

# Salmon Draws Prison Sentence

Otha Salmon, charged with the fatal beating of his brother-in-law, former sheriff J. Edward Hamlett of Vance County, on the night of August 18, entered a plea of guilty of involuntary manslaughter in open court on Thursday morning.

Solicitor W. H. S. Burgwin, Jr., announced that the state would accept the plea and presiding Judge William V. Bickett sentenced Salmon to serve from 12 to 14 years in the State Penitentiary on Thursday afternoon.

The announcement that the state would accept the lesser plea at 10:25 on Thursday morning came as a dramatic end to a trial filled with drama as a family divided, one member testifying in support of her dead husband, and the other members of the family serving as witnesses in defense of their brother.

Also the announcement ended the threat of court being held in session for possibly the remainder of the week, as defense Counsel James D. Gilliland put witness after witness on the stand in an effort to shake the testimony of Mrs. Hamlett, the defendant's sister.

Frank Banzet assisted Solicitor Burgwin and Assistant Solicitor Charles White in the prosecution.

Much of Tuesday afternoon and part of Wednesday morning was consumed in the selection of a jury, necessitating the summoning of half a dozen extra jurors on Wednesday morning before the thirteenth juror could be empaneled. Judge Bickett had stated that he was unwilling to try the case without the thirteenth juror, present in case it should become necessary to withdraw any juror without ordering a mistrial.

Principal witness for the prosecution was Mrs. Hamlett, testifying under stress, who was unshaken by the defense as he testified to the events leading up to the fights between her brother and her husband and of witnessing the beating administered by her brother to her husband.

Mrs. Hamlett testified that she and her husband had gone to the Otha Salmon home near Wise on the night

of August 18 and after supper she and her husband had gotten into the back seat of the Salmon car with the front seat being occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Otha Salmon. She said that she thought they were going for a ride, but that instead her brother drove to the home of a Negro bootlegger and went in the house and stayed for some time. After he had entered the car they started down Highway 1 towards the Salmon home.

On the way, Mrs. Hamlett said, the car was weaving from side to side of the road and her husband asked Otha Salmon if he didn't want him to drive, saying that he appeared sleepy, but was told by Salmon that he could drive his own car. Finally the car was stopped and Mrs. Salmon got on the back seat with her while her husband got on the front seat with Salmon. But then, she said, that Otha Salmon became angry and told Hamlett that he could drive his own car, stepped from the parked car and jerked Hamlett from the car, threw him about 15 feet and began to beat him.

Unable to stop the fight, she fled to the Wise Tourist Court for help. Mrs. Freddy Hicks was at the court and as she started to drive Mrs. Hamlett in search of her husband, Mr. Hicks drove up in a pickup truck and carried her in search of her husband.

Mrs. Hamlett said that when they arrived at the scene of the fight all the participants were gone. She said Mr. Hicks drove her along the highway until some 50 feet from the drive leading from Highway 1 to the home of Otha Salmon they saw the Salmon car parked along the highway. She said that Mr. Hicks went to the parked car to inquire as to the whereabouts of Hamlett, and was told that he had been left at Joe Riggan's Service Station in Wise; that Hamlett had told them that he wanted to wash the blood off his hands. They said that when Hamlett failed to appear they left him.

Hicks then drove Mrs. Hamlett to a service station and store just across the Virginia line operated by her brother, John Salmon. When they arrived Hamlett was standing

in the yard of the store. His shirt was torn from his body, his glasses had been lost, his face was badly bruised, and he was bleeding around his face and on his body, Mrs. Hamlett said. She related that she hurried into the home for medicine and a blanket but when she came out of the house her husband was gone. On cross examination, she said that she did not see any knife in his hand.

Felix Williams testified that as he rode by Joe Riggan's service station, he saw a man lying beside the road, and as he slowed down he heard his call for help. Williams said that although he had known Hamlett well for years and although he threw the beams of a flashlight on him he failed to recognize him on account of his condition, and it was only when he spoke that he recognized his voice. Williams said that he carried Hamlett to John Salmon's Service Station and that Hicks and Mrs. Hamlett had not arrived at that time.

Freddie Hicks testified that Hamlett appeared to be badly beaten up and that when he saw him he was standing in his yard, that he pulled a pen knife with a blade he judged to be about two inches long, and stated that he was going to the home of Otha Salmon and cut his neck from his shoulders. Hicks said that he then left the service station.

Otis Powell, a neighbor, who stopped by the service station, said he saw the knife blade and heard the threats made by Hamlett.

Mrs. Hamlett testified that her husband was nearly 70 years old, that he weighed around 122-25 pounds, and that his health had not been good in recent months. She said that her brother was around 43 years old and she judged that he weighed around 200 pounds or more.

