

Federal Court Convicts Klansmen In Flogging Case

State Passes Sentence On 11 Night Riders In Johnson Case

Eleven of the 13 men charged with the flogging of Woodrow Johnson in the first of many Ku Klux Klan cases were found guilty and received road sentences or heavy fines at the conclusion of the trial in Whiteville Saturday evening.

All defendants in the Johnson flogging were charged with conspiracy kidnapping and assault. Judge Clauson L. Williams of Sanford ordered a maximum two-year road term in an assault conviction for Henry Edwards of Whiteville, Harvey Barfield of near Mullins, S. C. and Ernest Ward.

They were not found guilty of kidnapping charges, but Judge Williams told the defendants, "You are very fortunate the jury didn't find you guilty of kidnapping. I don't see how you escaped that."

Two other defendants, Lawrence Nivens, 28, of Hallsboro, and Brook Norris of Whiteville, were acquitted of all charges.

After disposition was made in the cases of these five, Judge Williams proceeded to pass sentence on the eight who pleaded no contest: Early Brooks of Fair Bluff, John Honeycutt, Jr., and Leroy Honeycutt, both of Chadbourne; Ray Kelly of Whiteville; Frank Lewis of Fair Bluff; George White and Steve Edmund, both of Columbus County, and Red Connor of near Cerro Gordo.

Lewis, Edmunds and Connor received two-year road terms, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine each, placed on probation three years. They had testified for the State.

Brooks, leader of the Fair Bluff klavern, received a two-year road term.

Leroy Honeycutt and John Honeycutt, Jr., brothers, drew two-year terms, suspended upon payment of \$1,500 each and one-fourth the court costs.

Kelly received a two-year road term, suspended upon payment of \$1,000 fine and one-fourth of court costs.

White got a two-year sentence, suspended upon payment of \$1,000 fine and one-fourth of costs.

An outbreak by Ray Kelly's family began as soon as Judge Williams first pronounced his sentence without suspending it, as the pudgy, timid pulp wood worker stood in the courtroom. A grey-haired man several rows back in the courtroom started convulsive movements of his arms and jerking movements of his head. At the same time, he chanted a weird and unintelligible language.

Two highway patrolmen moved to his side and tried to calm him by gently holding his arms. He struggled briefly, then suddenly stopped with an audible, "halleluliah."

Meantime, Mrs. Ray Kelly broke out in sobs, as did other members of the family. Then she arose from her seat, sobbing, and with a dancing step she made her way inside the bar waving a handkerchief over her head. As she reached her husband, wringing her hands over his head, he, too, began sobbing.

After the sobbing subsided somewhat, Judge Williams ordered everyone to resume their seats.

The jury, composed of New Hanover County citizens who were finally selected after special venues of 150-50 and 50 had been summoned from that county, got the case at 4:45 p. m., and returned their verdict at 8:15 p. m.

Even as this case neared a conclusion, Solicitor Clifton Moore said he expected to issue warrants "within the next few days" against several persons of Columbus County. These persons have not been named in any of the flogging charges now in the courts. He describes them as "fairly prominent."

Judge Williams recessed court for the noon hour immediately after Solicitor Moore concluded his argument to the jury at 1:30 p. m. The arguments began Friday afternoon and continued into the night.

DEATH CLAIMS CRANDALL PRINCE

William Crandall Prince, 69, Tabor City farmer, died in the Butner hospital Wednesday night following several years of declining health. Funeral services were held from the home of his niece, Mrs. Rudolph Todd, Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock with the Rev. P. C. Gantt, pastor of the Mount Tabor Baptist church officiating. Burial followed in the Norris cemetery.

He was the son of the late W. F. Prince and the late Mrs. Catherine C. Stephens of Columbus County.

Surviving other than Mrs. Todd is a nephew, Kern Prince of Tabor City.

