

## Mount Airy News.

J. R. JOHNSON, Editor and Publisher.

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## DOBSON COURT.

This is cleaning week for the county in some respects. The folk who have soiled their linen, and been so unfortunate as to get caught, are having a chance to get right again. The process is expensive and no doubt painful in many instances. It is no light job to be put to the unpleasant task of appearing before a court of justice on a charge of a criminal nature, and be faced with the necessity of submitting to a charge that carries a prison sentence. And in case one does not care to submit then it is an even harder task to mislead the court and appear to be innocent. It is a very rare circumstance for an innocent man to be arraigned before the courts on a charge that is altogether false. It is not rare for a guilty man to play the part of a saint and try to convince Judge and jury that he is a muchly persecuted man. And sometimes a guilty fellow goes free when it is evident to every one that he failed to get justice, and society must continue to be subject to his vile presence.

If a community is tolerating a bad man the best thing for the community, and for the man, is to have the matter disposed of in a way to either rid the community of the man or reform him.

If it takes a prison sentence to do up the job then it is best to have the prison sentence. There is no earthly reason why a liberty loving, intelligent people should submit to a disturbing element that makes only for the bad, and is in the way of progress.

A term of court at Dobson makes one think that all over the county there are people in every neighborhood who are thriftless and doing nothing for their families further than to furnish a bare support. These men spend much time in a social way about a card game, and often they bet what little money they have on the game. This worthless class, if any man can be worthless, goes on from year to year and if sickness or misfortune comes their way they become a charge on their friends and neighbors. They are a perfect annoyance to the people who must be thrown in contact with them in the way of business. Fortunately there are no great number of these folk, but the courts are forced to give a large part of the time to disposing of cases that originate among them. If these fellows could be reformed or put to work at some honest toil that would hold them, society would be greatly to the profit.

All of which is only introductory to what is going on at Dobson these spring days.

In the issue of The News of last week we gave a somewhat lengthy account of Napoleon Spencer trial charged with the murder of Mrs. Harvey Hester. This case was finished Saturday at noon after taking up the time of the court from Wednesday at noon. After the State had made out its case the defense put on no evidence, and this gave them the last speech. Judge Jones spoke for two hours and the strong claim for a verdict of acquittal was made on the grounds of a probability of the wrong man being tried. There was no positive proof that Spencer committed the crime. The case went to the jury at noon Saturday. The jury was ready to vote on the case at once, but report has it that one man on the jury insisted that he thought they would have nothing to lose by not appearing to be in a hurry. So they got dinner and then again this one man wanted to hear them talk over the case and not be in a hurry about reaching a verdict. And so the jury went to their room and discussed the case for an hour or more. Then they took a ballot and every man voted to render a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. This was the only ballot taken.

On Monday afternoon Judge Shaw had the sheriff bring Spencer into court and the spectators thought he was there to receive sentence but the Judge called the prisoner to the bar and had a little quiet talk with him. He asked the prisoner if he knew that the verdict that had been returned against him was such as to send him to the electric chair. The young man admitted that he knew all this. Then the Judge told him that he could make any statement that he cared to make before sentence was passed. The young fellow said that he did not care to make any statement. Then the Judge told the sheriff to take him back to jail and bring him on Wednesday morning to receive sentence, but on Wednesday the court was very busy and sentence has not yet been passed. There is but one

sentence that can be given and that is to the electric chair.

The editor of The News talked with the prisoner in his cell on Wednesday morning. He appears to be an intelligent young man and was sitting on his bunk with a bible by his side. He said that he is 19 years old, has been to school six years and is a member of the Methodist church. He speaks out in a clear tone of voice and appears to be a man of more than ordinary intelligence. After receiving his sentence he will be carried to Raleigh to await execution. He was tried for the murder of Mrs. Hester, and in case he had not been convicted he would have been tried for the murder of Mr. Hester. The prisoner is being well guarded at the jail, about six men being kept there to protect him. All of which Forsyth county will pay for, and it is said that this trial will cost that county as much as five or six hundred dollars. Report has it that the prisoner's father has a home in Winston and mortgaged this home for \$500.00 with which to defend his son.

