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Judge Devin Drives Forward on Big Docket

Sensible and Effective Charge to
Grand Jury—Business
Rapidly Disposed Of

GEO. BROOKS GETS 15 YEARS

Submitted to Second Degree Murder;
Wife of Dead Man Wouldn't
Talk — Goes to Jail

The term of court for trial of criminal cases convened Monday morning with Judge Devin on the bench and Solicitor Williams prosecuting. The following citizens composed the grand jury: C. N. Bray, foreman, J. Q. Covert, Geo. Smith, John M. Foust, W. C. Braswell, H. A. Brooks, H. G. Beard, S. G. Brady, J. B. Powers, J. E. Sturdivant, C. W. Womble, W. L. Johnson, W. F. Norwood, R. L. Hatcher, A. J. Pipkin, G. W. Gee, Junie Goodwin, A. D. Farrell. Messrs. Womble and Powers were excused.

Judge Devin's Charge

Judge Devin's charge was packed with good sense and was a clear-cut presentation of the duties of the grand jury. He saw in the exceedingly heavy docket of 150 cases not an evidence of increased lawlessness but of increased devotion to duty of the county officers and a greater cooperation on the part of law-abiding citizens in bringing culprits to the bar of justice.

Laws so long as on the statute books should be enforced, declared the judge. If every man may disregard such laws as he himself doesn't consider important, every man becomes a law unto himself and anarchy prevails. He sees boys under the age limit driving cars with their fathers sitting by them. "What," asked the judge, "will be the effect on such boys who know that they and their fathers are deliberately breaking one of the state's laws?"

He paid his attention to the "unwritten law" and declared that it is the duty of a man under even the greatest provocation to restrain his impulses. Likewise, men in this state formerly participated in lynchings and thought they had done well. But fortunately better counsel is now prevailing and every good citizen should rejoice that mob law is losing its hold in North Carolina.

Emphasizing the duty of citizens to cooperate in the enforcement of the prohibition law, he said that in case of a robbery every citizen was ready to help run down the thief, but a bootlegger might sell whiskey in Pittsboro and debauch the youth of the town and probably nine out of ten would say let the police or sheriff catch him. He was sure that Chatham's efficient officers received a larger degree of cooperation than those of some counties, but would gladly see every citizen awake to his duty. The thief takes only property; the whiskey dealer destroys the very men and the future's hope in the youth. Touching deftly on the law in many particulars, he yet compassed his charge in a comparatively few minutes.

Events of the first day moved rapidly. Many submissions were made and judgments pronounced promptly and emphatically. It was clear from the outset that convicted offenders were in for a severe shock.

(Continued on page eight)

Mediaeval Castle to be Erected at Chapel Hill



The above picture shows a structure that seemingly belongs to mediaeval Europe rather than to the modern North Carolina University town. The Gimghouls, whoever, or whatever they are, will erect it. In fact it is already in process of construction, the work having begun since the publication of the following account in the Chapel Hill Weekly of two or three weeks ago.

Not only the structure, but the picturesque Valdesians who are building it will probably make the site a centre of interest for hundreds of Chathamites. The interest takes on additional interest to the editor of the Record in that one of his school boys of near thirty years ago, Prof. Hickerston, is chairman of the building committee. The Weekly said:

"This is the design for the new home of the Gimghouls at Piney Prospect, on the far edge of Battle's Park. It will command a splendid view over the valley to the east.

"Courtland Curtis, teacher of architecture in Tulane University, who graduated here in 1900 and is a member of the or-

der, made the design. "In departing from the style of architecture prevalent in and around Chapel Hill, the Gimghouls are guided by the traditions of their society, which is founded upon mediaeval lore and legend. The towers and battlements of the castle will comport well with its isolated position on a thickly wooded hill.

"It will be reached by a road which winds through the woods from the recently built-up residential quarter.

"The boss of the stone workers of the Valdesian colony in Burke county is now in Chapel Hill to confer with T. F. Hickerston, chairman of the Gimghoul building committee, about the erection of the castle walls. If they come to an agreement, the Valdesian force, French people who settled in North Carolina, will come here and camp in the woods near the site. A great mass of stone is piled up, ready to be set in place, and as much more as may be needed is lying about on the hillside.

"It is thought that the cost of the structure will be something between \$30,000 and \$40,000."

Stephens and Burke Both Draw Penitentiary Terms

CHATHAM TO GET
SECOND SHALE PLANT

Pomona Terra Cotta Company Buys
Shale Land in Gulf Vicinity

The following article from last week's Carolina Banner, of Sanford, gives news of real interest to Chatham county people as well as considerable information about the shale area:

It looks as if another clay products plant will be built in the vicinity of Gulf. The Pomona Terra Cotta company, of Greensboro, which has been looking over this field has bought a tract of about 150 acres of the Knall land not far from Gulf, and the understanding is that a plant for the manufacture of their product will be built before long. They looked over the field rather carefully, and finally concluded that up on the Yaddin Valley gave them the location they preferred, and the shale that seemed suitable for their needs, and they have secured a material that they regard with a great deal of confidence.

