

## Jury Upholds Validity Of Mattie Tucker Will

### Four Issues Are Decided

Efforts to break the will of the late Mrs. Mattie L. Tucker failed on last Friday when a Warren County jury in a civil term of Superior Court ruled in favor of the propounders.

Four issues were submitted to the jury. They ruled that the purported writing dated the 18th of February, 1963, was the last will and testament of Mrs. Tucker; that Mrs. Tucker had the mental capacity to make a will; that the will was produced by no undue influence; and that "the paper writing and every part and clause thereof," is the "last will and testament of Mattie L. Tucker.

The case in which five cousins of the 81-year-old Mrs. Tucker were seeking to have the court set aside the provisions of the contested will was docketed for trial last Wednesday.

Mrs. Tucker's cousins, none residents of Warren County, filed a protest on March 28, 1963, contending that the Tucker estate, of considerable value, was bequeathed to two Warren County women by reason of Mrs. Tucker's "old age, disease, and both mental and physical weakness and infirmity." Mrs. Tucker's will was signed on February 18, 1963, two weeks before her death.

In her will Mrs. Tucker said, "After the payment of my just debts, funeral expenses, costs of administration and inheritance tax, I give, devise and bequeath one-half (1/2) of my net estate, real and personal, to my friend, Mrs. Sadie Bolton Thompson, and the other one-half (1/2) to her daughter, Grace Thompson Young."

Following the jury verdict, Judge Hamilton Hobgood, presiding judge, ordered that:

"Now, therefore, on motion of Howard E. Manning and Banzet and Banzet, attorneys for the propounders, it is decreed by the court that the said paper writing and every part thereof is the last will and testament of the said Mattie L. Tucker, and it is, therefore, ordered that the original will be remitted to the Clerk of Superior Court of Warren County, with the transcript of the proceedings had in this court, to the end that the said will may be duly recorded and filed in said court, that further proceedings may be had thereon according to law.

"It is further ordered that the costs of this trial be taxed against the estate of Mattie L. Tucker to be paid by the personal representative."

Judge Hobgood further ordered that Howard E. Manning and Banzet and Banzet, attorneys for the propounders, be paid the sum of \$12,000 for their services; and that John Kerr, Jr., William W. Taylor, Jr., and Charles T. Johnson, attorneys for the caveators, be paid the sum of \$6,000 for their services. The attorney fees were ordered paid from the funds of the estate.

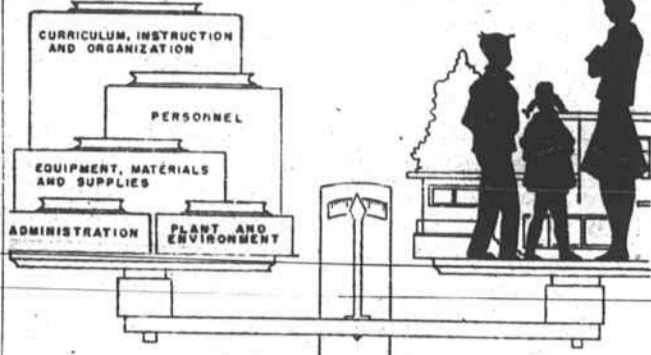
Contesting the will were John Morris Tucker of Durham, Mary Scott Craver of Yadkin County, and John Fryer Tucker, Betty Jean Tucker Morris, and Barbara Tucker Knight, all of Norfolk, Va.

## Warrenton Firms To Observe Holiday

A majority of Warrenton's stores will close in observance of Veterans' Day, November 11.

A. A. Wood, Warrenton merchant and a member of the local American Legion post, said Thursday that directors of the Warrenton Merchants Association had endorsed the store holiday.

## Third In A Series: Norlina High School



## Money Best Cure For Norlina Ailments

Norlina High School has undergone a thorough check-up by Warren County school officials in an effort to spot deficiencies which could mean a loss in accreditation for the Norlina school two years from now.

