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ONE HELPS THE OTHER — Horace Shaw, center, head of the Columbus Bureau of Identification, discusses a case with Sheriff's deputies Charles Legrande, left, and Wilson Griffin. The Bureau of Identification chief works closely with other law enforcement agencies in the county and state. (Photo by Al Harrison)

Horace Shaw Is Unsung Hero Of County Law Enforcement

BY AL HARRISON

Horace Shaw is the man most people refer to as the unsung hero of law enforcement in Columbus County.

The mild, soft spoken head of the Columbus County Bureau of Identification has the kind of determination that automatically gives law violators the short end of the odds.

He never gets excited and never gives up on a case. His patience has been one of the main factors in chalking up one of the most impressive records to be found any place in the country. For the records, there has been only one unsolved murder in Columbus County in the past 18 years.

A three-year survey, from 1954 through 1957, is indicative of his 20-year record as a law enforcement officer. Of the 362 cases he prepared for Superior Court during this three year period, there were guilty pleas entered in 356 of them. Seven cases found themselves presented to a jury but not a single defendant was acquitted.

Shaw is a modest man. He prefers that publicity be given to others. He makes little fanfare about the fact that he has lost only a few cases since entering law enforcement work as a Whiteville police officer in 1935.

There is a reason for such an outstanding record of convictions. This veteran officer, who can detect a lying witness at a glance, never loses sight of the fact that each case deals with human personalities. It is this human element that causes him to work long hours investigating crimes before he seeks indictments. His theory seems to be that innocent persons can be greatly damaged by haphazard investigations that lead to quick indictments. Thus, he takes things in his stride, misses few details and is usually justified by the court decisions in the cases he presents for prosecution.

The Columbus Bureau of Identification is a one-man department. Shaw has been the only officer since the department was established by the County in 1940. He works very closely with the Sheriff's Dept and local Police Department in the county.

While detective work captures the fancy of those engaged in other professions, it isn't a feather in his bed. Shaw averages work-



ing 75 hours each week and is subject to call at all hours of the night and day. It takes this kind of devotion to get the job done the way the people of Columbus County want it done. He has not had a vacation since taking the job in 1940.

An average of 390 complaints roll into the Bureau of Identification each year. These constitute missing persons, homicides, grand larceny and other felonies.

Law enforcement work has little to offer in the way of monetary compensation. Although officers are dedicated there are not many who would recommend such a life's work for today's youngsters. Shaw's feeling is that the pay scale for law enforcement work is not high enough to provide much inducement for young men looking for a career.

When asked if he could recall any humorous incidents during his career, his answer expressed his feeling for his fellow man—

"There isn't anything humorous about law enforcement. It's just the opposite of humorous."

Dedication to duty paid off in monetary terms for Shaw about a year ago when his intensive investigation and ability to piece together bits of information and make them pay off led to the arrest of a bank robber. The arrest of Roy Russ of Bladenboro for the bank robbery in Jacksonville resulted in bank officials paying \$2,067.60 reward money to Shaw.

Officials thank Shaw for his outstanding work in breaking the case. Shaw keeps his finger on the crime pulse of the county. He noted that the number of violations had been about the same for the past three years. The economic trend in this section of the Carolinas plays an important role in crime activities. Those crimes that fall within the realm of the Bureau of Identification seem to be more plentiful when

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Martha Goldfinch Drowns Near Home

Tragedy struck the area once again last Friday shortly after noon when Martha Grace Goldfinch, young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Goldfinch drowned in a drainage ditch near her home. The Goldfinch live on highway 701 between Loris and Tabor City.

The mother and the child had just returned from grocery shopping and Martha was playing a few minutes in the yard prior to the noon day meal. Mrs. Goldfinch heard the family dog barking a moment later along the canal in the back yard that was brim full after the heavy rains.

She rushed out and called Martha but there was no answer and suspecting that she might have fallen into the water, Mrs. Goldfinch jumped into the waist deep ditch searching for the child. Unable to locate her, the father and neighbors were called. A few minutes later the body was recovered several hundred feet from where she had apparently fallen in the water.