Mrs. Hamlett said that when she found her husband had disappeared and learned that he had started to the home of Otha Salmon that she got her niece, Louise Rivers, to drive her towards the Salmon home. She said they overtook her husband on the way and that she begged him to get in the truck with her and her niece, but he refused.

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# ACPSignup Begins 14th

The initial signup period for the 1963 Agricultural Conservation Program in Warren County will begin on January 14 and will run through January 28, according to announcement made this week by the local ASCS Office.

T. E. Watson, office manager, said that farmers with conservation problems on their farms can be aided in their solution by the 1963 ACP program.

Watson, in listing the 1963 ACP practices approved for Warren County, asked that farmers look over the list "and if you think your conservation problem comes under one or more of the approved practices and you desire government cost-sharing to help solve it, you should visit the ASCS Office for more information.

The practices listed include:

- A-2—Permanent pasture or hay.
- A-3—Additional vegetative cover in crop rotation.
- A-4—Liming material on farmland.
- A-5—Contour stripcropping.
- A-7—Establishment of stand of trees on farmland for purposes other than wind or water erosion.
- B-7—Farm ponds as a means of protecting vegetative cover.
- B-10—Forest improvement.
- C-1—Sod waterway.
- C-4—Terracing.
- C-14—Farm ponds for irrigation water.
- D-1—Winter cover crops.
- D-2—Summer annual legumes.
- F-1—Field stripcropping.
- F-2—Land smoothing.
- G-1—Establishment of vegetative cover providing wildlife food plots and habitat.

# Local PTA To Meet On Tuesday Night

The Warrenton P. T. A. will meet on Tuesday evening at 8:00 p. m. Dr. Joseph Stroud of Raleigh will be the speaker. The topic to be discussed is "How To Teach Our Children Gracious Living." There will be an opportunity for parents and teachers to participate through a "Question and Answer Period."

# Norlina Ok's Bond Issue



Pictured above are the newly elected officers of the Warren County Farm Bureau (left to right): Erich E. Hecht, president; E. C. Robertson, secretary-treasurer; and Boyd M. Reams, vice president. Mr. Hecht reports their 1963 membership quota has been obtained and that some important activities are planned for the benefit of their members.

# Vote Is 213 In Favor Of

## Project Bonds

Norlina voters on Tuesday approved a \$163,000 bond issue for the running of sewer lines in the town and for the construction of a sewage disposal lagoon.

The vote was 213 in favor of the bond issue and 31 against the issue.

About 75 per cent of the town's eligible voters cast ballots.

Fears that a difference over the type of sewage disposal plan to be used proved to be without foundation, and it is believed that this issue had little effect on the vote.

Charges that the lagoon-type system of sewage disposal would be unsatisfactory had been raised by Alex Katzenstein of Greensboro and Charles Katzenstein of Chapel Hill, property owners of the town, in a newspaper article and in appeals to the town officials.

The charges were answered by Mayor Graham Grissom, who pointed out that the investigation of lagoons had been made by the board and that they had been approved by the County Health Department, the State Health Department, and the Streams Sanitary Commission. He said that a recent visit to Farmville had revealed that the system in that city had revealed no trouble in four years of operation and that the town was planning to add several more acres to the system.

The arguments were renewed by the Katzenstein Brothers and answered by Town officials at a mass meeting held at the high school gym on Thursday night of last week, when plans for the installation of the sewage system were explained and a question and answer period was held.

Mayor Grissom, who had prophesied the passage of the issue, said on Tuesday night that he was very much gratified by the overwhelming vote given the bond issue. He said that much detail work remains to be done before construction could be started but that he and other town officials were happy that Norlina was on the way to obtain a much needed facility.

# Property Valuation To Remain At 40 Per Cent Of Appraisal

The Warren County Board of Commissioners on Monday ordered that the tax valuations for 1963 be fixed at 40% of the appraised valuations as established by the Associated Surveys in 1960.

This was the same ratio used in determining property valuations for purpose of taxation last year.

After a quiet morning session when the commissioners found time for discussion of basketball and baseball players as they waited for business, the afternoon session was a full time affair lasting until 6 o'clock.

Principal reason for the long afternoon session was a discussion of awarding contractor for a new boiler at the Warren County Health Center. After opening of bids, three local contractors were called before the board for additional information. Appearing before the board Cliff Ellis, representing Warrenton Supply Company, J. B. Martin's Heating and Plumbing Company, and E. G. Hecht of E. G. Hecht and Sons of Norlina.

The awarding of the Contracting finally rested between Martin and Hecht and after much discussion of the heating problem at the Health Center, of long duration and affected by more than the boiler, the commissioners decided to announce their decision at a meeting scheduled to be held Thursday night when the board was to conduct a public hearing on the zoning of the Gaston Lake area.