The report, released this week by Assistant School Supt. J. Comer Griffin, boiled down to a diagnosis common to both white and Negro high schools throughout the county. Norlina High School has few ailments which money couldn't cure.

Norlina is one of five schools being studied in an effort to learn where money must be spent, where improvements must be made, in order that the county's school system will suffer no loss of accreditation when the State Department of Public Instruction puts into effect higher accreditation standards in two years.

To date, school administration and organization in the county's schools have received a clean bill of health. However, in other areas, primarily physical facilities, various deficiencies have been uncovered. A glaring shortcoming in all schools has been the lack of a central library which would meet revised standards.

Such is the case at Norlina.



PROFESSOR NIXON

## College Speakers To Be Here Today For World Community Day

Observance of World Community Day here this afternoon will be featured by the appearance of two speakers from Louisburg College. They are Demetrios F. Nixon, professor of history, and Alicia Suarez, a student at the junior college.

Sponsored by the United Church women of the town, the service will be held at Wesley Memorial Church this afternoon at 3 p. m.

Prof. Nixon, a graduate of Charlotte Junior College, and the University of North Carolina, where he received his A.B. degree in Political Science, History and French, and his M.A. in Political Science and History, lived for 15 years in Greece and attended school there. He served in the U. S. Army in Germany and has traveled in Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland and Sweden.

where 497 high school and elementary children share 540 square feet of reading room floor space, where the number of books falls far short of new requirements and where there is a lack of recommended library personnel.

Among the new standards causing concern to school officials who must move to update Norlina High School are:—The school organization provides for a non-teaching principal in schools employing 15 or more teachers.

Mr. Reed, the Norlina principal, teaches two classes per day.

—The school organization provides for a full-time librarian when the enrollment is 351 to 1000, and a part-time librarian devoting at least one-third of the school day to library services is employed when the enrollment is 350 or less.

—Norlina has a teacher-librarian, with 10 semester hours of library science, devoting one hour per day to library services; however, the library serves both the high school and the elementary school with a combined enrollment of 497.

—The curriculum and instructional programs are in accord with the applicable State laws, State Board of Education regulations, State Department of Public Instruction recommendations, and the written policies of the county board of education.

The curriculum at Norlina does not provide instruction in Music, Industrial Arts or a four-year sequence of a foreign language. Norlina offers French I and II.

—The school has developed for each subject in its curriculum written course outlines in which objectives are stated; in which scope and sequence are clearly delineated; and in which available instructional equipment, materials and supporting services are listed.

Norlina does not have such a course outline for any subject at present; however, it (See SCHOOLS, page 4)

## Lions Are Praised For Help With Blind

Mrs. Margarette Stockey of Lenoir, field representative of the North Carolina Blind Association, was guest speaker at a meeting of the Warrenton Lions Club held at Hotel Warren Friday night.

Employed to aid the blind in the manufacture and sale of various items, Mrs. Stockey expressed appreciation to members of the local club for their aid in maintaining a display of blind-made articles during the Warren County Fair.

Mrs. Stockey was introduced by Lion Duke Miles. County Agent Frank W. Keams was the guest of Miles. Invocation was given by Lion J. Edward Rooker.

During the business session President Nat White called on club vice presidents for committee reports.

## Percentage Of Grads In College Dips

Warren County's percentage of white high school graduates entering college—listed as the third highest in the state in 1962—dropped slightly this year, a report issued this week by Superintendent of Schools J. R. Peeler has revealed.

While school officials reported a drop from 46.3 per cent to 42.8 per cent, they pointed out that more than half of the county's white 1963 graduates continued their education beyond the high school level.

Included in the latter grouping are those who entered college, business and trade schools, nursing and military service. Last year the percentage of Warren white graduates in this category was 68.4. This year the figure dipped to 64.8 per cent.

Eleven per cent of the 1963 graduates were reported employed in non-farm related jobs, while 3.3 per cent were employed either on the farm or in farm related jobs.

