



Kelly Trial Delayed Again

By JACK GROVZ

For the second time this spring, the child sexual molestation trial of Robert F. Kelly Jr. in the Little Rascals Day Care case has been delayed.

Superior Court Judge D. Marsh McLelland signed an order Friday allowing a continuance at the request of Kelly's attorneys. The case had been set to go to trial in Farmville on June 3.

The attorneys asked for the delay after they filed a request with the N.C. Court of Appeals to reverse an order by McLelland quashing subpoenas they had issued for witnesses.

McLelland specified in his order that the trial would be "continued not less than 30 days following the ruling of the Court of Appeals."

The trial was first delayed from its scheduled April 8 date when attorneys for both the state and defense asked that it be continued.

On June 4, the appeals court will consider the defense request to reverse McLelland's ruling of April 2 that quashed (overturned) subpoenas issued to parents of alleged child victims and health care professionals involved in interviewing the children.

McLelland also sanctioned the defense attorneys for issuing the subpoenas by requiring them to pay the legal expenses of those summoned who were represented in the hearing by attorneys.

During the court session, Special Deputy Attorney General William P. Hart, assisting in the prosecution, argued that the subpoenas were "overbroad" and were meant to "intimidate and harass" parents.

In a document submitted by the defense to the N.C. Court of Appeals, attorneys W. Michael Spivey and Jeffrey L. Miller stated, "Defendant's attorneys believe that in order

to properly present defendant's defense . . . it would be necessary to again issue the same subpoenas to the same persons."

They also state to the higher court, "That defendant will be denied the right to confront and cross examine the witnesses against him if he is deprived of the opportunity to compel such witnesses to produce documents and material relevant to the issues at trial . . ."

"We filed an objection to the defense motion (to continue the case) Friday," Hart said Monday. He said that the judge's order "has no effect legally" since the order was not signed in Pitt County and also was signed while the court was not in session.

Hart said that the prosecution had hoped for a hearing on the matter this week. However, he said, Judge McLelland is in Colorado and is not expected back to the state before the end of the month.

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FREE LUNCH -- Chowan County Commissioners were treated to a luncheon by the county extension homemakers clubs last week. This is an annual event for the board members. Shown here (l. to r.) are County Manager Cliff Copeland, Commission Board Chairman James C. "Pete" Dail and Nancy Morgan, Copeland's executive secretary.

Board Hears Paving Plan

County commissioners had a full day of work last week when they followed their regular meeting with a special meeting with Department of Transportation (DOT) repre-

sentatives and then sat as the county's Board of Equalization and Review.

Phillip Godwin of Gatesville, area representative on the DOT board told commissioners, "The news that we're hearing out of the legislature is not what we want to be hearing . . . messing with the (highway) trust fund." He said that dipping into the trust fund to help alleviate the state budget shortfall would set the highway building program back.

Godwin did say, however, that four-laning of U.S. 17 between Hertford and Edenton was still on its scheduled track.

Earl Moore, district engineer discussed last year's program for paving county secondary roads. He said that Lester Lane, that had been the

top priority for paving, was not done due to the inability to acquire the right of way. This left open the possibility of paving roads further down on the priority list.

Division engineer C.O. White told the board that the list of priorities of roads in the county for paving hasn't changed in two years and "probably won't be revised for another two years."

The top five in priority will be Meadow Road, Morris Lane, New Road, Forehand Road, and Skinner Road.

White noted that the DOT is bound by state statute to proceed strictly according to the established priority list.

"The allocations we're working with this year (for county projects) is \$186,000," White said. Concerning the

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Renovation Complete On County Courthouse

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

For over 200 years, Chowan residents have preserved their architecturally unique Georgian courthouse through periodic maintenance.

Since its construction in 1767, the building has had paint applied and removed; it has been shuttered and unshuttered; it has been enlarged with wings now torn down; plaques placed in its walls have been taken out; its roofing has varied from shingles to zinc to copper, and now back to shingles.

Although occasionally cosmetic, most often its maintenance has met construction necessities.

The work completed recently under Phase I of a research facility study conducted to identify the structure's present needs "have been strictly a stabilization project," said County Manager Cliff Copeland.

Ross Inglis, unofficial

special consultant with the county, agreed.

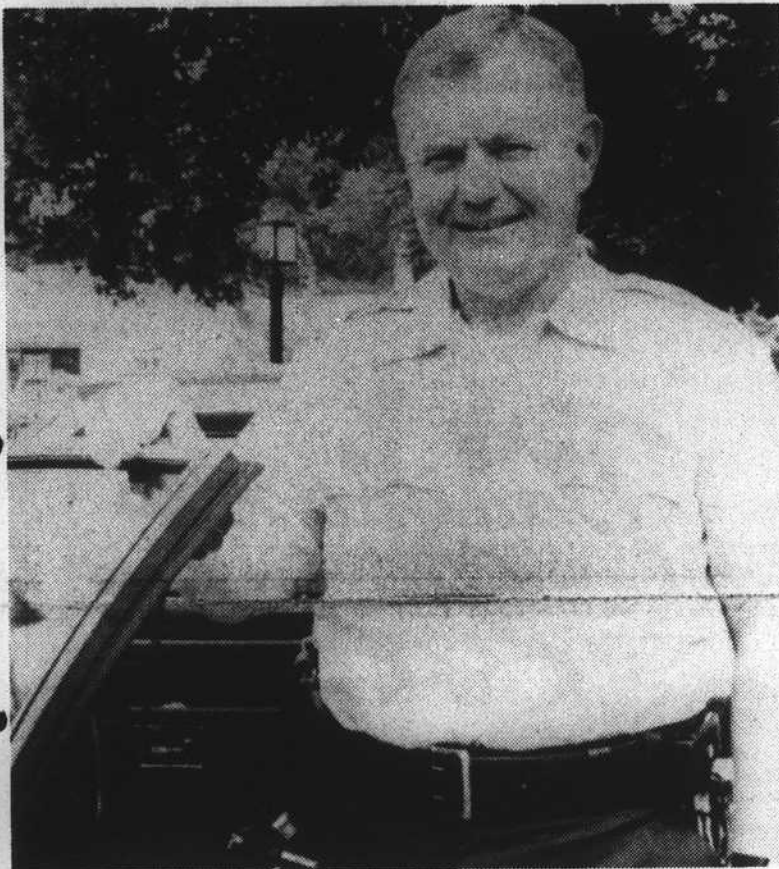
"The object," he said, "has been to make the courthouse watertight and to repair all aspects of the building that have deteriorated due to weather. This includes the roof, window sills -- and some window frames -- and returning the exterior back to its original condition.