Also consuming some time was a discussion of the cost of making repairs to the agricultural building. Appearing before the board were Walter S. Smiley, Chairman of the ASC committee, T. E. Watson, ASCS office manager, and FRANK W. Reams, county agent. Richard R. Davis had also served

# Support Deadline Is January 31

The deadline for obtaining price support on most 1962 crops grains and related crops will be January 31, W. S. Smiley, Chairman of the Warren ASC County Committee announced this week.

That is the official closing date for price support on barley, grain sorghum, oats, rye, soybeans, and wheat.

The loan rate and eligible standards for 1962 crop wheat in North Carolina is as follows:

Wheat: \$2.16 per bushel for No. 1. Premiums for higher quality; discounts for lower grades.

Accepts Position

Mrs. Earl King has accepted a position with the Record Printing Company.

Madame Robert Scott and Egnell Jones were visitors in Rocky Mount on Wednesday.

with this group as a committee for having repairs made at the agricultural building.

The gist of the report of the committee was that the cost of the repairs had run approximately \$1,000 higher than the \$2400 appropriated for this purpose by the board. The members said that after they had gotten into the project that repairs that had not been foreseen appeared. They said that they felt that these repairs could not have been deferred.

The board agreed, following the explanation in some detail, that repairs were best made at that time and agreed to find the money for the remainder of the bill. They did order deferred anticipated repairs to the upstairs of the building in the amount of some \$600 be deferred until after the end of the present fiscal year.

The Board ordered that Blaylock's Funeral Home be paid \$50.00 on the burial expense of Mrs. Nannie Moseley Gibson.

The following resolution

was passed by the board:

"Resolved, that the State Highway Commission be requested to investigate the advisability of improving the highway crossing over the S. A. L. Railway between Ridgeway and Norlina for the purpose of eliminating the existing hazardous condition."

A. P. Rodwell, Jr., Tax Collector, reported taxes collected to date of \$226,027.35. Of this amount \$37,585 was collected in December.

The bond of S. E. Allen, Register of Deeds, was received and ordered filed.

The State Highway Commission was requested to add to the County Road system that road known as "Ridgecrest Drive," being about 1.4 of a mile in length, located in the Country Meadows Development just east of Warrenton.

S. E. Allen, Register of Deeds, reported 87 marriage licenses issued for the quarter ending December 31, 1962, for which \$405.00 was turned into the General Fund.

# Woman Finds Drunken Driving Can Be Costly

Hazel Williams, in Recorder's Court last Friday, found that drunk driving can be expensive.

Judge Julius Banzet ordered that the defendant give up her driving license for one year and pay a total fine of \$150.00 plus court costs. The \$50.00 fine was levied after the woman had been convicted of hit and run driving, and the \$100 fine came as the result of conviction on a drunk driving charge. Judge Banzet said that provided the defendant meets the terms of the sentence prayer for judgment would be continued for one year.

Forace Silver was found guilty of driving after his license had been revoked, drunk driving and improper brakes. He was given a 60 days jail sentence, to be released in the custody of George W. Davis for purpose of work from 11 p. m. each Sunday night until 2 p. m. each Friday and pay costs.

James Edward Stegall was fined \$25.00 and court costs when he was found guilty of operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and with improper brakes.

Lancey Pittman, charged with escape from a road gang, was ordered to report to the criminal court in January.

Solomon Davis, charged with drunk driving and operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes, was fined \$100.00 and taxed with the cost of court.

Robert Lee Lessor, charged with failure to return from temporary parole, was ordered

to appear at the January term of criminal court.

John Thomas Spruill was in court on a larceny charge. Prayer for judgment was continued for one year upon condition that the defendant remain of good behavior for one year and pay court costs.

Willie Jiggetts was charged with operating a motor vehicle without an operator's license. He was found guilty of operating the vehicle without proper brakes and was taxed with court costs. He was found not guilty on the charge of having no operator's license.

James Allen Long was taxed with court costs when he was found guilty of failure to stop at a stop sign. He was found not guilty on a charge of operating a motor vehicle without an operator's license. Long was also charged with reckless driving. In this action prayer for judgment was continued for one year upon condition that the defendant pay a \$50.00 fine, pay to the Clerk of Superior Court \$63.00 for the use of Theo Howard to reimburse him for damage to his automobile, and pay the costs of court.

Defendants in speeding cases and the court verdicts were as follows: Bruce Hartwell Gatling, costs; Elery Farnell, costs; Robert L. Goodman, \$10.00 and costs; Jerry T. Sherrill, costs; Robert Lindsey Crabtree, \$15.00 and costs; Frederick S. Ross, \$10.00 and costs; Curtis Lee Gupton, costs; Jack James Tyrrell, costs; James Ellis Forts, costs.