Some 20.9 per cent—all girls—were reported not working. A total of 8.8 per cent of these were married and were listed as housewives. The remainder were reported living at home.

Last year, according to a survey of 1962 high school graduates prepared by the State Department of Public Instruction, Warren County had 46.3 per cent of its white students entering college. The state average for the same year was 39.6 per cent. Last year the state average for graduates continuing their education stood at 56.2 per cent.

## County-Wide Farm Adult Classes Will Begin At Norlina

The first in a county-wide series of adult classes in agricultural education is slated to begin Monday night in the Norlina Agriculture Building.

Clint Hege, vocational agriculture teacher at Norlina High School, said a class in farm records and income tax would lead off the series. The first course—totalling 18 hours—will be taught each Monday night from Nov. 4 through Dec. 16.

Teaching the course in farm records and income tax will be Erich Hecht of Norlina, an agricultural economics graduate of N. C. State College. Classes will be two hours long.

Adult education courses for 1963-64 have been set up on a countywide basis and Warren residents may take courses at any of the three white high schools participating in the program.

"The Warren Board of Education and I feel that this program meets a real need of our patrons. It is our wish that all of our farmers in the county will avail themselves of the opportunity to participate," Supt. J. R. Peeler said.

In addition to the farm records and income tax course, three welding courses will be offered at Norlina early in 1963. At Littleton High School a farm records and income tax course and a tractor care and maintenance course will be given. A tobacco production course will be offered at Warrenton's John Graham High, and a beef-cattle production course will be offered—beginning Nov. 13—at the Inez Community Building.

## Training Meet Set For Scout Leaders

Boy Scout leaders from throughout the Oconeechee Council have been invited to attend the annual outdoor training course to be offered at Camp Durant this weekend. The course will begin at 8 p. m. Friday and by Sunday's 2 p. m. adjournment time, training will have been given in cooking, hiking, tenting, packing, seamanship and troop administration.

# Questioning Continues In Gilliland Slaying

## Attorney's Wife Held; Hearing Slated Today



BARBARA S. GILLILAND



JAMES D. GILLILAND

## Annual Christmas Parade To Be Held Here On Nov. 27

Warrenton's annual Christmas parade will be staged along the town's Main Street on Wednesday, Nov. 27.

W. K. Lanier, president of the Warrenton Merchants Association, said yesterday that the parade, ushering in the Christmas season here, would begin at 4 p. m.

Merchants have said that the parade, while reflecting the Yuletide motif, would be held to express appreciation of local merchants to their customers. Merchants also said they wished to avoid undue commercialization of the Christmas season and have labeled the parade an "Appreciation Parade."

In addition to floats prepared by some business firms, the Association has agreed to rent 10 professionally built floats. Negotiations to secure marching bands for the event were underway Thursday, Lanier said.

Santa Claus, as in years past, will be a center of attraction in this year's parade, and is expected to take his place in the line of floats aboard the town's fire truck.

The parade also will kick off Friday night store openings, beginning Nov. 29, and continuing until Christmas.

Law enforcement officers probing the slaying of Warrenton attorney James D. Gilliland questioned two unidentified persons and were searching for a third late Thursday on the eve of a hearing for Gilliland's German-born wife, held here on a charge of first-degree murder.

Sheriff Jim H. Hundley said that he had questioned two persons Thursday morning in an effort to gain additional information concerning the death of Gilliland, a 43-year-old Warrenton lawyer who was shot to death Monday night in a weathered, frame shack seven miles northeast of here. Names of those questioned were withheld. No details of the interrogations were given.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Barbara S. Gilliland has remained silent in the Warren County jail here as she faces a preliminary hearing Friday, Nov. 1, before Judge Julius E. Banzet in Warren County Recorder's Court. She was charged Tuesday afternoon with the murder of her husband, a controversial lawyer and businessman, who was pronounced dead on arrival at Warren General Hospital at 9:20 p. m. Monday. Gilliland had been brought to the hospital minutes before by his wife.

