

HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

CONSTRUCTIVE... Harnett's Only County Seat Newspaper... PROGRESSIVE

Vol. XXVIII—No. 37

\$2.00 PER YEAR—5c A COPY

Lillington, N. C., Thursday, September 12, 1946

"If It Concerns Harnett, It's In THE NEWS"

Phillips Sentenced To Die October 25

CONVICTED OF KILLING WIFE ON AUGUST 18

TRIAL CONSUMED THREE AND A HALF DAYS; DEFENSE ATTORNEYS GIVE NOTICE OF APPEAL TO HIGHER COURT

Charlie Phillips, 26-year-old Black River township tenant farmer, was sentenced by Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn to die in the State's gas chamber on Friday, October 25, when a jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree against him Tuesday morning in Superior Court. Defense attorneys gave notice of appeal to the Supreme Court after making a motion to set aside the verdict as against the weight of evidence, which motion was denied by the judge.

The jury took the case at 11:03 and was out on deliberation for an hour and two minutes.

The crime for which Phillips was sentenced to die took place on Sunday, August 18, this year. The family were at dinner. Mrs. Phillips was shot through the right arm, the bullet entering her right side and coming out the left side. The couple had two children.

Trial of the case was commenced last Friday morning—the last on the crowded docket which faced the court when it convened for a week's session the Monday before. After holding night sessions in attempt to dispose of as many cases as possible, Judge Burgwyn adjourned court till Monday.

Sheriff Bill Salmon had summoned an extra venire of 100 men from whom to draw the Phillips jury, but this number was soon exhausted and the sheriff brought in 30 more veniremen. From this second list, only two were needed to complete the trial jury—the first two called to the jury box were accepted by both State and defense.

Defense Attorney Neill Salmon offered no evidence for his client, who contended all along, "I've committed no offense." This made it a rather strange case, in view of the fact that Solicitor Hooks was asking a verdict of murder in the first degree. Seriousness of the charge seemed not to weigh upon the defendant, who maintained a nonchalant air most of the time. After he had listened to the evidence offered by the State, Phillips seemed to assume a pronouncedly brightened countenance. He appeared to feel sure of his safety.

Throughout the damaging evidence given by witnesses for the prosecution, as well as the strong plea made by Solicitor Hooks for the death penalty, Phillips remained calm and collected. At no time did he seem to think his lawyers needed any help from him to gain his freedom. "He's a queer fellow," admitted one of his attorneys.

Appearing with Attorney Salmon for the defense was Former State Highway Counselor Charles Ross, who argued to the jury that it couldn't have been premeditated murder; that such acts are not committed by men after the manner in which Phillips conducted himself immediately.

Wells Completes Technician Course

Pvt. Edward A. Wells, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Wells, of Fupay Springs, Route 2, has completed a six weeks Sanitary Technician course at the Common Specialist Schools, Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, according to an announcement by Colonel John F. Bohlender, commanding officer.

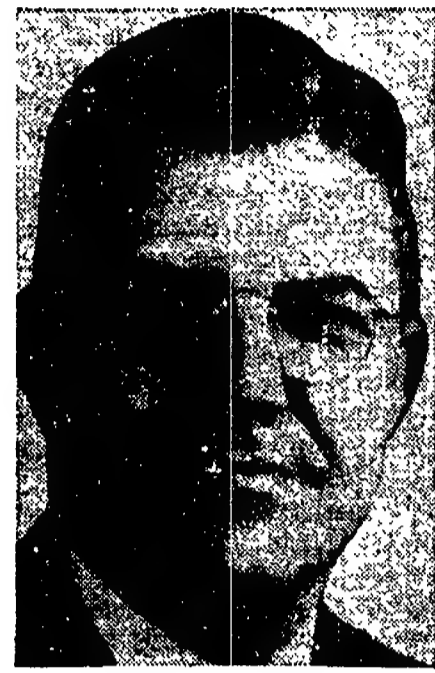
Brooke Army Medical Center, under the command of Brig. John M. Willis, is the largest and most complete military medical installation of its kind in the world.

Serving On USS Franklin Roosevelt

Robert T. Mize, 19, seaman, first class, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Mize, Route 1, Angler, is serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, which is making a good will tour of the Mediterranean area. The Roosevelt first dropped anchor at Lisbon, Portugal, and continued on to visit the Mediterranean ports of Malta, Gibraltar, Naples, and Tarento.

The FDR, with its sister ships, the Midway and Coral Sea, are the three largest carriers in the United States Navy and the world.

