

TAX FEES AIRED BEFORE G. JURY

Skinner Explains Method Of Paying Julius Banzet For His Services

BOARD IS COMMENDED

Fees paid Julius Banzet, county attorney, for bringing suit against delinquent taxpayers was aired before the Warren county grand jury yesterday when John Skinner, member of the board of county commissioners, was summoned before that body to answer complaint drawn by a taxpayer in the name of John Doe.

Other commissioners, present at Warren in regard to the hearing, were not called after Mr. Skinner appeared. P. M. Stallings, county auditor, appeared with Mr. Skinner.

Mr. Skinner said yesterday afternoon that he explained to the grand jury that the law provided that when suits were entered against delinquent taxpayers a sum not to exceed \$10 for attorney's fee was to be taxed in the bill of costs. In no case has the sum charged exceeded this amount, he said.

The law provided also, Mr. Skinner continued, that the board of commissioners might make different arrangements with the attorney bringing these suits. Under the straight \$10 a case plan, the attorney would have been entitled to a \$10 fee on the approximately 1500 names published as delinquent taxpayers during 1929 and 1930. The commissioners entered into arrangement with Mr. Banzet whereby he was to receive \$20 for each case where the actual sale was made, but would not receive anything for non-sales and for collections made without sales.

Mr. Banzet, in addition, was to receive nothing for his services in a completed suit if it developed that there had been error on part of the county or any listmaker. He was instructed before beginning these suits, Mr. Skinner said, to notify such delinquents that a suit was to be brought. The attorney, according to the commissioner, collected thousands of dollars in back taxes in this manner for which he received nothing. Ten dollars of costs in completed suits were taxed in the bill of costs. The additional \$10 was taken from the general fund.

Mr. Skinner said that under the plan made by the commissioners Mr. Banzet received something less than \$1800 for each of the past two years, instead of the from \$12,000 to \$15,000 that he might have been strictly entitled to under the other plan. He claimed that the amount of back taxes collected, and the efficient manner in which this matter was attended to, contrasted with the experience of neighboring counties, justified the expenditure from the general fund.

Commissioner Skinner told the grand jury that prior to 1927 the commissioners had no way to give a valid tax deed and as a result thousands of dollars worth of taxes were never collected. Through the efforts of the State Association of County Commissioners a law was passed in 1927 that made it possible to give a good deed for land sold for taxes, and under this law thousands of dollars had gone into the coffers of the county.

Questioned yesterday afternoon after the hearing, Mr. Skinner said that the county in the last four and one-half years had cut its general debt in half, paying off indebtedness to the amount of \$251,000. This was done, he said, in spite of drastic shrinkage in valuations and cuts in the tax rate. He said that he attributed most of this to the fact that every taxpayer, great and small, are required to bear his part of the burden of government.

In conclusion, he said that the State Association of County Commissioners, through its secretary, offered a reward of \$100 to any citizen who will devise a workable plan to collect delinquent taxes without a tax suit.

The grand jury, in its report after the hearing, commended the board of county commissioners "for the efficient manner in which they have handled the county affairs."

Mrs. E. L. Hudgins, Mrs. John A. Hudgins and daughters, Misses Nellie and Annie Hudgins, and granddaughter, Josephine Hudgins, spent Friday of last week in Raleigh with Miss Madge Hudgins. While there they attended the Cotton Parade.

Negro Girl Found Guilty In Poison Attempt Case; Goes Into Hysterics As Judge Daniels Pronounces Sentence

Hysterics broke into the solemnity of court Wednesday afternoon as Judge Daniels meted out a sentence of from three to five years to Maggie Griggs, negro girl of the Wise section charged with attempting to poison the family of Eddie Terry.

The young negress was motionless when the jury returned into the court room and said that she was guilty of the charge, but when the jurist announced the penalty she should pay for the attempted act, she began weeping and wailing. Her mother added to the excitement with screams. The court room was in a state of confusion as officers moved the two women from the Temple of Justice.

Their emotions were still out of control as they were carried across court square to the jail.

During the trial the Griggs girl admitted that she put arsenic of

lead in flour, carried her mixture to the home of Eddie Terry and exchanged it for some more flour. She testified that Robert Branch, whom she went with before his marriage to Terry's daughter, told her to give the poison to the Terry family so it would kill his wife and he could marry her.

