

Judge Halts Trial Of County Commissioners

Judge's Expressed Belief That It Would Be Impossible To Get Impartial Trial Responsible For Delay

A JUROR IS WITHDRAWN

Changes Mind About Summoning Special Jury From Another County

The trial of members of the Board of County Commissioners for failure to carry out recommendations of grand juries was halted for this term of court yesterday morning when Judge Paul Frizzelle ordered a juror withdrawn and the case continued.

The expressed belief on the part of the juror that due to the prominence of the men and the office which they filled it would be impossible to get an impartial trial was responsible for the case being delayed after two witnesses had testified.

In stating in court Wednesday afternoon that he was contemplating having a special venire summoned here because he felt that it would be in the interest of justice to do so, Judge Frizzelle said that he meant no reflection on either members of the board or jurors of this county but in a case of this type it would be impossible to divorce politics from the trial. "It is just one of those things which cannot be avoided," he said before adjourning court until the following morning to think further over the matter.

At the opening of court yesterday morning Solicitor Tyler asked the juror if he desired the special venire summoned here and the juror replied that he had intention of doing so the preceding afternoon but after reflecting over the matter Wednesday night he had come to the conclusion that he should not summon a jury here for the next term of court since he would not be here himself and, consequently he would withdraw a juror and leave the case open for the judge who followed him here. Immediately prior to his decision Jos. P. Pippen, who assists the district solicitor in prosecuting, stated that he was not in sympathy with the prosecution because he was familiar with circumstances surrounding the case and felt that the commissioners had done what they could to carry out the recommendations of the grand jury. His request to be excused from the prosecution was granted by Judge Frizzelle before the decision was announced to continue the case.

The development of the case into what appeared to be a serious trial of the commissioners came as a complete surprise to the citizens of this county, as was evident Wednesday afternoon when surprise registered on the faces of those in the courtroom as Judge Frizzelle sent the jury into an anti-room and made known his views in regard to a special venire. It had been freely predicted that the state would take a non-suit since the commissioners had called an election to vote for funds for repairing the jail.

The unfavorable conditions at the jail had been pointed out by Dr. G. H. Macon and W. N. Boyd, as well as in the reports of several grand juries which were read by Mr. Boyd, when Judge Frizzelle requested the jury to retire from the room and stated that he saw no advantage in proceeding with the case unless a jury was selected from another county or the case was sent to some other county to be tried.

Seeking to have the case thrown out of court, Julius Banzet reminded the juror that the commissioners had called an election here for the purpose of repairing the jail and that this was defeated by an overwhelming vote which, he said, was evident that the majority of the citizens of the county felt that the jail was not in as bad condition as painted by grand juries, that the people of this county had shown their faith in the commissioners by re-elected them to office repeatedly and that his observation had been that grand jury reports were more or less a form which were copies from one another. "They remind me," he said, "of the typical post card sent from the beach by almost everyone, reading, 'Having a fine time; wish you were here.'" (Continued on page 8)



Queen of Queens
LONG BEACH, Cal., . . . Miss Gwen Stith of San Pedro, was acclaimed winner of the first annual "Queen of Queens" contest held here. The contestants were girls who had previously been chosen "queens" of various events—Rodeo, Beauty and so on.

Tobacco Brings Good Prices On Local Market

The Warrenton tobacco market, which opened last week with prices pleasing to farmers, has continued to bring satisfaction to growers as the market has shown an upward trend from the open sale when the weed averaged slightly better than \$24.00 per hundred.

On Wednesday, official figures reveal, the local market led the entire middle belt by maintaining an average of \$28.79 per hundred. On that day 49,624 pounds were sold here to bring farmers \$14,242.08. The official averages of yesterday's sales on the various markets were not available here last night.

P. T. A. Holds First Fall Meeting

The Parent-Teacher Association held its first meeting of the year in the auditorium of the John Graham High School on Tuesday afternoon with a large crowd in attendance. The program, which featured Modern Trends of Education, was presided over by Mrs. C. E. Rodwell, president. At the outset of the meeting the high school band rendered music, and later Miss Emalyne Evans, Home Economics teacher, discussed her work. Miss Mary Frances Rodwell, Commercial teacher, gave a paper on the advantages of typewriting and shorthand, and C. H. Drye, Vocational teacher, gave an outline of his work in the school. Miss Elba McGowan gave a review of the Collins Festival which will provide entertainment here the last two weeks in October and the first two weeks in November.