FINAL CANCER TAG DAY SET SATURDAY

Final Tag Day for the local fund, American Cancer Society, will be held in the business district Saturday, officials announced. A number of local girls will participate in the tag sales with the girl turning in the most money receiving an honor award.

Solicitation is expected to come to a close this week and anyone who has not had the opportunity to contribute should contact Mrs. Mae S. Young or Mrs. Evelyn Leonard, or mail a check to J. A. Hufham, Jr. at the Waccamaw Bank and Trust company.

To date Tabor City is short of the \$800 quota, officials said.

Mrs. R. C. Soles Circle Hostess

The Dula McGougan circle of the Mount Tabor Baptist W.M.U. met with Mrs. R. C. Soles at her home Thursday afternoon with Mrs. A. P. Rogers presiding. Mrs. Rosa Garrell gave the devotional.

Definite community commission service was planned by the circle at which time members decided to supply a sick patient with fruit juice.

Refreshments were served by the hostess to eleven members and one visitor.

BASEBALLERS CLOSE SEASON WITH OUTSTANDING RECORD

Tabor City high school's baseball team closed but its 16 game schedule last Friday night against Chadbourne with an 8-2 victory and ended the 1952 season with a record of 13 wins against only three defeats. This is one of the best records ever compiled by the local high schoolers and brought a highly successful season to Coach Bill Ratteree in his first tenure as diamond coach here.

Tabor City dropped only three games and no team beat them more than once. Whiteville licked the locals in a single contest and Chadbourne and Fair Bluff also won single games. All three teams were beaten by Tabor City in other engagements.

Jimmy Jernigan, who pitched and played outfield for the locals, was perhaps the team's most outstanding individual star. Jernigan had the best hurling record as he racked up seven wins against one defeat. He also set the hitting pace with a hefty .480 average.

Jimmy Tompkins had a 3-1 hurling record. Sam Walden had two wins against no defeats and Junior Jordan, the regular short-stop, had one win and one loss.

Beans Coming To Local Market

The first beans of the season, 16 hamper, were sold on the Tabor City market Monday for \$3.00 per hamper, C. E. Walden, Marketing company secretary, reported.

At the close of Tuesday's sales 4,957 crates of strawberries had been sold on the market averaging \$8.72 per crate. Total money paid to growers amounts to \$43,233.88.

IN HOSPITAL

Herbert Fowler, Tabor City is a patient in the Veterans hospital, Fayetteville where he is receiving treatment for a broken leg and other injuries sustained in an accident Sunday night.

The jeep Fowler was driving overturned on a curve between Tabor City and Loris when lights from an approaching car blurred his vision.

Business Women Meet With Miss McGougan

The Business Woman's circle of the Mount Tabor Baptist W.M.U. met with Miss Anne Brooks McGougan at her home Thursday evening. Miss Kate Jones, chairman, presided and Mrs. W. A. Williams gave the program entitled "The Christian Home."

The circle decided to mail cards to the shut-ins for community service.

Punch and crackers were served by the hostess to nine members.

Porter Supply Co. Opening Here

E. A. Porter, Tabor City resident, announced this week that a new business, Porter Supply Company, was opening here this week in the building formerly occupied by the Tabor City Bus Station.

With headquarters in Tabor City, the new business will be distributors for feed, flour and self-rising corn meal for the Mt. Ulla Flour Mills.

Mr. Porter will continue to be associated with the Tabor City Exchange here.

Assistant Pastor Of Catholic Church Is Transferred

The Rev. James Randolph Jones, who has served as assistant pastor of St. Frances Xavier Catholic Church here since January, has been appointed by Bishop Waters of Raleigh to join the staff of the Diocesan Missionary Fathers at North Wilkesboro, N. C. Their work is to conduct outdoor preaching services through the use of a trailer chapel car in remote sections of the State.

Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Sarvis, Jr. of Burlington, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Hooks and daughter of Whiteville and Mrs. Emma Roberts of Raleigh spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Sarvis, Sr. and Mrs. Frances Cox.