Visiting Governor



JAMES W. BUTLER

DISTRICT ROTARY GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO LOCAL CLUB

JAMES W. BUTLER OF GOLDSBORO TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT HERE TONIGHT (THURSDAY)

District Rotary Governor James W. Butler of Goldsboro will make an official visit to the Lillington Rotary Club tonight (Thursday) and will address the Rotarians on matters of interest to their organization.

Governor Butler is executive secretary of the Goldsboro Chamber of Commerce and president of the North Carolina Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. Being a native of Falcon, he is well known in this section. His father is Rev. A. H. Butler of Falcon.

Butler is governor of the 188th Rotary district, of which the Lillington club is a member.

R. Jerome Parker Is Attending Fishburne

R. Jerome Parker, son of Dr. and Mrs. Paul G. Parker of Erwin, is among the 200 odd cadets enrolled for Fishburne Military School's 68th session, which opened on Wednesday, September 11. The enrollment for the coming session includes boys from 27 States, the District of Columbia, the Philippines Islands, and Venezuela, S. A.

Fishburne Military School, founded in 1879, is an accredited college preparatory school for boys and has a Reserve Officers Training Corps unit; a member of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States and also a member of the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States.

Parker entered Fishburne this week as a new cadet and a member of the Junior class.

'Peavine' Reynolds Making Progress In Mecklenburg

The Charlotte News last week carried a feature story on W. D. (Peavine) Reynolds, former Agriculture instructor in Lillington schools and former Assistant County Farm Agent of Harnett, who is now making a splendid record as County Agent of Mecklenburg County.

According to the article written by Burke Davis, Charlotte News Special Writer, "Peavine" is rapidly endearing himself to the hearts of the rural folks of Mecklenburg just as he did in Harnett. Friends of "Peavine" in this section—and they are numerous indeed—will not be at all surprised to learn that he has within the fifteen years of his agricultural career built a reputation as one of the top men in Tar Heel agriculture, and to quote Burke's column, "famed for the energy and intelligence with which he attacks the problems of farmers."

Burke reports that the four thousand farmers of Mecklenburg know Reynolds as Peavine Reynolds and nothing else, but that they do know that the man who bears this very fitting moniker has solved many of their problems and is constantly aiding them in bettering their lands and crops and through his vigilance has opened new fields to boost their incomes. Citing Reynolds' attempt to open new fields of income for the farmers, Burke states, "Reynolds

DRAFT BOARD CALLS SEVEN FOR EXAMINATIONS

INDUCTION CALL SEPT. 26 FOR WHITES; BOARD CALLING UP MEN BETWEEN 19 AND 29 WHO ARE NONFATHERS

Seven white registrants are being called by Lillington Draft Board No. 2 to report on September 19 at 10:30 a. m. at its office for preinduction examinations. They are: Albert O. C. Bassett, Jonesboro R-1.

George David Turlington, Lillington. Neill Joseph Stephenson, Durham. John Harmon Clark, Jr., Jonesboro R-1.

Howard Boyd Byrd, Bunlevel R-1. Danio Kerbel Maness, Buie's Creek. Carl Julius Lloyd, Buie's Creek.

Another call will be issued for white men for induction to report September 26. The board is receiving no calls for colored men.

The draft board is now calling up men aged 19 through 29 who are non-fathers; also some who have been discharged but have less than six months service to their credit, depending on reason for discharge.

Also, the board is going through its files and calling up more 4-F men. Removal of the Dunn draft board to Lillington brought only one official—Mrs. Annie Dove Rucker, who is coordinator. The two boards are now working in the same office under the title of Harnett County Local Board Group Y.

Two other workers are in the office besides Mrs. Rucker. They are Miss Helen Hoffman and Mrs. Dick Collier.

Homecoming At Prospect Church

On the fourth Sunday in this month Homecoming services will be held at Prospect Free Will Baptist Church. The Rev. James A. Evans, superintendent of the F. W. B. Ordinance at Middlesex, will preach the eleven o'clock sermon.

There will be a picnic lunch on the grounds at the noon hour. In the afternoon there will be singing by various choirs and quartets.

Rev. C. H. Coates of Four Oaks, is pastor of the church.

Sale Starts On Middle Belt Monday

Warehouses in the Middle Tobacco Belt will open their doors next Monday for the season's sales. In the Middle Belt are markets closest to Harnett county—at Smithfield, Fuquay-Varina, Sanford and others. While many Harnett growers have been selling on the Border and Eastern Belts, a comparatively small portion of the county's crop has been sold.

Prices on the Border and Eastern Belts showed remarkable gains the early part of this week.