The body was rushed to the Loris Community Hospital but to no avail. All efforts to revive her were in vain.

Martha was born in the Con-

way Hospital May 26, 1954. She attended the St. Paul Methodist Church in Tabor City where she was a member of the Junior choir.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 3:00 at the St. Paul Methodist Church with Rev. Martin Chambers, pastor; Dr. J. E. Carlington, district superintendent; and Rev. Paul Carruth, of the N. C. Methodist Conference and former pastor officiating.

Burial was originally scheduled for the Hillcrest Cemetery in Conway immediately following the funeral service. However, Mrs. Grace Langston Goldfinch, mother of Mr. Goldfinch, died suddenly on Sunday morning of a heart attack. Burial of the child was postponed until Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 at which time both bodies were buried in a double service.

Pallbearers at the child's funeral were Dan Sanders, Lewis Edward Gore, Roger Elliott and Charles Sasser.

Surviving, in addition to her parents, are two brothers, Gene and John, and a sister Melba, all of the home and maternal grandmother, Mrs. John Stevens, of Great Falls, S. C.



Summersett Announces For County Sheriff

Penn Summersett, of Whiteville, has announced his candidacy for sheriff of Columbus County subject to the Democratic Primary in May.

Mr. Summersett, former owner of the Penn's Grills in Whiteville and Chadbourn, has been in the restaurant business for 18 years and this marks his first entry into politics. He is 55 years old, a native of Columbus, and served in the U. S. Navy in 1920.

He is married and has two married daughters, Mrs. Eugene Ingram and Mrs. C. L. Duncan, of Whiteville. He is a member of the Methodist Church and is serving as chairman of the finance committee.

"I desire the vote of the people in the primary and promise that with God's help and man's help, I will run a clean sheriff's office if the people will elect me in the May primary," Summersett said.

Athletic Program At School Needs \$985 Next Year

Williamson Is In House Race



ED WILLIAMSON

"Through the efforts of the Boosters Club and with receipts from the football and basketball games we have been able to operate this year's athletic program at the Tabor City school without any deficit," Randall Burleson, principal, said today.

"The chicken noodle supper profits enabled us to buy enough hip pads and shoulder pads for next year's football team but we do not have available funds for buying pants, jerseys, a few needed helmets and for reconditioning the old uniforms for practice equipment. We have taken in about all the money that is coming during this school year," Burleson said.

"We have carefully checked the costs of the other equipment that we need for football next year along with the need for some baseball materials for this spring. We can be fully equipped for next year if we can raise \$985. In that we have no other means of raising any funds, except perhaps a few dollars through baseball receipts, we are calling on the public spirited citizens of the community to help us in this financial matter," the principal said.

"We would like to enter next year's school term without any deficit from this year and with all major equipment expenses already taken care of. We know we will not have a deficit from this school year but funds will have to come from somewhere to provide adequate athletic equipment for the 1958 teams. This equipment must be ordered in the near future if we are to have it available for the fall season," Burleson said.

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Willard C. Wright Seeks House Seat

Willard C. Wright, local furniture and gas merchant and prominent member of the Tabor City town board for the past seven years, has announced his candidacy for the North Carolina House of Representatives subject to the Columbus County Democratic Primary.

Wright, a native of Columbus County, comes from a traditionally Democratic family and while he has held no county or State public offices, he has been active with the Young Democratic Club and the party organization in this area. He was active in raising funds for the national Democratic ticket in 1956 and helped solicit memberships in the YDC the same year. He has also served on the Young Democrat's executive committee in the county.

During the four terms that Wright has served on the Tabor City Town Board he has held the street and light commissioner post and during this period the municipal improvements in his department have been exceptionally outstanding. Paving, drainage and the addition of streets to the city system has shown great progress.

He is a member of the Tabor City Baptist Church and is currently serving on the Board of Deacons. He also teaches a Sunday School class, is Training Union director and is chairman of the Worship Committee in the Baptist Brotherhood.

Wright is a past president of the Tabor City Civitan Club and is presently serving as a director. He was institutional representative of the Civitans in the county for two years. And during the two year period that the Boy Scout Troop was sponsored by the Civitan, he was active in their behalf, twice serving as funds chairman.

