

Biggs Jury Is Deadlocked

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BULLETIN

After deliberating for three hours Wednesday afternoon the jury was unable to agree on a verdict in the murder trial of James Junior Biggs in Chowan County Superior Court.

Judge John Webb called the jury back into the courtroom at 6 P.M. and Foreman Pete Thompson said they had not reached a verdict.

The jurist recessed court for one hour in order for the jurors to have supper. They were taken to Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant by Sheriff Troy Toppin and were to resume deliberation upon their return.

James Junior Biggs, 29-year-old Negro, Route 1, Edenton, is being tried for his life in Chowan County Superior Court. Biggs was arraigned Monday afternoon before Judge John Webb of Wilson.

The defendant is charged with the July 12 murder of Mrs. Doris Jean Ferbee. Asst. Dist. Atty. D. Keith Teague of Elizabeth City is seeking the death penalty in the first degree murder trial.

An all white jury was seated shortly before noon Tuesday after a true bill of indictment was returned by the Grand Jury Monday morning.

The prosecutor put on evidence Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. The state rested its case at 10:40 A. M. following the testimony of an 11-year-old daughter of the victim, one of five children in the Paradise Road home at the time of the assault.

W. T. Culpepper, 111, the court-appointed defense attorney, informed the court that the

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New Lab Hours

Mrs. Mary Partin, College of The Albemarle's coordinator of the Individualized Instruction Center in Edenton, announced new hours for the center to be initiated on Tuesday.

The center which previously was open during the day from 8 A.M. until 4 P.M., will open during the new hours from 8:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. each day Monday through Friday.

Evening hours will remain the same, 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M., Mrs. Partin said.

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New Businesses Downtown

Downtown Edenton has recently gained three new businesses on Broad Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivey Meadows have expanded their home-operated business to a full time upholstery operation. As customer demand increased, Ivey Meadows Upholstery moved their present site to the location of the former Dixie Dollar Store on South Broad Street. With 15 years of experience, they are offering quality guaranteed upholstery of all types.

Needlecraft and custom draperies are specialties offered by Modern Spinning Wheel, open at the former location of the Daisy on South Broad Street. Brunswick



WAITING FOR THE TROOPS—Lines of school buses stand at attention at Chowan High School patiently waiting for the start of school. The bells ring today (Thursday) as young people report for orientation prior to the Labor Day holiday.

Students Return To School

For whom do the bells toll? Today (Thursday) school bells are ringing for approximately 2,600 Chowan County Public School students in K-12, as they enter the doors of their respective schools.

On this first day, which will

serve as an orientation and registration day for new and returning students, schools throughout the Edenton-Chowan system will observe a half day schedule, ending at 12-noon. The first full day schedule (8:20 A.M. to 3 P.M.) will begin Friday.

Board Delays Rezoning Vote

By Flynn Surratt

Edenton Town Council tabled a motion Tuesday night to rezone a tract of land on the southside of U.S. 17 by-pass for a shopping center. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., a developer of the proposed facility presented to the council a sketch of the site and surveyor's plat.

The council put off a decision on the matter pending a ruling from the attorney general's office on the legality of previous action taken which rezoned the northside of the tract to highway commercial.

A vote of 5-3 was noted after considerable discussion on whether or not the zoning law had been misinterpreted.

The motion to table also followed a public hearing on rezoning the southside area. The developers of the shopping center petitioned the council again, after having been denied at a previous meeting. The only difference in the petitions, it was stated, was the buffer area between the Erwin Griffin property and the shopping center which was extended to 101 feet.

Proponents of the shopping center have contended that the move would act as a drawing card for travelers, spur the economy by creating new jobs and drawing new businesses, offer shoppers more variety and easy accessibility, and that the change would be putting the land to the best economic use.

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The Labor Day holiday will be observed on Monday for all students and school personnel. Regular day schedule will resume on Tuesday.

School buses will adhere to the same time schedule and pickup locations as last year. Anyone having questions concerning bus service to Walker, Holmes, or Swain Schools should contact Louis Belfield at 482-8426. Questions regarding buses to Chowan and White Oak Schools should be directed to Gilliam Underwood at 221-4131.

Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, requests that "all parents instruct their children walking to and from school to use the special crosswalks, which once again will be manned by student Safety Patrols provided by the Town of Edenton."

Drivers are also urged to be extra cautious, now that the school bus fleet and more children will be on the road.

Election Set

Candidates who desire to run in the Town of Edenton election can file with the Chowan County Board of Elections beginning at noon September 12. The deadline to file is noon on October 3.

The nonpartisan municipal election will be held November 4.

Officers to be elected, according to Mrs. Joseph Thorud, executive secretary of the elections board, are: mayor, treasurer, councilman-at-large, and councilmen from the First and Second wards.

Candidates are to file with Mrs. Thorud or Mrs. Byron P. Kehayes, chairman, at the office on the fourth floor of the County Office Building on East King Street.

The filing fee is \$5. All names on the ballot will appear in alphabetical order and the date and time of filing will have nothing to do with the ballot.

Mrs. Kehayes pointed out that a person must be 18 years old to register and 21 years old to file for office. Also, a person must be registered in the Town of Edenton in order to file for office.

If a person has registered since 1968 he does not have to register again. However, those persons who have moved from one precinct to another or from one ward to another should check to make sure they are properly registered, it was noted.

On Labor Day

The "ole semi-retired editor" of The Enterprise over in Williamston is always good for a liberal barb. The latest from the poisoned pen of Francis Manning follows:

"Labor Day is rapidly becoming a meaningless day on the calendar. A day's pay for a day's work was once the foundation upon which Labor Day once flourished.