RETURNS TO FLORIDA

Mr. Sidney Monroe, former resident of Lillington, returned to his home in Coral Gables, Fla., Saturday after spending sometime in town.

Supply Exhausted

The present supply of GI terminal leave pay blanks has been exhausted, reports Neill Ross of the Lillington American Legion Post. The Post has, however, contacted State headquarters in order to secure an additional supply and they are expected to arrive shortly.

The local Post of the American Legion has been aiding veterans in filling out the blanks that GI's must file in order to receive the terminal leave pay due them by the federal government.

Mr. Ross states that announcement will be made when additional blanks are secured.

MASONS AND FRIENDS EAT ROAST PIG

JUDGE BURGWIN, SOLICITOR HOOKS AND OTHER INVITED GUESTS PRESENT. ALSO COUNTY'S ONLY 80 DEGREE MASON

(By Malcolm Fowler) Last Friday evening was a red letter day for Lillington Masons—it marked the occasion of the annual



SOLICITOR HOOKS

barbecue Lillington Lodge No. 302 A. F. & A. M. gives for its members, their wives and daughters and visiting brethren.

The barbecue proper was held on the grounds of the Presbyterian Church at Lillington and was thoroughly enjoyed by the two hundred odd people present—barring Solicitor Jack Hooks of Kenly Lodge, who took time off from prosecuting a criminal docket in Harnett Superior Court, to attend, and one or two others who, like him, cannot enjoy the succulence of roast pig. Others, however, made up for them—so much so, in fact, that local druggists reported a rousing 50 per cent increase in the sale of indigestion compounds following the supper. It wasn't that the barbecue was no good—it was too good—and too much of it eaten by some.

Following the eats, the crowd entered the church, and settled down in their seats to enjoy the rest of the program. Emceeding it was Mason Sam Hudson pastor of the Baptist Church, with Masons W. A. Tew of the Methodist and Gulton of the of the Presbyterian Churches standing by to render any needed help. Sharing the rostrum with them was Dr. A. W. Peede, Master of the Lillington Lodge, who introduced the speaker, Charles Newcomb, 33rd degree Mason of Wilmington, after recognizing a number of visiting brethren. Among the visitors was J. F. Lynch, Harnett County's only 33rd degree Mason, of Erwin.

Following his introduction, Brother Newcomb switched off his hearing aid, told his listeners that since he didn't have to listen to it himself he was going to make a speech. And he did.

It was a fine address, too. The kind that awakens the mind, stirs it to activity and reaffirms in the listener his faith in the ideals and virtues of Masonry and his responsibility as a Mason.

Bar To Meet Next Monday

Clerk Howard Godwin has called a meeting of the Harnett County Bar to be held next Monday at the noon recess of Superior Court, for the purpose of fixing the calendar for the October term of civil court which convenes September 30.

Revival At Marners

A revival meeting is in progress at Marners Methodist Church this week. Rev. W. E. Smith is the visiting minister from Broadway. The public is cordially invited.

IN HOSPITAL

Mrs. Cliff Long of Angler has undergone an operation in Rex Hospital and is doing nicely.

LITTLE RIVER BRIDGE NEARS COMPLETION

BRIDGE OVER UPPER LITTLE RIVER ON THE FAYETTEVILLE ROAD BEING WIDENED TWELVE FEET

The construction work on widening the Upper Little River bridge between Lillington and Bunlevel on the Fayetteville road is about seventy per cent complete states Mr. H. M. Smith, State Highway Engineer.

The bridge, deemed too narrow and hazardous to handle the large amount of traffic that passes over that route, is being widened twelve feet. This route, which is No. 421, is one of the most popular routes with tourists traveling south to Florida. Time was before the war that an almost steady stream of tourists passed over this route through the heart of Harnett down to Florida and back again. Too, this route bears a large load of local traffic in that it passes through a thickly settled section.

The bridge now under repair was one of the many throughout this section that was covered during the floods last fall. In spite of the fact that tons of water flowed over the bridge last fall, Mr. Smith states that it was found to be in good condition when the widening process was begun.

The V. P. Loftis Co. of Charlotte have the contract for widening the bridge, and according to Engineer Smith, expect to complete the work sometime between now and the first of November.

The widening of this bridge is one of the many hazards that the state plans to eliminate in order to make the highways safer for travel and to enable the highway system to bear the increasing flow of traffic that is mounting daily now that new cars are becoming available.

Father Roueche Comes To Dunn

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dunn is to have a new pastor this week when the Rev. John Roueche, former army chaplain and pastor of the West Asheville Catholic Church, arrives to take the place of the Rev. Leo Doetterl, who goes to Asheville. Father Roueche spent nearly two years overseas with the army. Father Doetterl expressed regret at leaving Dunn, but congratulated Dunn on securing Father Roueche.