He was co-chairman of the



Red Cross Drive in Tabor City one year and for two years was overall chairman of the Carolinas Yarn festival. He has served two years as a director of the Tabor City Merchants Association, and one year as a member of the volunteer fire department.

In 1955 he was Tabor City Man of the Year.

In announcing his candidacy, Wright said, "I heartily solicit the support and vote of all Democrats in the county. My only desire is to be a servant of the people of Columbus County in an upright and honorable manner. I believe in representative government as set up by our founding fathers and will endeavor to uphold those principals to the best of my ability."

"I realize the needs of the farmer, the business man, and the need for more industry, and

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Robinson Seeks Seat In Senate

Sankey W. Robinson, present judge of Columbus County Recorder's Court, has announced his candidacy for State Senator subject to the Democratic primary.

Robinson is a native of Columbus County, having been born on a farm in the Oak Dale section of Tatum township. He is the son of the late Jimsey L. Robinson and Mary Britt Robinson. He is a lawyer and has been practicing since 1951.

He graduated from Evergreen high school and received his B. S. and L. L. B. degrees from Wake Forest College.

An active Young Democrat, Robinson has served as president of the Columbus County unit, as district chairman of the Seventh Congressional District, and is a past vice-president of the State organization.

He is a Baptist, past deacon and Sunday school teacher, a member of the Lions Club in Whiteville and a Mason.

Finishes School

Grady Patterson, Route 1, Box 257, Tabor City, North Carolina, has completed a course in Radio and Television Servicing and has been awarded a Diploma by the National Radio Institute of Washington, D. C.

He finished the prescribed course of technical studies with creditable grades and is to be congratulated upon his achievement.

Williamson Announces For Senate

Arthur W. Williamson prominent Cerro Gordo farmer, has announced his intention to run for the North Carolina Senate in the May Democratic Primary.

The 46-year-old businessman served as the Columbus County Senator during the 1955 session after having defeated Paul Williamson of Whiteville in the primary election. He served for nine years prior to that on the Columbus County Board of Commissioners and for four years on the county Welfare Board.

Williamson is a Baptist. He attended Cerro Gordo high school and Wake Forest College.

Burns Announces For County Commissioner

A. O. Burns, 40 year-old Acme farmer and merchant, has announced his candidacy for the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

Burns has served for six years as a member of the county draft board, is a member and elder in the Acme Presbyterian Church, a charter member and director of the Acme-Deleo Lions Club and a Navy veteran of World War II.

Burns is the son of Nora B. Burns and the late R. G. Burns. He is married to the former Elizabeth Williams, of Acme. They have three children, one girl and two boys.

PRE-SCHOOL CLINIC

If there are any parents who have not reported their children for the pre-school clinic to be held in March 17, they are requested to do so as soon as possible. Principal Randall Burleson said today, "We want the parents of children expected to enter school this fall to give us a call or drop by the office so that we can have data on the child before the clinic is held. Then the child with its parents is expected to attend the March 17 clinic."

"If a child is six years old on or before October 16, it is eligible to enter school this fall," he said.

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Plenty Has Happened During First Year Of Federal Investigation In Horry

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles designed to acquaint the people of just what has gone on during the first year of the investigation into alleged misconduct and irregularities on the part of "some members of the Horry County Sheriff's Department and others." The first year of the crusade ended on February 20. The first of the series appeared last year. The final installment of the series will appear next week while eight deputies and the sheriff are being tried in Federal Court in Florence on four cases of alleged violations of civil rights of prisoners.

By—W. Horace Carter  
On March 20, last year this newspaper made the announcement that the Federal Grand Jury hearing on alleged whiskey conspiracy charges against some members of the Horry Sheriff's

force had been transferred from Aiken, S. C., to Florence and set for April. That article said this, "Primarily interested in the white whiskey traffic from the manufacturer to the retail outlet, the federal agents will seek indictments charging various members of the sheriff's department and others with conspiracy to violate the alcoholic tax laws. Subsequent cases may also seek indictments against one or more deputies for alleged violations of civil rights."

