons paid in produce that year. Each succeeding season, as prosperity returned, the proportion of produce decreased and the cash intake increased until this year hardly more than 10 or 15 per cent of the revenue is barter and most of that goes to the Barter Residence kitchen to be turned in for box office credit slips. With the present food shortage, Porterfield wished more people had paid in produce last summer.

As Barter is not bringing along his own kitchen or commissary, produce will not be accepted during the present season.

Bob operated from 1933 to 1942, inclusive, then closed down when he

donned Uncle Sam's USAAF uniform. He was discharged in the fall of 1945, sojourned in Hollywood long enough to appear in "The Yearling" with Gregory Peck, one of the prize Barter graduates, then returned to Abingdon.

There he decided to make another attempt with Barter; he interested civic leaders who moved upon Richmond and the Virginia Conservation Commission with a plea for an appropriation of \$50,000. The Commission came through with \$10,000—not what Bob needed, but it was a starter and an endorsement. More important, it meant the formal adoption of Barter as the State Theatre of Virginia, another significant pioneer step by the Old Dominion.

The people of Abingdon, Bristol, Marion and other Southwestern Virginia communities raised nearly \$4,000 more.

The year 1946 in Abingdon was an eye-opening experience. People attended Barter as never before. Attendance reached 100 per cent over the best pre-war years, then 200 per cent. Nearly 40,000 saw a total of 113 performances of 12 productions.

Every night Bob called for a count of hands and every night between 20 and 25 per cent of those present were from out of the state.

The funds raised made it possible for Porterfield to change his summer company into a year-round enterprise and to tour the state, taking the best of professional drama—all his company were recruited in New York—to all the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Robert Porterfield is a tall, broad-shouldered Virginian with a disarming smile and a reputation for turning misfortune to his advantage.

In the winter of 1936 Porterfield had been bedded with influenza. He had an idea. The idea was to make an award to the best actor of the year. He invited Mrs. Roosevelt to make the presentation. She accepted, mentioning a luncheon. Broke and embarrassed, Bob asked his Broadway friends to buy tickets to a luncheon for the winner, Laurette Taylor, and Mrs. Roosevelt. Six hundred accept-

ed. It was the biggest thing of its kind in Broadway history and has become an annual event, and famous.

Six Chowan Students Now At Wake Forest

Six students from Chowan County are included in the record-breaking enrollment of 1,577 students at Wake Forest College this spring.

Edenton is represented by five students. These are West Byrum, Jr., and Lloyd Griffin, freshmen; James Chestnutt, Jr., sophomore; Murray Small, junior; and Melvin Layton, senior. From Tynor is David Byrum, junior.

Chestnutt is a member of the Pan-Hellenic Council, governing body of the social fraternities. David Byrum, Chestnutt, Layton and Small are veterans.

David Byrum is contemplating a career in dentistry; Chestnutt in medicine; Layton in coaching; and Small in business administration. West Byrum and Griffin are taking the regular course leading to the Bachelor's Degree.

Such professions as law, medicine, teaching, journalism and the ministry have claimed the majority of Wake Forest graduates, but a good many have gone into business, dentistry, engineering, etc.

Wake Forest is the oldest and largest Baptist College in the United States. During the past year approximately \$15,000,000 has been added to the college's resources, the bulk of which consists of the Smith Reynolds Foundation Fund, valued at around \$11,000,000. This fund is being donated on the condition the college be moved to Winston-Salem and that sufficient funds be raised

SHEAFFER AND PARKER PENS at CAMPEN'S

Greeting Cards For All Occasions at **CAMPEN'S** JEWELERS

To The Voters Of Edenton

I wish to state that I will be a candidate for the office of Mayor of the Town of Edenton in the May Primary.

I am seeking this office at the solicitation of a large number of citizens, who have requested me to do so solely in the interest of efficient and economical city government. They assert that my record and past experience as Mayor, together with my abiding and continuing interest in the welfare of the Town will justify my candidacy.

If elected, I can give the office practically all of my time, and if the voters desire my services, I will be glad to render the best of which I am capable.