Sewing Machine Dealer Sentenced

Luke Phelps of Dunn, sewing machine dealer, was found guilty of the larceny of a sewing machine from Mrs. Eddie Miller. Judge Burgwyn, upon recommendation of the jury for mercy, suspended a two year sentence and placed Phelps on probation for five years.

Phelps swore he was innocent and contended that it was a case of mistaken identity. He reiterated his innocence even after the pronouncement of sentence by the judge.

This was the last case tried before the Cox case was taken up.

Eating Places Were Overrun

Last week's term of criminal court, which extended over into this week, taxed Lillington's eating places to their utmost capacity to accommodate the crowds. The two drug stores did a "land office" business with sandwiches and cold drinks.

The town's eating places have lately been overtaxed, emphasizing the need for greater accommodations for visitors.

Red Cross Gets Deserved Credit For War Activities

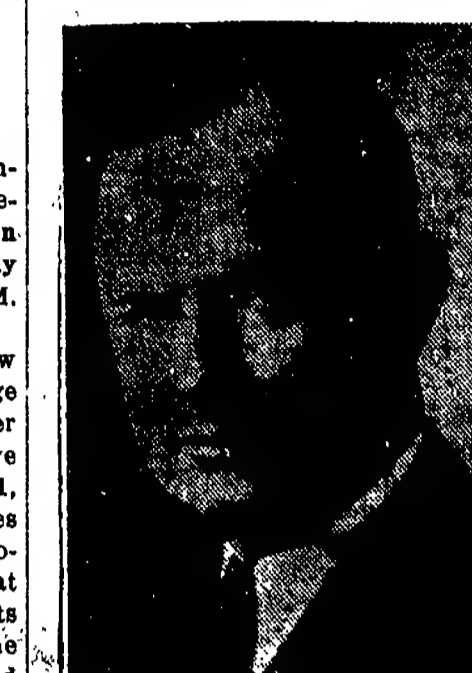
While millions of GIs, especially those who went overseas and felt the urgent need of the outstretched hand of the American Red Cross on battlefields, in camp, and at practically every turn when a real friend was most sorely needed, there are some who may not yet understand how and why it is that the agency manages to be so useful in such emergencies.

It was with great satisfaction that Red Cross workers throughout the nation heard of the praise given the agency in Congress by Senator James M. Mead of New York. Particularly were the local officials and workers gratified, and the Executive Secretary of Harnett Chapter, Mrs. Flora Moore, began to enumerate some of the services which the local chapter has rendered.

Mrs. Moore lists:

Second September Term Opens Monday

Presides Next Week



JUDGE WALTER J. BONE

ELTON COX IS ACQUITTED ON RAPE CHARGE

BOTH COX AND HOYTE SELLERS, TRIED ON ASSAULT CHARGE, FREED BY JURY AFTER SHORT DELIBERATION

Both Elton Cox, charged with assault with intent to rape, and Hoyte Sellers, tried with him on charge of assault on a female, were quickly acquitted by a jury in Harnett Superior Court last Thursday night. The jury returned its verdict after a night and day session during which the courtroom was packed with people eager to hear the details of a trial in which the king's English yielded its utmost in vulgarity. "It was ugly, dirty, nasty—the worst I've seen," declared Defense Attorney Neill Salmon.

Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, presiding, expressed surprise at the verdict and told Cox he was a lucky man.

Cox, 23, was a student at Campbell College, together with Hoyte Sellers and the girl, Louise Waddell, 17, whom they were accused of attacking. Solicitor Hooks pleaded earnestly with the jury for conviction, but there were those in the courtroom during the trial who professed no surprise at the jury's verdict. Some gave one reason, some another. Cox was first charged with the crime of rape, but Solicitor Hooks changed the indictment, stating he felt he could not gain a verdict on that charge.

Several students at the college swore Miss Waddell had a rather shady reputation; but outstanding citizens of the community testified otherwise as character witnesses.

Jurors in the case were: Tax Collector W. D. Harrington, C. T. Moore, G. S. Whittenton, H. W. Lucas, Jesse Nipper, Archie T. Holder, C. T. Betts, Halford Arnold, D. T. Pate, D. E. Wimberly, C. D. Hardee, J. W. Womble. Sheriff Salmon was forced to call persons in the courtroom who were not summoned for jury duty for the term before the jury box was finally filled. Other regular jurors were out on deliberations on other cases at the time the Cox-Sellers case was called for trial by the Solicitor.