"Today, just about all of us want to enjoy the fruits of labor without laboring. The worker shuns his task, preferring unemployment benefits, the food stamps and the welfare shift. And too many want a large day's pay for little or no work.

"Labor Day in fact is becoming about as meaningful as Mule Day in Benson."

We are pleased to learn that all the fishing he is doing hasn't affected Francis' sense of priorities.

On Growing Old

The thought of growing old tends to worry a lot of people. We are now nearly 11 years older than when we chose to meander along the Public Parade yet if we didn't make it a habit of looking at back issues of The Herald, we wouldn't realize that so much time has passed.

But when the August issue of "Tarheel Wheels" arrived today we couldn't help but think about age. On the cover of the trade publication of the N. C. Motor Carriers Association is Max Tharpe's ageless picture of his "apple boy."

We are sure somewhere along the route most of you have had the good fortune to see the lad sitting atop crates of apples after having taken a hefty bite from a red juicy sample. The dimpled expression is priceless.

Max, a freelance photographer who use to help our youngsters over the back fence in Statesville, has an almost uncanny ability to capture on film scenes of Tar Heelia that never grow old. This one, for example, must be nearly three decades old but it still appeals to award winning editors like Jeff Wilson.

Bet the "apple boy" gets as big a thrill out of showing the picture to his children and-or grandchildren as Max gets out of making the deposits at the bank. And when either of those thrills escape you it is time you started being concerned about growing old.

Farmland Taxation

Prior to 1973 high speculative values on farmland were increasing taxes to the point of making it impossible to continue to farm some land profitably.

Also, the transition of farmlands to uses such as commercial development, industrial development or residential subdivisions was continuing at an

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FOUND A BIG ONE—The barge "Snell", being employed by the Army Corps of Engineers, began this week cleaning up snags, pilings, and other loosened debris from Pembroke Creek, including the whopper shown above lying on the bow of the ship.

Woman Faces Murder Charge

Mrs. Elizabeth Dorothy Fleming, Route 2, Edenton, was indicted Monday afternoon on a charge of first degree murder.

Mrs. Fleming was arrested less than two hours later by Chowan County Sheriff's Department. She is being held without bond.

The Chowan County Grand Jury returned the indictment in Superior Court shortly after 4 P. M. Dist. Atty. Tom Watts of Elizabeth City was in court and requested an instanter *capias* and no bond.

Judge John Webb of Wilson issued the order.

Jail 'In Order'

The Chowan County Grand Jury inspected the county jail Monday and it was "found to be in order" but following the lead of previous investigative bodies and recommended more action leading toward a new courthouse and jail here.

In a report submitted to Judge John Webb of Wilson in Chowan County Superior Court, it was stated:

"The Grand Jury recommends that the Chowan County commissioners continue their plans for a new courthouse and jail to be completed at the earliest date possible."

The panel also passed on all bills of indictment sent up by Asst. Dist. Atty. Keith Teague of Elizabeth City.

In a rare move, the Grand Jury returned two bills of indictment for capital offenses in a single day. Both charged first degree murder in cases since July 12.

Robert W. Moore, executive vice president of Edenton Chamber of Commerce, was named foreman for the Grand Jury by Judge Webb.

Nine new members were seated to serve a 12-month term on the panel. They were:

Alfred W. Wright, Willie W. Rankins, Lessie Louise Fuller, Walter L. Noneman, Howard Lee Alexander, Percy Julius Mizelle, James Allen Bogner, James L. Jackson, and Betty Smith Bunch.

Mrs. Fleming was indicted for the murder of her husband, Willie, late Saturday afternoon at their home in the St. John's Community.

Sheriff Troy Toppin said Willie Fleming, 44-year-old Negro, had a six-inch gash across his throat. When officers questioned his wife she reportedly said he fell on a kitchen knife while she was out in the yard.

At the time of the incident, Mrs. Fleming and six children were at the house.

The Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad received a call to the residence at 5:30 P. M. Sheriff Toppin and SBI Agent Bill Godley were notified shortly thereafter.

They presented evidence to the Grand Jury Monday afternoon which resulted in the indictment.

It was the second capital offense indictment handed down by the Grand Jury Monday.

Dist. Atty. Watts was in Chowan County Superior Court to aid his assistant, Keith Teague, in the selection of a jury in that case at the time the indictment was returned against Mrs. Fleming.

In addition to the Sheriff's Department and SBI the Edenton Police Department and State Highway Patrol were involved with the investigation and-or arrest.

Food Stamp News

Beginning Tuesday food stamps will be sold in the lobby of the County Office Building on East King Street.

Ronald Huffman, director, Chowan County Department of Social Services, said there would be no change in the days or hours the stamps are sold by his department.

Stamps are to be sold from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday as well as the first Monday.

In the past the stamps have been sold in the department office on the Second Floor of the County Office Building. This has caused considerable congestion and now a counter has been built in the lobby in order to better accommodate the public.



EDENTON FLORAL COMPANY—The elaborate window display of Edenton Floral Company demonstrates their specialty, floristry and antiques. Known formerly as Lula White's Flower Shop, it is a business with 30 years of experience in these areas.



MODERN SPINNING WHEEL—Mrs. Sylvia Johnson, owner and operator of the Modern Spinning Wheel, displays the large selection of yarns available. Custom made draperies are also featured.



IVEY MEADOWS UPHOLSTERY—Mr. and Mrs. Ivey Meadows met a growing upholstery business by moving from their home location to their present site on South Broad Street. The photo shows some of many types of fabrics offered.