

## Courthouse Is Adequate, Judge Thinks

Reversing the custom of the past 25 years, during which almost every presiding judge of superior court has remarked that Macon County needs a new courthouse, Judge Henry L. Stevens, Jr., this week commented that the present building would be adequate, if a little paint and linoleum were used.

The present building should be repaired and painted on the inside, he said, adding that of course the people should have

a new courthouse, if they want it and have the money.

In closing his charge to the grand jury, he also suggested that only court offices—those of the sheriff, clerk of court and register of deeds—should be housed in the building. By confining the building to court purposes, he said, he believed there would be room.

He said he had been informed that, structurally, the courthouse is one of the soundest buildings in Franklin, and asked if adjoining land were available for an addition, if needed. When the reply was in the negative, he suggested the building of a third story on the building, when necessary.

The total of sales of North Carolina's principal commercial truck crops in 1945 was estimated at \$17,372,000.

—Continued from Front Page

## Scrap Trial By Jury, Judge Stevens Urges

the people rid themselves of this "vanity", which he said is costing the people of North Carolina \$700,000 a year.

**Favors Amendment**  
The judge said he felt that the state constitution should be amended so that the grand jury would be nonexistent. For an emergency, such as a lynching or mob violence, he would give the resident judge authority to convene a grand jury when he deems necessary. He said that he would take the \$700,000 saved by the elimination of the grand juries and employ three

U. S. navy carrier pilots shot down 6,484 enemy planes in World War II, while U. S. losses were 452.

times as many judges for the court system. This would enable the state to eliminate trial by jury and, instead all cases would be tried before three judges sitting on the bench together. There would be a saving here of the time of 36 to 40 people (the members of the trial juries) and \$1,750,000 to the people of the State of North Carolina, if these juries were disposed of, according to the jurist.

**Would Save Time**  
Another factor in favor of such a system, he said, would be the time saved by elimination of judge's charges to the jury and lawyers' speeches to the jury. Judge Stevens said this would "hustle up the court by two-fifths".

The jurist, who has had nine years' experience on the superior court bench, added that if all cases were tried before three judges, "sitting in bank", law-

yers would not bring as many petty suits and cases into court, hoping to get a verdict in favor of their client, depending on a biased jury.

In closing he pointed out that England, from which the United States inherited its jury system, abolished the grand juries in 1933 and that the states of Maryland and Virginia do not use the jury system today.

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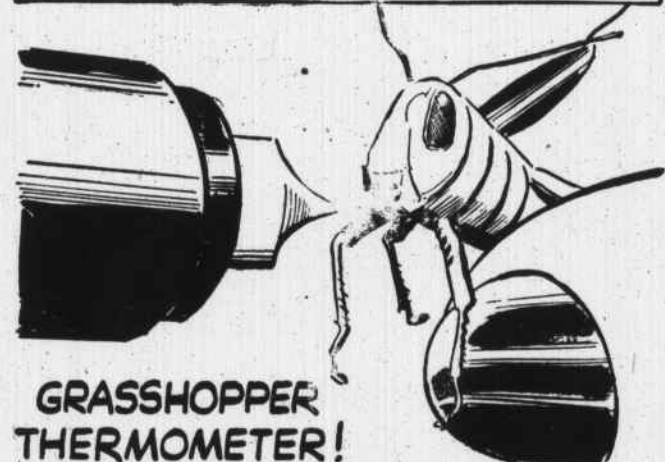
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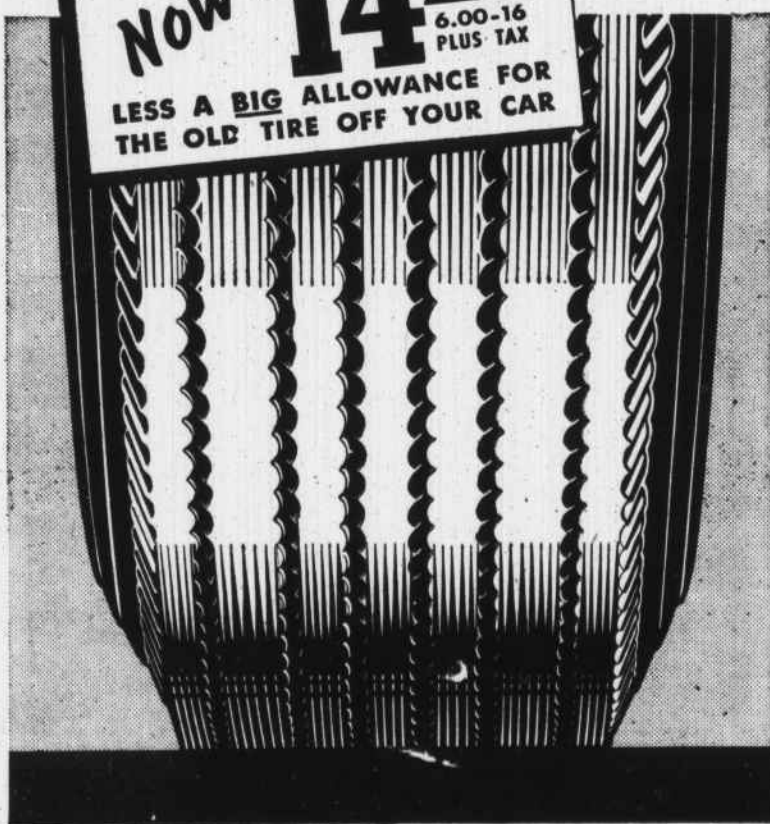
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