The fourth and seventh grades and Miss Boyd's department in high school were each awarded \$100 for attendance record. This money is to be turned over to the Book Fund for the library.

Following the afternoon of business, and informal tea was given the school faculty in the hall of the building with punch and wafers served from an attractive table decorated in red dahlias. Mrs. G. H. Macon and Mrs. H. W. Rodwell with other members of the organization assisting.

MRS. CONWAY RETURNS

Mrs. William Conway, who spent several weeks in the mountains of North Carolina with her mother, Mrs. Katherine P. Arrington, recuperating from an illness, returned to Warrenton with her husband on Sunday. Mr. Conway remained here until Wednesday when he departed for his home in Kentucky. Mrs. Arrington is expected to join her daughter here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard F. Jones and Miss Ann Taylor visited Mrs. Mary Mercer in Rocky Mount Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Yancey Kerr of Yanceyville is a guest of his brother, Congressman John H. Kerr. They were visitors at Williamsburg, Va., yesterday.

CRIMINAL TERM SUPERIOR COURT ENDS THURSDAY

30-odd Cases Removed From Docket In Session of Little County-Wide Inter-Except Indictments

LOYD FOUND NOT GUILTY

Action Regarding Public Officials Sets County Buzzing With Talk

The criminal session of the September term of Warren county Superior court came to a close yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock after 30-odd cases had been removed from the docket during a week of court which was of little county-wide interest with the exception of the indictments against members of the Board of County Commissioners and the Register of Deeds.

The action in regard to the public officials set the county buzzing with talk, but little time of the court was lost on these cases nor were they heard by a crowd which over-taxed the seating and standing capacity of the court room. The absence of many from the temple of justice when these cases came up to be heard was attributed to the fact that the cases came as a surprise to many.

As a general thing the wheels of justice moved rapidly during this term of court without much ado in the presence of a crowd lighter than usually present for court week.

Buck Loyd's case probably was heard by more people and required more time for its disposal than any of the other indictments. After more than a day of court he was found not guilty on a charge of larceny which was booked against him as the result of between eight and nine hundred pounds of tobacco having been stolen from Alex Mays in January.

Charlie Hunt and H. D. Weldon submitted to a charge of forgery and were each given a sentence in State Prison of from three to five years which was suspended upon the condition that they meet with the terms in the following judgment: "It appearing to the court that full restitution has been made and that neither defendant has a criminal record, sentence is suspended upon payment of court costs and the condition that they remain of good behavior for five years, and upon the further condition that neither shall be discovered in the slightest degree intoxicated."

The case against J. W. Carroll of this town, in which he was charged with arson in connection with the burning of the Powell building here several months ago, where he formerly operated a restaurant, was thrown out of court after several of the state's witnesses had testified.

The Winkler case which had already been tried several times, was continued until the January term. The two young men of Virginia, who are charged with robbing the Swan Sandwich Shop and Beer Garden at Norlina, are out of jail on bond.

Clinton Robertson faced trial in four separate bills of indictment, three of which charged him with box car breaking, entering and receiving, and the other with assault with intent to kill. On the assault charge he was sentenced to State Prison for ten years. As a part of this sentence the court ruled as follows: "Evidence tends to show that the defendant is of low intelligence. The court orders that the prisoner be examined by prison officials and be dealt with as a result of the examination. On the other three charges he was given a five year sentence in each case which is to be suspended upon the condition that he remain of good behavior after serving the 10-year sentence."

Furman Hobbs also had four cases booked against him as the result of box car robberies at Norlina which resulted in a shooting scrape with railroad detectives. On an assault charge he was given ten years in State Prison and in the three charges of breaking, entering and larceny he was given five years each, to be suspended upon the condition that he remain of good behavior after serving the 10-year sentence.

C. B. Medlin pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking and entering and was sentenced to the roads for three years. He entered a plea of 41. (Continued on Page 8)

Inspect Warren Farms



Picture of the 49 farmers of Warren County who last week accompanied County Agent Bob Bright on a tour of farms of the county and enjoyed a fish fry at the home of Nathaniel Macon. Story on page 3.