Branch admitted that he had gone with the Griggs girl some, but denied the charge of advising her to administer poison to his wife or other members of the Terry family. He was found not guilty, as was Mary Frances Davis, negro girl who accompanied the Griggs girl when she went to the home of Tel Jones where she secured the arsenic of lead.

Although the flour that contained the arsenic of lead was made into bread and eaten by members of the Terry family, the poison did not prove fatal.

George C. Green Named Member Of School Body

George C. Green of Weldon has been named a member of the State School Commission as a representative from the second congressional district.

Mr. Green, who for a number of years has served as chairman of the board of trustees of the Weldon school board, was educated at the old John Graham school here and at the University of North Carolina, where he studied law, in which profession he has attained high rank in the state. Much of his boyhood was spent at Warrenton with his grandmother, who was at that time postmistress. Since he entered the profession of law he has been a frequent visitor here during terms of Superior court and is well known to many Warren county citizens.

In making his appointments, Governor Ehringhaus described the 11 members of the school board as "a strong group of school-minded men." He commented on the school experience of each member, particularly pointing out the services of Carr, Dougherty, Green and Pait.

"There's not a man on the board who hasn't had wide experience in the administration of schools," he asserted.

Under the 1933 school law the School Commission, of which the Governor is ex-officio chairman, is the most powerful school administrative body ever created in the State. It will have practically unlimited power in reaching decisions involving operation of the eight-months school term.

The chief executive pointed out that Atmore had years of school experience behind him. Green has served on local school boards for many years, Graham, Sprull, Folger and Dwire have taken leading places in school movements in their home communities and in the State.

Carr, an attorney, has served many times as chairman of the Wilmington school board. Pait a merchant, was highly recommended by school people, the Governor said, as were Gaston, who is secretary of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce, and Heller, who is an outstanding citizen of Rutherford county.

Dr. Dougherty, president of the Appalachian State Teachers College, is regarded as one of the best college administrators in the Southeast.

The State treasurer and state superintendent of public instruction are ex-officio members of the School Commission. Regular members will serve two years, but when that period expires the Governor will make his appointments on a staggered basis of two, four and six years.

Per diem pay, expenses and travel allowance of the Commissioners will be limited after the first year to \$1,000 annually. No limit was fixed for the first year, when more meetings and travel will naturally be of necessity.

Littleton Stores To Close Wednesdays

LITTLETON, May 25.—All retail merchants of the Town of Littleton will close their respective places of business on each Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock beginning Wednesday June 7th, and continuing each Wednesday thereafter through the month of August.

Fly, New York to Asia



Twice having flown the Atlantic, Gen. Francesco De Pinedo of Italy came to America for a specially designed plane with a cruising radius of 8,200 miles, planning to fly solo, New York to some point in Alaska.

Mrs. J. A. Dowtin Dies At Home Here On Monday Night

Mrs. John A. Dowtin, 63, wife of Representative Dowtin, of Warren county, died at her home here Monday night at 10:45 o'clock. Heart disease was the cause of death. She had been in poor health for some time.

Funeral services were conducted from her home Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock by Rev. C. R. Jenkins, Presbyterian minister. Interment was in Fairview cemetery.

Mrs. Dowtin before her marriage was Miss Mary Patterson, daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Patterson of Halifax county. She is survived by her husband, four sons, Pryor Dowtin, Roger Dowtin, Armistead Dowtin and John Dowtin; two daughters, Mrs. Sam Davis, and Miss Louise Dowtin. She is also survived by three sisters and three brothers, Mrs. W. B. Fleming of Warrenton, Mrs. J. H. Norman of Halifax, Mrs. S. T. Thorne of Airlie; John Patterson of Littleton, Joe Patterson of Airlie, and Roger Patterson of Havre, Mont.

Warrenton Golfers Defeat Henderson

The Warrenton golf team took an easy victory from the Henderson club in a game played on the local links Wednesday afternoon. The match ended 38 to 19 in favor of the Warrenton golfers. Low score of the afternoon was made by S. O. Nunn who rounded the course twice in 77 strokes. The lowest score made by a Henderson man was made by Jesse White, who went the rounds twice in a total of 82 strokes. G. V. Boyd won three points over his opponent with a total score of 80. On the second trip over the course Boyd finished with a 36, one under par.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE

The Warrenton Garden Club cordially invites the public to attend a lecture on "Landscape Gardening and Design", illustrated by sixty beautiful colored slides to be given in the Court House on Tuesday evening, May 30th, at 8 o'clock. There will be no admission charge.