Since then, Mrs. Gilliland, the former Barbara Brigitte Striecks of Schildberg, Germany, has remained silent, many, has conferred only with attorneys Frank Banzet of Warrenton and Robert Cahoon of Greensboro.

Tuesday night, three persons, whose identities have not been revealed, were questioned at the Warren County Courthouse. Also present that night were Hundley, District Solicitor W. H. S. Burgwyn, Jr., of Woodland, Assistant District Solicitor Charles M. White, III, and counsel for Mrs. Gilliland.

Gilliland died from a single pistol bullet which lodged in his throat. An autopsy was performed in Chapel Hill on the day following his death and the bullet was removed. Hundley said that the bullet, fired from a .22 caliber weapon, had been turned over to the SBI for ballistic tests. No report on the bullet had been received by Hundley Thursday.

Shortly before midnight Monday Warren Deputy B. G. Stevenson located Gilliland's station-wagon in a densely wooded area near the community of Macon. Inside were a pair of gold-colored lady's slippers, and a quantity of whiskey.

A few feet away, in the three-room weather-beaten house owned by Gilliland, officers found a .22 caliber pistol believed to be the murder weapon. Stevenson said the gun had been fired three times.

In the once-abandoned house, located a half-mile from a paved road, officers found a trail of blood leading to a bedroom door where Gilliland was believed shot. Two gas heaters were in operation inside the house, and a kerosene lantern was burning in one room. Stevenson said a loaded .38 caliber revolver, owned by Gilliland, was found on a chest-of-drawers in the bedroom. Linwood Harton, an SBI agent assigned to the case Tuesday, said neither weapon bore fingerprints.

Sheriff Hundley said Gilliland was last seen alive shortly after 8 p. m. Monday at a service station which he owned here. In addition to the service station, Gilliland owned several local farms and had farming interests. His wife operated a drive-in ice cream stand and grill on the edge of Warrenton.

Gilliland also was a stockholder in three corporations. The oldest of these was the Green Land Company, of which Gilliland had been sole stockholder and which had been in existence for several years. The other two corporations were the Dagel Supply Company and the Mobile Feed Services.

Both of the latter were incorporated in October, 1960. Both were permitted by their charters to "carry on and conduct a general farm business;



Sheriff Jim H. Hundley, left, and Deputy B. G. Stevenson inspect the frame shack in which Warrenton attorney James D. Gilliland was slain Monday night. (Staff Photo)

to buy, sell and generally deal in any commercial, industrial or manufacturing enterprise incidental to or in aid of its business." Both listed as its incorporators James Daniel Gilliland and Alpheus O. Kearney and Wilhelmina W. Kearney, both of Rt. 2, Norlina.

The last recorded transaction of the Dagel Supply Co. was in July, 1963, when the corporation deeded a small tract of land from Dagel Supply Co. to Barbara S. Gilliland. The recorded deed lists Gilliland as secretary of the corporation, and Sam Dale as president. The president of the Green Land Company was listed as Dan Segal.

The frame house in which Gilliland was killed, along with "five or six acres" of land was owned by the Dagel Supply Co. Hundley said that authorities had not learned whether or not Gilliland left a will.

Gilliland, a divorcee, married his second wife in August, 1958. She had been a nurse here from November, 1954, until February, 1956, but was living in Winston-Salem at the time of their marriage. The couple were living in a mobile home near the Warrenton Country Club at the time of Gilliland's death.

Gilliland stirred protest in his hometown during the summer of 1956 when he defended alleged Communists in a Charlotte trial. Later that year he was charged with unethical practices by the North

(See GILLILAND, page 4)



At left is the weather-beaten house owned by Gilliland near the community of Macon. A portion of the whiskey, beer and chairs found in one of the three small rooms of the house are pictured as they were found Monday night. (Staff Photo)