# Jules Banzet Speaks At Auxiliary Meet

Jules Banzet was guest speaker at the regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 25, held in the home of Mrs. W. C. Bobbitt on Thursday evening.

Mr. Banzet, introduced by Mrs. Hal White, presented an interesting talk on State Legislation. His remarks were punctuated by numerous illustrations used in order to bring out the various points given. A question and answer period followed.

Mrs. A. A. Wood, president, presided over the meeting. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, and the prayer, the Preamble was recited by the members.

The regular business meeting was held and committee reports given. Poppies to be sold in May have been ordered. With 57 members paid to date, an attempt is being made to reach the quota set up by the State Department. Refreshments were served to the 20 members and two guests attending. Madames John Rodgers and A. D. Harris assisted in serving.

# COMMUNION SERVICES

Holy Communion will be observed at the Warrenton Baptist Church Sunday morning at the eleven o'clock worship hour.

The Warren County Ministerial Conference will meet Monday at 10:00 a. m. at the Littleton Baptist Church. An interesting program, a discussion of the church program at the Warren County Hospital will be on agenda.

# Criminal Term Of Superior Court Ends Thursday P. M.

The January criminal term of Warren County Superior Court, which convened here on Monday morning with Judge William Y. Bickett of Raleigh, presiding, adjourned around 4:30 on Thursday afternoon.

Principal case in both interest and length was that of State vs. Otha Salmon, charged with murder, which ended on Thursday morning after Salmon had entered a plea of involuntary manslaughter, for which he was sentenced from 12 to 14 years in the state penitentiary on Thursday afternoon.

Zollie Gupton, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, was sentenced to the roads for two years. The sentence was suspended for three years upon the condition that the defendant remain of good behavior, violate no laws for three years, pay a \$25.00 fine and court costs.

John Charles Reid, charged with prison escape, had 12 months added to all sentences imposed at the June, 1962, term of court.

Robert Lee Lessor, charged with failure to return from a temporary parole, had six months added to 2 1/2 sentences, to begin at expiration of sentence imposed at October, 1960, term of court.

Another escaper, Lancey Pittman, had six months added to the sentence imposed

at the April, 1961, term of court.

Lucile H. Daily was granted a divorce from James Dalley, and William Bryant Hendricks was granted a divorce from Ella S. Hendricks.

James Perry was sentenced to the roads for not less than three nor more than five years. He was found guilty on a breaking and entering charge.

The State took a nol proes with leave in the case of Eugene Carter Burroughs, charged with reckless driving and involuntary manslaughter.

Jesse Wimbrow, charged with five counts of breaking and entering and larceny, was sentenced to the roads for not less than seven nor more than ten years.

Osborne V. Palmer was found guilty of an assault on a female. A two years road sentence was suspended for three years upon condition that the defendant remain of good behavior for three years, not go around the home of his wife's mother without written consent of said mother, not to molest his wife in any way for three years, that he pay court costs and that his shotgun should be confiscated.

Isiah Hargrove was found guilty on charges of larceny of gas, two counts of breaking and entering, and larceny of tires. The judgment of

the court was that he be sentenced to the roads for not less than five years nor more than ten years, to run concurrently with other sentences.

Hargrove was also charged with two other counts of breaking and entering and larceny, and sentenced to the roads for not less than seven years nor more than ten years.

Abraham Williams was sentenced to the roads for six months when he was found guilty of possessing non-tax-paid whiskey.

The State took a nol proes with leave in the case of Osborne V. Palmer, charged with an assault with a deadly weapon.

James Madison Plummer was found guilty on a drunk driving charge. A six months road sentence was suspended for three years upon condition that he not operate a motor vehicle for two years and that he pay a \$100 fine and court costs.

Arthur Evans was found guilty of drunk driving. A four months road sentence was suspended upon condition that the defendant pay a \$100 fine and court costs before March 15.

Ivey Steve Clark, charged with speeding, was found not guilty.

Abraham Williams, was found guilty of possessing



CLAUDE HUNTER MOORE  
Moore To Speak Here On Sat., January 12

The Warren County Centennial Committee in Cooperation with the Warren County Chapter of the United Daughters of Confederacy will honor the memory of General Robert E. Lee, and General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson on Saturday, January 12, at 3:30 p. m. at the Episcopal Parish House.

Claude Hunter Moore, principal of Aurelian Springs School, and a noted historian and writer, will be guest speaker. Mr. Moore has traveled extensively abroad, and spent one summer in Alaska with Bishop Bill Gordon. Mr. Moore has a large collection of Confederate relics, and a number of articles which belonged to his great-grand uncle, Governor Thomas Moore of Alabama.

Also featured on the program will be selections of southern music and patriotic songs by Mrs. Leonard Daniel, William Reid will be presented with a World War II Cross of Military Service. The public is invited to attend.