This emphasizes the importance of the manufacture of clay products in the Sanford neighborhood. In a short time the Borden plant near Sanford will be ready to run, and they will use a lot of shale, and make big lots of building material. They will employ a bunch of men, and live up affairs in their section of the community.

The shale proposition in the Deep river valley, of which Sanford is about the southern boundary, is far bigger than is generally realized. The concerns that are locating in the Triassic shales show the results of their investigations, and a lot more of going into the character, quality and quantity of the shales available will show that shales are one of the main industrial standbys of the central part of North Carolina. Under the surface, and from the upper measures that are exposed in the vicinity of Sanford and Jonesboro, down to the lower measures seven or eight thousand feet below, is a succession of shales of various types, many of which have not yet been tested by the brick maker, and which may include better stuff than any that has yet been brought into use. As the formation extends to the north and west it rises higher, so that the nearer the river from Sanford the higher strata is brought in sight, and on the other side of the river still different levels are exposed at the outcrop. The result is a body of shale that underlies hundreds of square miles, and which is big enough and varied enough to provide unlimited amounts of material, and of many different sorts.

The manufacture of clay products is only starting, and as the coal is handy for fuel the whole thing necessary to carry on brick and tile making is at hand, and the business can go on expanding as the demand for the different products becomes aware of the local supply.

Program Scheduled For
Hallowe'en Night, The 30th.

Parent-Teacher Association Plans
Hallowe'en Carnival

On the night when mystic spirits are supposed to be abroad and supernatural events take place there will be given under the auspices of the Parent-Teachers Association of Pittsboro at the school auditorium a Hallowe'en Carnival. Promptly at 4:45 Friday afternoon there will be a basket ball game.

The supper, to be served cafeteria style, will be a most inviting feature of the carnival. Creamed chicken, hot coffee, potato salad, beaten biscuit, pickles, sandwiches, ice cream and cake will be served.

There will be home-made candies, as well as Hallowe'en articles for sale also.

After supper there will be a potato race. Judge Walter D. Siler will give a prize for the winning girl; Connell and Johnson a prize for the winning boy.

For the most attractively costumed girl Mr. A. H. London will give first prize, and Mr. Jas. L. Griffin second prize. For the most original costumed boy, first prize will be given by Brooks and Eubanks, second prize by Mr. W. H. Griffin.

Immediately after the costume contest a boxing and wrestling bout, sponsored by the Athletic Association will be staged.

The admission fee for this feature of the carnival to be announced later. There will be no charge for admission to the carnival.

Everybody is urged to come in costume.

For an evening full of mirth and fun on Friday, October 30th be sure to come to the school auditorium. Proceeds to be used for school.

MRS. E. A. FARRELL, Sec.

Notable Whipping Case Vigorously Fought; Defense Relies on Burke Alibi

JURY DELIBERATES 12 HOURS

All Get Prison Sentences — W. O. Stephens Six Years and Fon Burke 5 Years in Pen

"Guilty" was the verdict of the twelve good citizens whose lot it was to decide the fate of W. O. and T. A. Stephens, Fon Burke, and the two negroes, Buck De Graffenreid and Will Farris, on trial practically all day Wednesday on the dastardly charge of making a secret assault upon Mr. Ragland of Cape Fear township.

It was near midnight Wednesday when the case was given them. It had moved rapidly during its several phases during the forenoon, afternoon and evening. Judge Devin being determined that it should be finished if it should take an all-night session. Four speeches had been delivered, two before supper, by Wade Barber for the defense and W. P. Horton for the state, and two after supper, the one by Walter D. Siler for the defense, the other by Solicitor Williams, both of whom, impressed by the gravity of the issue at stake, spoke long and exhaustively. The judge then skillfully reviewed the evidence and turned the fate of the three men over to the jury. But an immediate decision was not forthcoming. The court held itself in readiness for a decision, but instead received a request for a rehearsal of the charge in certain particulars. It being thus indicated that an immediate decision would not be reached, the court room was vacated and at midnight the jury too decided to sleep on the case and was escorted to the Blair Hotel by officer Lacey Johnson, where, after considerable shifting of guests, the twelve jurors and the officer were comfortably housed for the night.

They breakfasted bright and early Thursday morning and were ready for business before many of the citizens of Pittsboro had left their cosy quarters.

A Review of the Case

It was the morning of August 1, a Saturday, that the people of the Buckhorn section of Cape Fear township were startled to learn that one of their fellows had been coaxed from home the night before and severely beaten. It was Mr. J. M. Ragland, a highly respected citizen, and his story was one to arouse the ire of any red-blooded community.

Decoyed from Home
A white man had presented himself at Mr. Ragland's home on the night before, told him that a certain officer had captured one still and wanted his assistance in a further raid. Mr. Ragland hesitated to go but was finally persuaded to accompany the man.