Ringleader Early Brooks Fair Bluff constable and the Sevengall of the Klan mob which terrorized Columbus County for two years, caught a five-year penitentiary rap in Federal court in Wilmington Tuesday for the kidnap-flogging of a Columbus County couple in Horry County, S. C., last October.

Actually, Brooks was given five year terms on two counts, the sentences to run concurrently. He faces the Federal sentence after he completes a two-year stretch on the roads, handed down in Whiteville district court last week on another flogging charge.

Brooks was one of ten penitent Klansmen found guilty by Judge Don Gilliam after a two-day trial. Five others received shorter sentences and were placed on probation. The eleventh, 18-year-old

Grand Dragon Thomas L. Hamilton once denied in a letter to The Tabor City Tribune that the Fair Bluff Klavern had had anything to do with the Columbus county floggings but his tale was disproved in no uncertain terms this week as both State and Federal courts found members of that infamous group guilty of law violations.

George Miller, was found innocent and discharged. He explained to the court that he had been mistaken by the other floggers for his brother, and after the mistake was discovered he was forced to join the Klan because he "knew too much."

The other sentences were: Three years on each charge, sentences to run concurrently — Horace Strickland, 29-year-old former fee deputy sheriff; James Robert Hayes, 38, whose car was used to carry the victims to the flogging site; Ross Enzor, 48½ and Pittman Strickland, 29.

Two years on each count, sentences to run concurrently — Carl Richardson, 60, oldest of the defendants.

L. C. Worley, 25, former Klavern secretary who turned state's evidence, two years on each count, suspended and placed on probation.

Sherwood Miller, 26 and Bobby Brooks, 19-year-old son of the kingpin, 12 months suspended on each count and placed on probation for three years.

Steve Edmunds, 26, two years on each count suspended, placed on probation for two years.

The men, most of them in shirt-sleeves and open collars, received their sentences without motion, but later several broke down and wept.

In passing sentences, Judge Gilliam bore down severely. Conceding that the floggers had been "misguided," he declared that they, nevertheless, must pay for their mistakes.

The Klan, he said, "is a combination of a lot of people who take the law into their own hands... a condition that would undermine our society if left unchecked."

their sentences without emotion, harpoon at Tom Hamilton, the South Carolina "Grand Dragon" of the Klan. He said that Hamilton had sold the gullible clay road farmers of Columbus County a "bill of goods," and was interested in the Fair Bluff Klavern only for the money he could extract from it.

The witnesses, ranging all the way from sheriff Hugh Nance down to gaunt tobacco farmers, gave monosyllabic testimony to the good character of the masked goons who carted Ben Grainger and Dorothy Dillard Martin across the state line last October. The blood flowed. Miss Martin had testified earlier that each blow of the strap had knocked her to the ground.

In the aftermath of the sentencing, seven of the convicted floggers filed notice of appeal. They were Brooks and his son, the Strickland brothers, Hayes and Enzor, and Richardson. Bond was set at \$3,500 for Brooks; \$2,500 for the others.

Meanwhile the U. S. Dist. Atty. Charles P. Green of Raleigh, who had led the prosecution, served notice that he may draw a Federal indictment against Hamilton, the Imperial Wizard. He would not disclose the nature of the charge which he is contemplating leveling against Hamilton.

In the course of the two trials, in Wilmington and at Whiteville, it was brought out in the evidence that Hamilton had pocketed a substantial sum from the sale of memberships and robes to Columbus Klansmen.

GUILFORD COLLEGE PRESIDENT TO SPEAK AT COMMENCEMENT

Feathered speakers of the 1952 Tabor City High School commencement exercises will be Dr. Clyde A. Miller, president of Guilford College, and Dr. B. Frank Hall, pastor of Pearsall Memorial Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

Plans for the finals at the local school were announced here Thursday by C. H. Pinner, principal of Tabor City Schools.