REPAIR JAIL OR SEND PRISONERS TO ANOTHER JAIL, GRAND JURY RECOMMENDS IN FULL REPORT

Recognizing the efforts made by the County Commissioners to remedy the "deplorable" conditions at the jail through a bond issue which failed to carry, the grand jury in its report to Judge Frizzelle late Wednesday afternoon recommended that the county spend \$5,000 at once, if possible, to relieve in part the conditions and that if unable to do so that all white prisoners be sent elsewhere for safe keeping and that the jail be used for one race only.

The investigating body also recommended that an annual audit be made of each county office and that each office be required to publish quarterly a statement of receipts and disbursements of that office. The report, which was highly commended by Judge Frizzelle, reads as follows:

Warrenton, N. C.
September Term, 1937,
Superior Court.

Hon. J. Paul Frizzelle,
Judge Presiding,
September Term Superior Court:
Your Honor:

We, the Grand Jury for the September term of Superior Court of Warren County, desire to make the following report of duties performed by this body while empaneled as a jury:

We have carefully and diligently examined witnesses and passed

upon all bills presented to us by the solicitor.

COUNTY HOME: Through a committee we have visited the county home and find the inmates very well cared for. They seem well cared for and contented. We find that recommendations made by the May grand jury have not been carried out in respect to repairing roof on main building and screening in place used for the washing and airing of eating and cooking utensils used by the inmates. This jury recommends that this condition be given prompt attention. We further recommend that a shed room be built adjacent to the power plant building for the storage of oil and kerosene, rather than the present system of storing these items with food supplies.

SCHOOLS: A committee has examined the office and records of the Superintendent of Schools, and finds them in excellent condition. We have made careful inquiry into the condition of busses and find them in a very high state of efficiency. We find, however, that at present the bus repair shop is not sufficient to care for more than one bus at the time and we recommend that a repair shop and storage house be built on property owned by the school system, situated at Warren Plains. We find that the (Continued on Page 5)

Skillman Asks Poultry Exhibits Be Made Early

Stating that poultry exhibiting is something new here, E. A. Skillman, director of the poultry exhibit for the county fair, suggests in the following article that plans for exhibiting birds be made early in order that the fair promoters may know what to expect:

"Poultry exhibiting is something new to us, surely new to the director. Let us all work together and plan early. At the present time eighty lineal feet of shelving is ready for coops.

"Please see or communicate with your director as soon as possible in regard to your individual plans. We very much wish to know how much space will be required.

"We believe it is the business of exhibitors to furnish coops equipped with feed and drink dishes.

"The management plans to have twenty-five plain box coops twenty inches high, two feet wide and twelve inches deep, with front of two-inch mesh poultry netting, floor extending six inches in front to support feed and drink dishes.

"These will be available to first arrivals in order of arrival on Monday, October 4."

Rev. Buffalo To Preach At Littleton

A. R. Buffalo of the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond will preach at the Presbyterian church in Littleton on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and at Gruber Memorial Church at 7:30 o'clock on Sunday evening, announcement was made yesterday by the Rev. Reese Jenkins. Mr. Buffalo is pleasantly remembered at Littleton where he assisted in the tent meeting held there last fall. The public is invited to be him again.

PROLIFIC SOWS
Pigs were being born in rapid order and large quantities at the farm of Prof. G. E. Cheek of the Wise Training School this week. He said that one sow dropped 17 pigs and within 24 hours four dropped 41.

Jail Breaker Eludes All Search By Local Officers

Officers have been unsuccessful in their efforts to apprehend Albert Jones, who escaped from the Warren county jail last Friday night by sawing his way out of his cell and then cutting the bars to an upstairs window through which he lowered himself to the ground on blankets he took out of his quarters.

Jones is alleged to have obtained the hack-saw blade by tearing his blanket into strips and casting the improvised rope on the outside of the wire enclosure where some one attached the blade.

Another prisoner in the hallway of the jail saw Jones as he sawed his way to freedom but was afraid to give the alarm, it was stated, because the fleeing man threatened to kill him if he opened his mouth.

As soon as the prisoner left the jail the young negro shouted the alarm. Bloodhounds were brought here but failed to pick up the scent of the prisoner.

Jones was being held in jail to face a trial in Superior court on a charge of stealing chickens.

Co-operative Club Formed At Graham

A Co-operative Club was organized at John Graham high school on Friday with large membership. Miss Katherine White Parker was elected president and Miss Kitty Wilson was elected secretary and treasurer of the organization. Business for the school year was discussed.