Misses Nora Newman, Alberta Hayes and Mrs. Catherine Cauby of Richmond, Va., were the dinner guests of Mrs. W. H. Martin Sunday.

Miss Mae Elizabeth Weaver spent Sunday with Miss Florence Martin.

JUDGE FRIZZELLE HERE NEXT WEEK

Trial of Civil Cases Expected To Be Started This Afternoon

MANY TO BE CONTINUED

Judge Paul Frizzelle of Snow Hill will come to Warrenton Monday to preside over the civil term of Warren's Superior court, it was learned yesterday afternoon. Judge Daniels will sit on the bench in his home county of Wayne. The exchange, it is understood, was arranged by the two jurists as a matter of convenience.

Trial of civil matters is expected to get underway this afternoon, according to an opinion expressed in court yesterday morning by Solicitor W. H. S. Burgwyn. The solicitor, addressing his remarks to Judge Daniels who had called members of the bar before him to discuss civil matters, said that there were two cases on the criminal docket to be tried, but he thought these matters could be cleared up by Friday at noon, if not before, and trial of civil cases could be started.

Although there are nearly 50 cases on the civil docket, it is not expected that anything like this number will be cleared up at this session of Warren's Superior court. Some of the cases were continued yesterday morning by Judge Daniels while taking up with attorneys just a portion of the civil calendar, and it is practically sure thing that others will be continued during the week.

The first case on the civil docket set for trial is the case of Robert B. Arrington, administrator of John B. Arrington, against Gurney P. Hood and others. Other cases that were yesterday marked for trial are:

Lizzie Davis, Lucinda Davis and Ellen D. Jones against Grover C. Brown, executor of estate of Byron Brown; W. H. Dameron & Company, against H. C. Radford; Chas. A. Nicholson, against Eva Amella Nicholson; Mrs. H. P. Robinson, trading as Littleton Sales Co., against E. E. Phillips, trading as Phillips Furniture Co.; Norlina Hotel Corporation petition for receivership; Roy D. Hardy against Mattie Shaw Hardy; W. B. Bobbitt against Minnie Bobbitt; judgment to be signed in the case of L. R. Powell and W. H. Anderson, receivers of Seaboard Air Line Railway Co., against C. L. Nance.

Cases that have so far been continued are:

Alfred J. Ellington against the Weldon Coca Cola Bottling Co.; A. E. Morris against Mrs. J. R. Harris; T. R. Morris against Mrs. J. R. Harris.

Five Are Hurt In Automobile Crash

J. C. Watkins and children, Ann, Helen and James, of Drewry and Anthony J. Abbott of Montclair, N. J., are recovering at the Henderson hospital from injuries received on Sunday night when a car driven by Mr. Watkins collided with a parked truck between Manson and Norlina. Abbott was driver of the truck.

Ann Watkins, aged 10, sustained a fractured leg; James, aged 3, was bruised about the face and sustained a fractured leg; Helen, aged 2, was bruised about the face and sustained a fractured leg; Mr. Watkins received severe bruises. Abbott, the driver of the truck, was standing beside the truck at the time of the crash. He received a fractured leg and bruises about the head.

The accident occurred during a heavy rain storm.

Rollins Re-elected Head Vance Schools

HENDERSON, May 24.—E. M. Rollins was unanimously re-elected superintendent of schools of Vance county at a meeting of the county board of education on Monday. He was first elected in 1912 and has served continuously since that time and the new term of two years will, at its completion, make a total of 23 years he has served in that capacity. In 1923 he was elected superintendent of the city schools and since that time has been head of both city and county systems.

Mr. and Mrs. John Garrett and Mr. William Palmer were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Brantley at Henderson last night.

Prison for Boy



Despite a highly emotional trial a jury of twelve married men returned a verdict of murder in the second degree against Harry Murch, 16-year-old N. Y. school boy for stabbing a 12-year-old playmate to death. The penalty is 20 years to life imprisonment.