Dr. Miller will be heard in the baccalaureate sermon to the graduates here on the night of Sunday,

JACK FIPPS STRICKEN IN TRUCK

Jack Fipps is a patient in the Columbus County hospital, Whiteville, following a convulsion resulting from a diabetic condition Monday morning.

Fipps was driving the Yam City Oil company service truck on the Whiteville-Tabor City highway at the time he was stricken.

He apparently was uninjured. The truck was ditched and slightly damaged.

Chadbourne Slates Strawberry Fete

A strawberry Festival and Festival Dance will be held in Chadbourne this year under the sponsorship of the Chadbourne Civitan club officials announced.

The affair, which will be an afternoon and night feature of events, will be held on Tuesday, May 27, and will include a dance and floor show by the Bruce Bubbles Becker orchestra and revue.

Present plans for the festival other than the dance, schedule a parade, string band, noted speaker and the awarding of numerous prizes with a television set as a grand prize by the Merchants Association.

Finklea Student Has Three Year Attendance Record

Margaret Tompkins, nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Liston Tompkins, has a perfect attendance record for three years in the Finklea School. She is a fourth grade student and has not missed a day of school during the past three years.

Each year she has received a certificate and a silver dollar and has attended the annual picnic given at Myrtle Beach honoring the students with perfect attendance records.

Margaret says "she is going to try to make it again next year."

MRS. H. GARRELL AND DAUGHTER IN ENGLAND

Mrs. Howard C. Garrell and daughter, Tonia Sue, have arrived safely in England to be with Cpl. Garrell who is stationed with the Army there.

Mrs. Garrell wrote her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Fowler, of route 3, Tabor City that she is getting along fine in England, but is having a little difficulty in counting money as the value there varies from American money. She also said things are cheaper there.

Cigarettes are only one dollar per carton and that she had bought her little daughter a swim suit for 57c in American money.

The Garrell's will receive mail addressed to Cpl. Howard C. Garrell, 14248426; 123 Med. Gp.; 123 It. Bm. Ug.; A. P. O. 122 Care Post Master, New York, N. Y.

ATTEND CONVENTION Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Inman of the Inman Funeral Home attended the Funeral directors Convention in Charlotte Wednesday and Thursday.

Justice-As Prescribed By Law

When the ex-Ku Klux Klansmen who heard their sentences pronounced in Whiteville Saturday night used their leather strap on handpicked citizens, they administered their outlaw justice as they saw fit. But there was nothing illegal about the justice as doled out by Judge Clawson Williams in Superior Court—the floggers got their justice in a manner prescribed by law. That's the only kind that we believe in.

We find no room for sympathy for these night riders who are now saddled with two year road sentences or heavy fines. They committed these criminal acts with their eyes open and deserve no more consideration than a chicken thief or a bank robber.

In Judge Williams' court, these refugees from hoods and robes put their case before 12 good men, they had the benefit of an array of legal talent and could tell their story in its most favorable light. Yet they could not escape the gravity of their deeds, and now must pay the penalty. In applying their Klan interpretation of justice, Woodrow Johnson had no such opportunity to hear his case tried. He had no opportunity to secure legal aid, nor did he have the opportunity to select a jury from 250 men who were unbiased and without prejudice in the case.

Many of the men who now face stiff sentences in the Johnson case, are also charged in several others, including the Federal case now in progress. Some of them are going to spend a great part of their remaining lives looking through bars at the outside. Like criminals of all descriptions, most of them are repentant now. But it took a court of law to unseat them from their pedestal from which they administered arrogant justice with a grudge.

From the first, we have had no compliments for the people who the floggers whipped. There's no doubt that some were involved in affairs bordering on the illegal. Yet, we still maintain that the courts, and the law alone has the American right to punish its citizenry. Our only compliments to most of these flogged persons is on their courage to tell their story to the law. In that respect, they have not failed us, and in doing so have made our county a better place in which to live. The virtual eradication of the night-riding Klan is an accomplishment for Columbus County and North Carolina and it is our belief that it will never rise again.