That was the second instance in which the newspaper had indicated that civil rights of prisoners was being investigated and that cases might result. The newspaper had previously charged that there were alleged cases of brutality and cruelty in prisoners. An editorial in that March 20, issue had this to say, "We want to see public officials honest

without question. We want to see the courts interested in truth and justice, no sham and shame. We want a line of demarcation between right and wrong, legal and illegal. We want to see law enforcement on a high plane for all the people, not protection for some, persecution for others." But even though the announcement had been made of the transfer of the Grand Jury Hearing from Aiken to Florence on March 20, a last minute decision of the District Attorney still resulted in 23 witnesses appearing at Aiken, S. C., on March 25. The witnesses were not heard but were subpoenaed to Aiken and there given new subpoenas to appear before the Grand Jury in Florence on April 22.

That March 27, issue had this to say, "The fact that a host of witnesses were available by federal subpoena at Aiken also makes those doubting Thomas who have expressed

disbelief that any governmental investigation was in process sit up and take notice. Generally it has eradicated any doubt that federal agents have been thoroughly combing the county for several weeks." The article also pointed out that the witnesses appearance in Aiken was the first legal step toward the eventual answer to demand for the editor to "put up or shut up." It was also the first legal step toward answering Solicitor Reuben Long's only statement to the press in 18 years in which he expressed explicit faith in all law enforcement officers in the county.

It was the following week when Loris Mayor Henry Nelson announced the resignation of Policemen Bob Crawford and Johnny Mew. He denied at the time that there was any relationship between the policemen losing their jobs and the investi-

gation. An editorial on April 10, asked the Horry County Legislative Delegation to disband the sheriff's department and authorize a rural police force. The article pointed out that such a move would save the taxpayers of the county \$30,000 a year and pointed out, "A rural police force, planned along practical lines, would bring greater harmony to the cosmopolitan county than ever before and perhaps bring about the greatest honesty in law enforcement and the least politics in officers in Horry's history."

That editorial ended up by saying, "From every angle, this system of law enforcement in Horry is desirable. It would be better for the towns better for the country. And whether any investigation had ever been made or not, we believe the Horry delegation can serve the people well by con-

sidering such action at this session of the General Assembly."

The delegation did consider such a bill and had one ready to drop in the hopper but the lack of unanimous approval by the delegation kept the bill from being a reality.

On April 17, the newspaper pointed out that there were some indications that the scheduled Grand Jury hearing in Florence might be further postponed. The hearing was then scheduled for April 22. And before the end of that week, new subpoenas were served on many witnesses cancelling the Florence hearing and setting the date for October 14, in Charleston, S. C.

Another editorial on May 1, regarding the possibility of a rural police force said, "A rural police force would clip the wings of the sheriff's department, leaving persaps only the sheriff and one deputy as compared with the

present 13 deputies. The Horry sheriff's department now exceeds in number all others in the surrounding area."

With the investigation quiet the May 8, issue said, "Ever Horry's White Whiskey Can't Equal N. C. Leadership." The article pointed out, "Investigation of the white whiskey traffic and conspiracy in Horry county has focused attention on the manufacture of this booze and South Carolina is not the center of the North Carolina hole trade. Actually, North Carolina has the shameful distinction of leading the nation in this multimillion dollar illegal booze business. About one-fourth of all property and illegal whiskey seized in the United States comes from the Tar Heel State."

Only May 16, in our weekly column was this statement, "don't be too greatly surprised if before this investigation is over a magistrate or two finds

himself in a rather embarrassing position."

An editorial in the same issue read, "The guilty know they are guilty and the delay is a nerve wracking on them as on anyone else. And the public, although impatient, is more aware than ever before that irregularities exist in a variety of high places. You have our assurance, for whatever it's worth, that in the end, right will win. And what we have said is right, plus a lot that we haven't said."

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904 CAFE BURNS

Fire of an undetermined origin gutted the 904 Drive-In Cafe here during the early hours Thursday.

A court order padlocked the Drive-In about a month ago. Local firemen answered the call about 3 a. m. Thursday morning but were unable to save the building.