A case that required much time to get at the facts was that of Dan Marion charged with not supporting his family. They have lived much of the time about Pilot Mountain. Dan Marion and his wife are blue eyed, fair skin, Angle Saxon stock. With the advantages of proper education and proper training they could have been intelligent and useful people. The story aired in the court was that Dan married the woman after she had two children before she had been married. Then they lived for some years about on the farms as tenants. Witnesses told how the woman had not been saving, and how they had seen much bread in the slop bucket at her home. It was brought out that the family had lived at times with only one bed and two chairs in the house, and yet there were six children and the two parents making eight in the family. It was made to appear that the woman is not true to her husband and refuses to stay at home all the time. She claimed her husband does not support the family and that she leaves home because there is nothing to eat. A verdict by agreement among the lawyers was reached and endorsed by the Judge by which the man must pay his wife \$15.00 each month to aid in the support of the children. They are not now living together and the court refused to force the man to live with the woman, but he must aid in supporting the children.

Jim Fields was tried in the court for living in adultery with his daughter-in-law. Fields is an intelligent looking man of middle age and recently moved to the western part of the county from Grayson county, Va. The story aired in the court was to the effect that Fields owned a good farm in Grayson county and had grown children. His son married a pretty girl and left her. She now has two small children and says they are by her husband. After this separation she went to live with her husband's father, Jim Fields. In a short time gossip was busy and old man Field's wife left him. Then he was indicted for living in illicit relations with his son's wife and came clear in the Virginia courts. Later he was indicted in the Federal court by way of the White Slave act. He came clear again. Then he divided his land with his wife and came to this state a year ago and bought a small farm in the western part of the county, and brought the woman in the case along with him. The two lived alone together and the neighbors soon learned all about the reports back in the Virginia section and became suspicious and watched. A presentment before the grand jury followed. Neighbors told how the two were living alone together and how they were using the same room for a bed chamber with two beds in the room.

Mr. Fields told all about how he had tried to get his son and his wife to live together and how he had taken his son's wife into his home along with his two little grandchildren because they had no place to go, and it was either take them in or see them go to the poor house. After hearing all the evidence the jury returned a verdict of guilty and Fields was sentenced to Rockingham roads for 12 months and an order made that he is never to live with his daughter-in-law again. The Judge told her to return to her father's home and try to live a correct life. She was in the court room with her two little children, the least less than a year old, and appeared to be 21 years old which she said is her age. Many would call her pretty, and certainly she made the appearance of being a modest, honest woman.

John Martin, a middle aged citizen of the western part of the county, has been married three weeks, and yet he is to leave the bride and go away to Rockingham roads for 22 months. Martin has been married before and has children by his first marriage. His trouble came by the route of the blockade still. He gets credit for being an old offender and was caught red handed in the very act of making the ardent. Officers got word that he was preparing for operations and actually watched him put

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# Every Inch Of An Up-to-Date Store

## SHOES.

Your spring shoes can be chosen here with the assurance that the style is absolutely correct; that the quality is of the highest type and the prices are very reasonable. This last is an important part when every one is trying to economize. It means satisfaction in style, fit and service both now and until your shoes are entirely worn out.

## MEN'S NEW STYLES IN OXFORDS.

Comfort is probably the most logical reason why men wear low shoes in the warm weather. We have an excellent selection in both black and tan that are bound to please the fancy of well dressed men. For comfort, fit, style, wear and moderate prices

## LADIES FOOT-WEAR.

In Ladies foot-wear our models for dress, street and general wear are models of the moment. Every woman will be interested in seeing this collection of oxfords, pumps, white kid, and canvass shoes. Our prices in comparison to others elsewhere are more moderate by degree in some instances. We have all the new designs in childrens footwear. So you may be assured that the kiddies feet will be perfectly fitted at moderate prices if you bring the children here.