Warren Affairs In Good Condition, Grand Jury Says

Affairs in Warren county are in good shape, according to the grand jury report turned in to Judge Frank Daniels late yesterday afternoon. The reports recommends that a rest room for ladies be erected in the east end of the Register of Deeds' office as soon as possible, and that a ceiling in the room occupied by Miss Lucy Leach be painted. The county commissioners were especially commended for the manner in which they have handled the county affairs, and a word of praise from the investigating body for Mrs. E. C. Lovell for her action in preventing an attempted jail break.

In accepting the report Judge Daniels thanked the men who had served on the Grand Jury, complimented the county for the fine record it always maintains and spoke of his pleasure in coming to Warrenton.

"I have been coming to your county for a good many years now and I always find it a pleasure to be here," the jurist said. He added: "I don't know how much longer I will be coming to Warrenton, but I trust that I may have the pleasure of seeing you gentlemen once again."

The report in full follows: "Hon. Frank A. Daniels, Judge Presiding
"May Term 1933 Superior Court
"Warren County, North Carolina.

"We, the Grand Jury selected for the above term beg to make the following report:

"We have carefully examined witnesses and passed on all bills presented to us by the Solicitor, W. H. S. Burgwyn. We have examined witnesses and made presentations in all matters brought to our attention. We have visited the County Home by committee, we find the property and premises clean and in good condition, and inmates well cared for.

"We examined the jail in body and found same in good condition.

"All offices in Court House were visited by committee and found to be in excellent condition. We recommend that the ceiling in the office occupied by Miss Lucy Leach be painted.

"We also recommend that a rest room for women be erected in the East End of the Register of Deeds' office as early as possible.

"We find the following J. P.'s have not made their report to the (Continued on Page 8)

Displeased Rockefeller



Diego Rivera, celebrated Mexican mural painter, whose work was halted and payment made in full for the fresco he was working on in Rockefeller Center, R.C.A. building. The Rockefeller family objected to the portraying of Lenin and red flags in the mural.

Penalty On 1932 Taxes Cut In Half, London Writes

Penalty on unpaid 1932 taxes, beginning February 1, 1933, was cut from 1 per cent a month to one-half per cent per month, according to a letter received this week by John B. Palmer of Warrenton from H. M. London, legislative reference librarian. "This applies also to towns in the counties affected, among which is Warren county," Mr. London added.

Under date of May 22, Mr. London wrote: "The provision in the new 1933 Machinery act under 'Quadrennial Assessment' allows the county commissioners to make a horizontal cut or a quadrennial assessment. In the counties of Mecklenburg, Tyrrell and Lincoln only it is mandatory on the commissioners to make a horizontal cut of not less than 33 1-3 per cent. The News and Observer was in error in stating that this horizontal cut of 'not less than 33 1-2 per cent of the present assessed valuation was optional in all counties.'"

The board of commissioners of Warren county at the first Monday in April meeting ordered a horizontal cut of 25 per cent.

John W. Allen Observes Birthday

John W. Allen, one of the five remaining Civil War veterans in Warren county, celebrated his 87th birthday quietly at his home here on Monday in what he describes as one of the biggest days of his life.

Friends of town and country began dropping in at the Allen home early on Monday morning and it was after 9 o'clock that night before the last of the guests departed. Many of these visitors not only brought the veteran their good wishes but also presented mementoes of the occasion.

Mr. Allen said yesterday that he had not felt as good in several months as he felt on Monday and asked that this newspaper express his appreciation for the thoughtfulness of his friends.

In spite of his 87 years, Mr. Allen experiences no difficulty in reading without glasses and appears remarkably healthy for a man of his years. For 60 years he has served as a magistrate of Warren county and takes a great deal of pride in this record. He said that he had no idea how many cases he had tried during that period, but he guessed that he had married about 1500 couples during his tenure of office. Mr. Allen added that many of these ceremonies were performed shortly after the Civil War when it became necessary for former slaves, living together under their master's sanction, to be legally married.

Auxiliary To Sell Poppies Saturday

America's flower of patriotic remembrance will be carried to the people of Warrenton on Saturday, May 27, by corps of women volunteers organized for the work with army efficiency. Completion of the organization for the poppy sale was announced today by Mrs. H. W. Rodwell, poppy chairman of the Limer Post Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary. More than 15 women have enrolled in the poppy forces.