TAKES TURTLE TO SCHOOL

Children of the John Graham High School were given a close-up of wild life on Thursday when Henry Bryant Creech carried Sambo, his turtle, to school with him. The pet turtle of the young student was minutely inspected by his classmates.

DR. GIBBS RETURNS

Dr. J. T. Gibbs has returned to Warrenton after spending several months with his children in Pelham, Sanford and Fayetteville.

Sam Allen Is Appointed As Register of Deeds

Court Permits Former Register of Deeds Joe Powell To Hand In Resignation After He Had Been Found Guilty Of Malfeasance; Grand Jury's Recommendation For Better Behavior In Office Disregarded

Bond Issue For Jail Is Swamped By Adverse Vote

The bond issue voted on Tuesday to determine whether \$20,000 should be spent in repairing the county jail was defeated by an overwhelming majority when 824 persons went to the polls and 665 of these expressed their opinion as being against the issuance of bonds.

In one of the most listless elections which has been held in this county in years, perhaps ever, 159 voters cast their ballots in favor of the issuance of the bonds in the election which was called by the Board of County Commissioners after members of this body had been indicted for not carrying out recommendations of grand juries in regard to repairing the jail, which has been labeled "inadequate, unsafe, unsanitary and unfit for use."

Not a single precinct voted in favor of the issuance of the bonds, although the vote was close in Shocco where eight ballots were cast for the bond issue and nine against. In Fishing Creek sentiment also appeared to be closely divided, there being 25 votes for the bond issue and 29 against.

In Romanoke township there was not a single vote cast in favor of the bonds. Twenty-one ballots were cast against them.

Following is the vote which was cast in the various precincts:

	For	Against
Sixound	7	56
River	8	111
Hawtree	3	91
Smith Creek	3	18
Nutbush	3	27
Sandy Creek	4	8
Shocco	8	9
Fishing Creek	25	29
Judkins	13	70
W. Warrenton	33	69
Fork	11	48
Roanoke	0	21
Norlina	5	60
E. Warrenton	36	48

Card Tournament Nets Truck Funds

The tournament held at the Library on Tuesday evening, which was sponsored by the Warrenton Reading Club for the benefit of the Book Truck, was declared by all who attended, a huge success. Miss Mabel Davis, with Misses Olivia Burwell and Dorothy Walters and Mrs. Alpheus Jones, welcomed the guests at the door. Eighty guests enjoyed contract-bridge, set-back and anagrams, the latter being held in the library; the cards were played in the basement. Both places were elaborately decorated in lovely fall flowers. Ladies high score prize for contract, a bowl of bulbs, given by Miss Mabel Davis, Librarian, was won by Miss Elizabeth Boyd. Mr. John Mitchell received a leather bill folder as gentleman's high score prize. This was given by Mr. W. T. Polk. A cake of Ivory soap was left with Mrs. W. R. Boyce as the floating prize. Mr. H. P. Reid won a deck of cards for playing set-back, and Mrs. O. I. Hinson was successful in anagrams and received a potted plant, donated by Miss Olivia Burwell, president of the Reading Club. An ice course was served during the evening. Twenty dollars was cleared. This has been increased to \$25 since the entertainment by friends of the library who were unable to be present or failed to take a table on Tuesday night.

The contest for the office was close between Mr. Scott and Mr. Allen, each receiving two votes. The tie was broken in favor of Mr. Allen by Chairman Burroughs. Mr. Allen was nominated by Mr. Powell and the motion was seconded by Mr. Capps. Mr. Scott was nominated by Mr. King and Mr. Wall seconded the motion. After the tie had been broken the commissioners gave Mr. Allen an unanimous vote.

McGuire Goes To South Hill Market

M. C. McGuire, who for years represented the American Tobacco Company on Warrenton warehouse floors, will leave next week for South Hill, Va., where he will represent his company. He has been replaced here by Tom Trayham of South Boston, Va.

Since leaving the Fairmont market several week Mr. McGuire has been station on the Oxford market awaiting the opening of the markets in Virginia. Mrs. McGuire will be with him on the South Hill market but present plans are to keep their home here open.

C. OF C. TO MEET

The Children's Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will meet with the Misses Nancy and Jane Peete on Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock, Miss Katherine Reid, secretary, announced yesterday.

Mr. John L. Skinner of Littleton was here yesterday.