## SPRING MERCHANDISE.

We cordially invite the public to call and see our spring line of merchandise. Every material desired is found and the best shades of the season. There is a certain distinction about the woman whose attire is appropriate to the occasion. For this reason we feel that for beauty and style our stock of merchandise makes a strong appeal to the women. We are showing beautiful new silks including the new shades and styles, wonderfully pretty combination effects and coloring. New figured Voiles, a beautiful range of patterns awaiting transformation into spring and summer frocks.

All those bright spring gingham at only 25c, which is 5 to 7 cents per yard cheaper than we can buy them.

All Devonshires at 30 cents. You'll want lots of these for your spring sewing. Make your selection today.

Ask to see our line of shirt waist in georgette crepe, Crepe de Chine and voiles in white and colors. We also have a nice line of ladies muslin underwear.

Remember you will find here, every thing to be found in an up-to-date store.

## JACKSON BROS.

## Improved conditions at Dobson

Attending a court at Dobson is now a different proposition from what it once was. In the first place Dobson has two good hotels. Mr. Norman and Mrs. Harkrader both are doing their duty by the public in conducting their hotels. They feed well, and the man who complains at the service given at Dobson is too hard to please. With the new court house building the sessions of the court are conducted with more dignity and dispatch. The Judge allows no one inside the bar except those who have business, and people are not allowed to stand and crowd about the bar as has so long been the custom. The jail is a nice building and the cells are provided with all sanitary conveniences including a shower bath.

Judge Shaw who is presiding at this term is a man who deserves the highest praise from the law abiding part of the citizens of the county. One can readily see that he would not be any too popular with the criminal class, for he conducts his courts in a way to make it a force for betterment to the country. If all the Judges would put their foot on crime as Judge Shaw does and make a sentence mean something, crime would be largely stopped.

And this is not to convey the idea that he is severe in his sentences, for he is not. But the guilty man is punished in his court and not allowed to go free because, as it often appears, a paid attorney makes a speech to the Judge. To deserve punishment before Judge Shaw means that punishment will be the lot of the guilty.

## State W. C. T. U. Worker Here.

Mrs. Adelaide Goodno of Raleigh, state president of the Womens Christian Temperance Union spent yesterday in this city, and made a talk at the High School auditorium in the afternoon to the women, and at night spoke to a mixed audience in the same building. Mrs. Goodno is a woman of gracious and pleasing personality and speaks with ease, while not a loud talker her words can be heard distinctly in the back of the building, her talks were helpful and instructive, she is in love with her work and makes one feel that it is indeed a privilege to have a part in the great work of the W. C. T. U.—Press Supt.

Mrs. H. C. Ashcraft of Marshville, is the guest of Mrs. John Sobotta on Pine street.

Mr. E. H. Kochitzky will return today from a business trip to Winston-Salem.

## A MOTOR CAR IS AN IMPORTANT INVESTMENT

Before selecting a motor car, the buyer should carefully consider each of these ten important points: (1) Economy; (2) Power and Flexibility; (3) Durability; (4) Comfort; (5) Safety; (6) Convenience; (7) Ease and care; (8) Easy riding; (9) Beauty; (10) Style. This is a safe plan to follow.

Economy and durability have been given preference, for the reason that it is the important point of the hour. Buy a car having an economical record, one that will give you a maximum amount of mileage for each gallon of gasoline. This is governed by type of motor, bearings, lubrication and weight.

The next important essential to watch for is power. You want power in an automobile. You want to be able to go anywhere. You do not want to feel any limitations in this respect.

Durability is something we all seek in making a purchase. It is especially important when one considers the amount involved. This item depends on the integrity of the maker, his honesty, his ideals, his standards. This is, as a rule, a good guide to follow.

Conveniences and comforts are important, too. Buy a car that gives you the little things that make motoring enjoyable and free from care. Select your motor car with this knowledge and without mistakes.

The wonderful and much talked of CHEVROLET will fill the above requirements.

UNIVERSAL AUTO CO., Inc., Distributors,

Winston-Salem, N. C.

### T. J. SMITHWICK, Local Dealer, - Mount Airy