The local poppy corps will be a part of an army of 100,000 women who will go into action on a nation-wide front on Poppy Day to recall to America the services of the World War dead and to raise the funds to aid the war's living victims. Before the close of the day these women hope to place the flower of remembrance on ten million coats, and to receive contributions which will enable the American Legion Auxiliary to carry on its relief and rehabilitation work for disabled veterans and needy families during the coming year.

Making poppies for the sale has given hundreds of disabled veterans employment through the winter and spring months. These disabled men are the only workers in the Auxiliary's poppy program receiving pay, all others donating their services. All contributions received above the cost of making the poppies is used in the Auxiliary's welfare work.

Quarterly Conference will be held at Warren Plains on Saturday at 11 o'clock, the Rev. E. C. Durham, Methodist minister, announced yesterday. Following the sermon and business meeting, lunch will be served.

WRECK CASE TO BE TRIED TODAY

Northington Trial to Mark End Criminal Procedure At May Term

DANIELS IS PRESIDING

The trial this morning of W. H. Northington on an assault charge will bring to a close criminal procedure in this session of Warren's Superior Court. With the closing of this case, which resulted from an automobile wreck that occurred between Northington and Mrs. F. R. Pegram of Vaughan, the wheels of justice will be set in motion on matters of a civil nature.

Court opened here Monday with Judge Frank Daniels of Goldsboro presiding and Solicitor W. H. S. Burgwyn of Woodland prosecuting. Although the docket was somewhat heavy, it contained no cases of county-wide interest.

Yesterday was spent in the trial of Ed Hudson, one of the men alleged to have accompanied Roger and Bennie Falkener and Aubrey Williams when Roy Davis' service station was broken into on the night of March 1, 1932, and robbed of a radio, shotguns and rifle, bathing suit, clock, sparkplugs and other items which amounted to about \$300.

The two Falkeners were tried at the May term of court last year and are serving time for the offense. They came from the prison camp yesterday to testify that Ed Hudson was with them when the crime was committed and that he received his portion of the stolen goods. Hudson denied the charge, and stated that he was not in Warren county at the time. Witnesses testified that they had seen him here.

Roger Falkener admitted that he had signed a paper before Governor Pollard of Virginia stating that Ed Hudson was not with them when the service station was broken into. He told the court yesterday that he made the statement before the Virginia for the reason that Hudson had come to the outside of the Warren county jail where he was incarcerated and threatened his life if he implicated him.

Just before court adjourned late yesterday afternoon the jury returned a verdict that Hudson was guilty of store-breaking, larceny, and receiving. Sentence is expected to be passed this morning.

John Burchette, Warrenton negro, was convicted of manslaughter Tuesday afternoon and sentenced to jail, assigned to work the roads of the State, for a period of six months. The manslaughter charge resulted from the death of John Reid, local negro blacksmith, whom Burchette struck with a cold chisel on the 30th day of August, 1932.

The verdict of the jury removed from the criminal docket a case that had been pending since the September term of court last year. At that time members of the jury were unable to agree as to the innocence or guilt of the accused man and Judge Paul Frizzelle ordered a mistrial. At the January term of court, Judge Daniels agreed to continue the case until May.

Burchette was at Reid's blacksmith shop on August 30. Ed Baldwin, Warrenton negro, was also there. Burchette and Reid were talking and joking one another about school closing when Reid came over to where Burchette was sitting and got a drink of water.

What was left in the dipper he threw in Burchette's face. Burchette picked up the bucket of water and threw it on Reid. Reid remarked "Old John liked to have drowned me that time," and went back to the wheel on which he had been working. There he reached down in the slack barrel, gathered up some water and dashed it on Burchette. Burchette reached back over his head, grabbed a cold chisel and threw it at Reid. The death bearing missile went to the head of the blacksmith. Burchette left immediately and Reid walked to the office of Dr. W. D. Rodgers. He died later in a Rocky Mount hospital with a fractured skull. Burchette came to Warrenton and gave himself up to Magistrate W. C. Fagg.

The two negroes were close friends, according to the witnesses who came into the court room to testify. Burchette said that Reid was one of the best friends that he had, and that prior to his death he stopped by his home every night and read him a newspaper and chapters from the Bible. He testified that he and Reid worked together frequently and told the court that he was not mad with

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