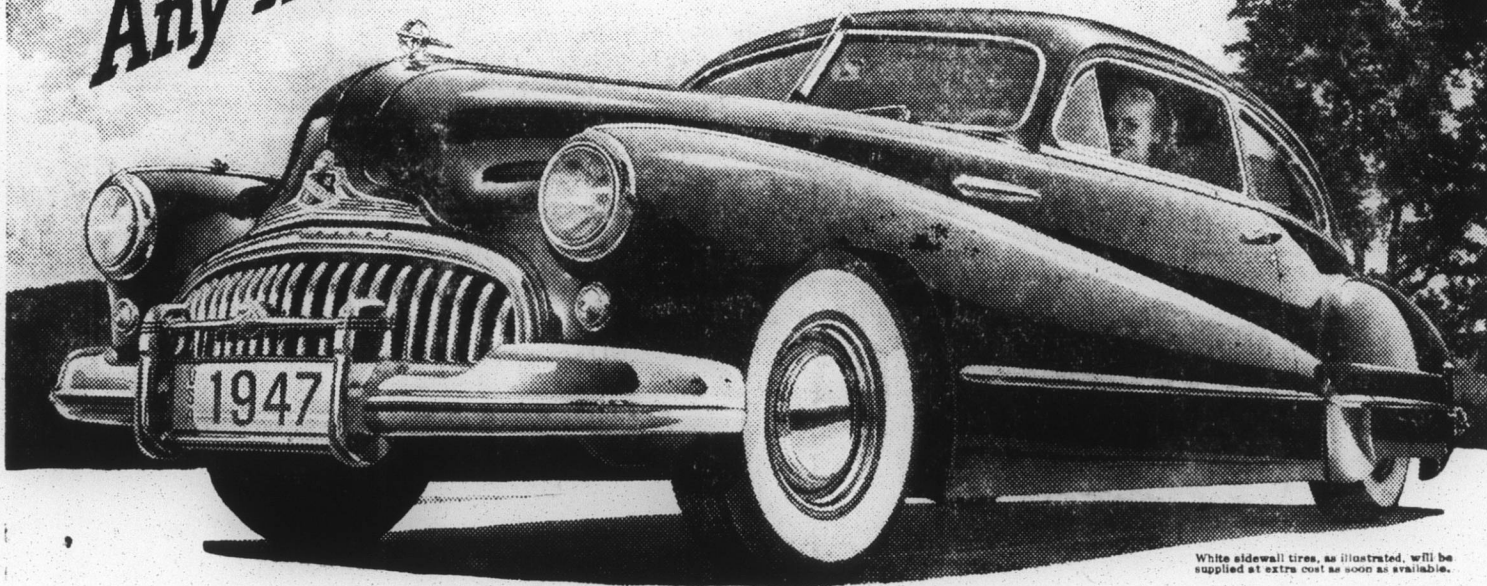
Respectfully,
J. WIGGINS

IN BOTTLES AND AT FOUNTAINS



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PEPSI-COLA COMPANY OF ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.

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White sidewall tires, as illustrated, will be supplied at extra cost as soon as available.

Who says you're only young once?

Take a look at this trim, new Buick — or better, take its wheel — and see just how wrong that old saw is!

One look at these sleek lines, the long, taste-of-tomorrow fenders — and just watch yourself start getting young ideas.

Find an open road, gun this beauty just a bit — and see how the spirit of springtime wells up in your soul and sets the red blood coursing.

Good road or bad, on these soft all-coil springs you take everything with youthful zip and zest, quite freed from jar or jolt.

City street or country road, with all this poised and husky roadweight beneath you, you travel your level course, steady and non-swerving even on curves.

Pull up somewhere — and see how people turn to note the Very

Important Person who's arriving.

Take it through the tangle of traffic and see how nimbly it maneuvers — check it at a boulevard stop and see how sure and positive its controls are.

In all truth, here's a car that's any man's darling, every man's pride. A car that not only meets your needs for transportation, but satisfies your every hankering for size and power, style and room, solid worth and top-dollar value.

Naturally, it's a much wanted car. America's most wanted automo-

bile, in fact. Definitely not the number to be picked up off the counter any time, anywhere.

That's why forethought pays and prompt decision gets results. You are simply playing safe when you get your order in now!

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For Board of Public Works

I wish to announce that I will be a candidate for re-election as a member of the Board of Public Works in the May 6th Primary Election. I solicit the support of the voters of Edenton.

J. H. Conger

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