"We were very anxious to maintain the character of age; so a lot of skill and effort, successfully, went into making the patch work look original."

Inglis also discussed the removal of two rear wings. Both were added in 1897, one behind the Clerk of Court office and the other behind the Register of Deeds office. A vault added to the latter around 1920 enlarged it by 60 square feet.

Copeland said the old, worn

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NEW OFFICER -- Ronnie Stallings, former Chief Deputy Sheriff of Hertford County, joined the Edenton Police Department this month. Stallings has 14 years of law enforcement experience.

New Officer Welcomed

A veteran law enforcement officer and former Chief Deputy of the Hertford County Sheriff's Department is Edenton's newest police officer.

Ronnie Stallings, 37, joined the department on May 2.

Stallings began his police career with the Edenton department in 1974. He remained a year before taking a deputy's position in Hertford County.

During a joint interview with Stallings and Police Chief C.H. Williams, the chief noted that Stallings needed no training prior to assuming his current duties.

He pointed to Stallings' 14 years of experience and extensive training during that time. The new officer holds an advanced certification as a law enforcement officer from the state. "It's the highest certification you can get in law enforcement in North Carolina," Williams said.

Stallings, a native of Belvidere, holds a two-year degree in law enforcement from Pitt Technical College.

Williams said that Stallings has had extensive investigative experience. Stallings said he has conducted investigations that included murder, rape, robbery and drugs.

In the double murder of two

women in a store in Gates County earlier this year, the suspect, Jerry Wayne Connors, first confessed to Stallings. Connors, a Hertford County resident when he was arrested, asked to speak to Stallings privately after the chief deputy asked for his shotgun. He then confessed to the shotgun murders, Stallings said.

Included in specialized training the new officer has received, was completion of a ten-day course at Sirchie Laboratorie in Raleigh.

Stallings explained that Sirchie is a major manufacturer of fingerprint materials. The course included fingerprint science and bodily fluid analysis.

When asked why he left his chief deputy position, Stallings replied, "I wanted to be back home." It was like a homecoming to the Edenton Police Department as well. He said, "It's a fine department and I've known many of the officers for years."

Williams commented, "I think the Town of Edenton is real fortunate to get an officer of his caliber."

Stallings and his wife Sheila have two daughters and a son and plan to live on County Line Road.

Basnight Named To Nat'l Panel

Sen. Marc Basnight of Manteo has been named as a member of the Fiscal Affairs and Oversight Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

According to information received from the senator's office, the committee is one of ten standing committees and four task forces of NCSL's Assembly on the Legislature, which serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among state legislatures.

The AOL meets three times a year, twice in state capitals and once in conjunction with the NCSL's annual meeting.

Issues reportedly high on the committee's agenda this year include revenue shortfalls in the states; pensions issues; and insurance industry problems and their impact on the states.

Basnight, who represents the state's first district, is chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee in the N.C. General Assembly.

"As a member of the Fiscal

Affairs and Oversight Committee, I will be able to share information and exchange ideas on the wide variety of issues confronting states to-

day," Basnight said. "I look forward to working on these critical issues with my colleagues from throughout the country."



MILES OF SEWER PIPE -- Associate Superintendent of Schools James Kinion (right) and Norman Range, construction superintendent, discuss the many construction projects underway for the schools. They are shown with sewer pipe stacked at Chowan Middle School earlier this month. The pipeline project, started in late April, will connect Chowan and White Oak Schools to the Edenton sewer system. Chowan will be connected by about 12 miles of 6 inch pipe while a 4 inch line will join with it from White Oak. The line installation is rapidly progressing down N.C. 32 North in the \$583,000 project.

Store Is Victimized

Forehand Tire Service in Northside Shopping Center was the scene of a break-in on May 9 in which an assortment of heavy items were stolen.

Police Chief C.H. Williams said this week that ten tires, four wheel rims and an assortment of tools, including jackstands, were taken. He placed the total value of the

items at approximately \$4,500. The theft was reported at 8:05 a.m. by owner Tommy Forehand.

Reading from a police report, Chief Williams indicated that the store had been checked at 3 a.m. by Officer Tom Palmer who found a padlock had been broken off a hasp on a back door. The door was locked however, by the door handle lock.

Palmer checked around the building and found no doors unlocked and no windows broken.

Williams said an investigation was being conducted by Officer Wayne Forehand.

MAY 30TH - 11:30 A.M.
at Future Memorial Site
New Courthouse Green

CHOWAN COUNTY
VETERANS MEMORIAL PROGRAM
WITH VETERANS MEMORIAL RAFFLE DRAWING

Contributions Still Needed
Send To P.O. Box 872
Edenton, N.C. or call
George Stokes at 482-8572