They had not gone far down the road toward the public highway when the man asked Mr. Ragland if he had a pistol, and on being told no, said he had a d—n good one. A little further and the fellow snatched his gun from his pocket, thrust it in his victim's face, seized him by the collar, and called out that he had the man. Thereupon two negroes came from the bushes and thoroughly pummeled the astounded citizen. He was then ordered to return home. He was sadly shaken up and bruised but not seriously injured.

From the words of the decoy and the circumstances it was assumed that the attack was due to the victim's hostility to the liquor business and suspicion was necessarily directed to the alleged booze-dealers of the community. But the decoy was a perfect stranger to Mr. Ragland, and the identity of the negroes equally unknown.

Clues Lacking

There were apparently no clues and probably suspicion would never have been directed toward Fon Burke if he had not got into other trouble and been jailed.

It was only three days after the assault upon Mr. Ragland when Fon Burke was arrested on the charge of rape alleged to have been committed the afternoon before the whipping that night. Burke was jailed and spent a short time in the penitentiary for safe keeping from possible mob attack. Later he was returned to the jail and secured the quashing of the case against him by consenting to marry the girl and by her stating before the justice's court that she was probably mistaken as to the legal or illegal character of her alleged assailant's behavior.

Burke Marries Girl

The marriage was consummated and Burke went free. But in jail at this time was one Vanus Wimberly charged with violation of the prohibition law.

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INTERESTING NEWS NOTES OF GOLDSTON

Rev. H. L. Witten preached a fine sermon at the Methodist church last Sunday morning. We wish more people could have been out and heard him. Mr. Witten always gives us something worth while. He will also preach next Sunday evening and it will probably be his last sermon here before going to conference. Let's give him a large crowd.

Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Barber and little daughter Bettie, spent last Tuesday in Greensboro.

The Eastern Star gave an oyster supper here Saturday evening which was enjoyed by many people.

Mrs. J. J. Goldston has returned from a visit to Dr. Buie in Greensboro.

Miss Ola Harmon spent the weekend in Goldston.

Mesdames A. M. Womble, A. B. Womble, W. L. Goldston, and L. B. Hester spent last Friday in Greensboro for the purpose of purchasing a piano for the new Baptist church.

Miss Mary Hammond and Miss Pearl Johnson spent the week-end in Durham.

The eastern section of Goldston seems to be on a building boom. Mr. Jake Dixon is building a store which will soon be completed. Mr. C. C. Hilliard is having a nice home built and Mr. Harley Gardner is getting his material ready to build a home.

Mr. J. C. Elkins has taken over the Bennett Sash and Blind factory and will move it to Goldston.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Burns, of Concord, spent the week-end here with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Burns.

Mr. Cornelius Womble, the youngest son of Mr. C. W. Womble, went to Fayetteville last Tuesday for the purpose of standing an examination for license in order to enter the ministry of the Gospel.

He will attend the eastern conference at Fayetteville in November and will be given work this year.

Mr. Womble is certainly a fine young man and conference is receiving a man of model type into their work. The ministry is a wonderful calling. To give one's life wholly to this work and leave the worldly things of life behind is most estimable and is due much honor. We wish Mr. Womble the best of success in his work.

The Parent-Teachers Association met at the school building last Monday evening and enjoyed a fine program.

The following program was rendered:

Song: "America."
Devotional exercise by Mr. W. R. Thomas.

Swing Song, by a part of the fifth sixth and seventh grade girls.

Solo: "My Task," by Miss Ola Harmon.

Chorus: "Banjo's Down in Dixie," fifth, sixth, and seventh grade girls.

A speech by Mr. W. R. Thompson. After Mr. Thompson's good talk, the ladies served coffee and sandwiches which all enjoyed.

It is a very fine thing to have the men members of the Parent-Teachers Association. They are parents as well as the women. We meet in the evenings when the men can attend and they do attend very regularly. There are other parents who should become members whom we will be glad to receive at any time.

It was stated in our last write-up that we were expecting a speaker from the University of North Carolina but we failed to get him at that time.

We were very glad to have the editor of the Chatham Record in Goldston last Friday.

Mrs. Lizzie Harris, who has not been well for sometime is improved in health. She was at church last Sunday morning.

The Goldston high school folks are planning to have a Hallowe'en entertainment next Friday evening.

WOMAN'S CLUB MEETING

The regular meeting of the Woman's Club of Pittsboro will be held in the Club Room Wednesday, November 4th, 1925 at 3:00 o'clock. It is vitally important that every member be present as definite plans must be made for the annual bazaar, as well as work for the coming year. Everyone who has articles ready for bazaar is asked to bring same.

Mrs. R. A. Glenn is custodian for Bazaar articles.

MRS. JAS. L. GRIFFIN, Pres.
MISS EVELYN ALSTON, Secty.

PIE SUPPER

There is to be a Hallowe'en party and Pie Supper at Moses school house Saturday night, beginning at 8 o'clock. Everybody is cordially invited.