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Samples Fined For Speeding

Benjamin Edward Samples of Skyland, former State Highway Patrol member was convicted and fined \$75 Tuesday in Buncombe County General Court on a charge of speeding west of Asheville on October 26, according to a report in Wednesday's Asheville Citizen.

Samples testified that he had not driven faster than 60 miles per hour on the occasion from which the charge arose. The Citizen reports that Judge Pennell said he had the highest regard for the defendant, termed the case "the most unpleasant duty I have had in the short time I have been on the bench."

He said he did not think Samples had any more idea he was violating the law "than Vance's monument."

He said patrolmen get so used to traveling at high speed in the "dangerous" business of apprehending law violators that they

"sort of get in the habit of traveling fast."

But the judge said that patrolmen are "just as guilty as anyone else" if they travel in excess of 55 miles per hour when not giving chase or answering an emergency call.

Eleven character witnesses from Skyland and Polk County testified that Samples had a good or excellent reputation.

Samples expressed his belief that Sgt. E. W. Jones of the Patrol was making a personal issue of the matter. Samples said he told his commander, Capt. C. A. Speed that he didn't think he had done anything wrong but was willing to resign; but Speed wouldn't permit him and offered him another job. Then he was taken to Raleigh and dismissed.

The Girls Friendly Society will not meet Friday because of the Thanksgiving holidays.

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