First Bale

The first bale of cotton to be ginned here of 1946 growth was brought in Friday of last week by W. M. Brock of Bunlevel Route 1. The bale, which was ginned by Farmers Cotton Oil Co., brought 30 cents a pound.

Revival Services At Methodist Church

A series of religious services will be conducted in the Lillington Methodist Church this coming week, September 15-22. The pastor, Mr. Tew, will preach twice on Sunday, 15th, (at 11:00 and 7:30 o'clock).

Rev. F. D. Hedden, pastor of Divine Street Methodist Church in Dunn, will preach each night at 7:30 during the week following, and also twice on Sunday, 22nd.

Rev. Mr. Hedden is very popular both in his own pastorate and in the North Carolina Conference. He is also beloved by the Lillington Methodists, for he held services in this church in September of 1945, and won the hearts of those who heard him. The local church feels fortunate in having him come back this September. The entire public is most heartily invited to attend each service.

WEEK OF CIVIL COURT CONVENES NEXT MONDAY

28 DIVORCE CASES LISTED FIRST ON DOCKET; CALENDAR CALLS ALL CASES FOR FIRST THREE DAYS

Judge Walter J. Bone is scheduled to preside over the September civil term of Harnett Superior Court which convenes next Monday morning, the 16th. The term is for one week, and Clerk Howard Godwin has listed all cases on the calendar for the term to be called the first three days of the week.

Twenty-eight divorce cases are listed first on the calendar. At every recent term of civil court there have been large numbers of divorce cases listed for trial, but this list tops the record. Some of the separations are asked because of the legal two years living apart; others are based on charges of adultery, illegal marriage proceedings, and so forth.

Following are the cases listed for trial:

Monday: Gracie E. Johnson vs. Craig K. Johnson; Charles Raymond Mason vs. Edna Pearl Mason; Gladys Lewis vs. James E. Lewis; Emily Parker Eason vs. Edward W. Eason, Sr.; Virginia West Eanes vs. William A. Eanes; Mildred M. Harrison vs. Morris Harrison; Willie Mae Layton vs. Solomon Layton; Letha A. Johnson vs. W. Leile Johnson; Claude Junior Tew vs. Ethel Frances Tew; Shirley Wade Hines, by Next Friend, vs. Robert A. Hines; Betty Ward Hobson vs. William S. Hobson; Margaret M. Jeffries vs. Arthur Jeffries; Chester Davis vs. Annie Snead Davis; Vernon Giles vs. Rev. Mae McLamb Giles; Elizabeth Powell House vs. C. D. House; R. C. Thomas vs. Jessie Thomas; James Edward Jackson vs. Mary Nell Jackson; Harvey Deal vs. Vira Ammons Deal; Ella B. Hawley vs. Joseph A. Hawley; Ida Taylor vs. Lonnie Taylor; Margaret McKee Truelove vs. Donyous Franklin Truelove; Grace Byrd Tally vs. Elbert Lemoine Tally; J. R. Moore vs. Lema A. Moore; Elizabeth Smith vs. Purdie Smith; Earl D. Parker vs. Ludie B. Parker; Troy F. Ivey vs. Madie Ivey; William M. Elliott vs. Lucille S. Elliott; A. C. McLeod vs. W. A. Johnson, Gdn. et al.; J. A. Clark vs. Walter Tucker; Ella M. Salmon vs. J. L. Massey et al.; In re: Will of Sarah Margaret Dupree, Dec'd.; In re: Will of Bella R. Maynard, Dec'd.; Vannie Edge Collier vs. C. M. Collier.

Tuesday: J. P. O'Quinn et. wife vs. H. B. Melles et. wife; Bas Autry vs. A. E. Baggett; C. T. Latimer vs. Moses Tripp et. wife; John P. Johnson vs. E. A. Tart; Worth M. Pope et. wife vs. L. B. Pope et. wife.

Wednesday: Johnson Cotton Co., Inc. vs. Geo. Wash Ray et. wife; A. C. Godwin vs. Henry E. Cooper; Julia F. Thornton vs. Auto Sales & Service Co., Inc.; J. L. Sorrell vs. J. W. Sorrell et. wife; Sherrill D. West, by Next Friend vs. Paul & Mayton Thomas.

Mr. Max McLeod Moves To Dunn

Mr. and Mrs. Max McLeod and two children of Farmville will move in the near future to Dunn where they will make their home.

Mr. McLeod is the son of Attorney and Mrs. J. A. McLeod. He will join his father in the practice of law.

Before being inducted into the Army, Mr. and Mrs. McLeod made their home in Raleigh.