

SPECIAL MID-WEEK EDITION

THE ENTERPRISE

SPECIAL MID-WEEK EDITION

VOLUME XXVI—NUMBER 23—A

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, For Thursday Morning, May 7, 1925.

ESTABLISHED 1898

GURKIN TELLS HIS STORY OF CRIME Education Is Subject of Governor's Oak City Address

Puts Entire Responsibility For Crime On Dennis Griffin; Young Sparrow's Case Is Postponed on Account Illness

Only Complete Examination of Two Witnesses Wednesday Afternoon; Gurkin Claims That Dennis Griffin Performed Operation

After spending Wednesday morning in the selection of a jury, the special term of court called to try the alleged mob members got down to the cases proper at the afternoon session.

John Gurkin was the first witness called by the State, and his story puts the responsibility for leadership of the mob, as well as for the criminal operation performed on Joseph Needleman, on Dennis Griffin, Robersonville barber.

When court adjourned for the day, only one other witness besides Gurkin had been examined, and present indications are that the trial will consume the balance of the week, at least.

Court was convened promptly as the clock struck nine. The courthouse was so crowded that it took considerable time to make room for the attorneys and defendants.

The names of the 200 special veniremen were called and all answered except two. The State then called for trial Claro Heath and F. W. Sparrow, of Winston, E. C. Stone and Johnny Gurkin, of Griffins Township, and H. D. Griffin, Roy Gray, and Julian Bullock, of Robersonville. The solicitor announced the illness of F. W. Sparrow, Jr., and upon motion of his counsel his trial was continued temporarily.

The selection of a jury was then begun and the State passed the jury from the twelve regular jurors and eleven of the special veniremen, consuming only about an hour.

Defendants Have 26 Challenges After the State had been satisfied, each defendant, through his attorneys, began to call over the names and pass on them. F. W. Sparrow, sr., by his counsel, F. L. Sutton and G. W. Cooper, only consumed ten minutes, and used but one challenge with cause and two for cause.

A. R. Dunning, of counsel for Stone Gurkin, and Gray, passed the jury Stubs and Stubs then took the jurors in behalf of Dennis Griffin and Julian Bullock. They made several challenges without cause.

Critcher & Critcher and John Dawson passed the jury for Claro Heath. The court ruled that each defendant might have four peremptory challenges, which would make 28 for the defendants; and that the State should have two for each defendant, or 14 challenges. Neither side, however, exercised its full rights by setting aside as many as it was allowed.

The following jurors were chosen to pass on the fate of the defendants: H. B. Barber, of Jamesville; Jack Leggett, J. R. Harrison, S. H. Mobley, and J. D. Cherry, Williamston R. F. D.; Paul Edmondson, R. H. Salisbury, W. A. White, L. A. Fleming, and H. J. Haislip, of Hassell; C. D. Perkins of Hamilton; and W. S. White, of Williamston R. F. D.

Well-Known Weather Prophet Visitor Here

Mr. J. E. Monarch, who lived in Williams on several years ago, now a resident of Lynchburg, Va., has been in town this week exhibiting two strange animals, a ground hog and an armadillo.

The armadillo, a native of Mexico and northern South America, is a peculiar-looking animal, having neither hair nor hide, but is covered with shell from the end of his tail to the end of his nose, and being from two to three feet in length. It is said that the little animal can travel 20 miles an hour.

The ground hog is a native of North America, and is far famed as a weather prophet.

and other said to get the keys. Just before leaving Gurkin said he saw Claro Heath, who stayed with the crowd all the time. Albert Gurkin directed the crowd to the sheriff's home.

Sheriff Refused Keys About eight or ten cars were in the crowd which went to the sheriff's. They asked the sheriff to come out, and he answered that his wife was afraid and asked them to go away. He did not give them the keys.

John Grey Corey and J. H. Coltrain said to him, "Johnnie, go get those fellows and let's leave." He says he tried to get them to do so, but they would not. After leaving the sheriff's residence he followed the Buick, which went to the jail. There he saw Albert Gurkin, Henry Griffin, F. W. Sparrow, sr., F. W. Sparrow, jr., and Claro Heath. Gurkin claims he did not go to the jail and did not know what became of Smithwick at the jail. Eight or ten men came out with the prisoner and four men got in the Buick with him. The car, he thought, was driven by Sparrow, jr.

They went back to the church near the grave yard, and he, still accompanied by Smithwick and Stone, got out, and all of the occupants of the Buick got out except Claro Heath, who was sitting at the wheel when seen.

The two Sparrows, D. Griffin, and others that he did not know were holding Needleman in the road. Griffin Performed Operation Dennis Griffin looked up at him and asked him to perform the operation; to which he replied, "I can not." Dennis then said, "Damned, if I can't do it." He gave Needleman his choice of death or castration.

Needleman lay down, after taking out his handkerchief and spreading it on the ground under him. Griffin pulled down his outside clothing and then ripped his underclothing, took out his knife and performed the operation. Meanwhile the Sparrows were nearby. Gurkin says he was about 7 or 8 feet away. After the mutilation Griffin told Needleman that if he got on the stand and swore against an American girl, he was dead.

Gurkin testified that he left right then and picked up Smithwick about 45 yards up the road, getting home about 2:30 or 3 o'clock. He said that Smithwick had a gun.

The witness also said that Dennis Griffin had been to his home since the affair and asked him to deny all that he had told and get the others to do so, too.

This was the substance of John Gurkin's testimony. He has made a very complete confession to the solicitor since he first turned State's evidence. Cross-Examination Upon cross examination the witness held substantially to the same story he had made on direct examination. He stated that no one was masked at the church grove, but that later most of them put on masks of various kinds. He said he did not know how many were present at the grove, but that he heard some one say 23 or 24. He did not know whether that meant the number present or not, but supposed

Some suggested breaking the jail.

(Continued on page four)

F. W. Sparrow Jr., Very Much Better Tonight

F. W. Sparrow, jr., who is in the county jail awaiting trial, was acutely sick Tuesday night. The attending physicians thought it might be scarlet fever or diphtheria, but he was very much better Wednesday, and they have diagnosed his trouble as an acute attack of tonsillitis.

TOBACCO CO-OPS ELECTION MAY 9

Farmer Members Will Cast Ballots Saturday at County Seats in Three States

The election of directors for the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association for the season of 1925-26 begins next Saturday, May 9, when the tobacco cooperatives in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina cast their ballots for the delegates who are to name the association directors for the twenty-two districts in the three States.

The counting of the ballots will begin at noon of next Saturday in the courthouses of every important tobacco-producing county of the Carolina and Virginia, and all ballots must be in by noon of that day. The delegates who are elected at this meeting will gather in district meetings within the next few days to nominate the directors for their districts for the coming season, and members of the association from every county in the tobacco belt are being urged to attend the annual meeting at Raleigh on May 19 to confirm the nomination of the directors for the entire area.

There is much interest in the election, and the annual meeting of the tobacco growers cooperative association this year, and a large attendance is looked for when the members from three States will meet at Raleigh to discuss with the directors and general manager of the association the plans and policies for the coming season.

The tobacco association is already partially putting into effect the policy regarding directors that was recommended by the committee which it invited to investigate its affairs, and it has been known for some time that several heads of departments in the association have voluntarily declined reelection. It was pointed out by the investigation committee in connection with its criticism that "the highest percentage of deliveries has been made in the sections where directors are employed on a full-time basis."

Notwithstanding this fact, the withdrawal of heads of departments from the association's directing board marks a very definite step in a policy which the directors believe will work for the eventual good of the association.

The tobacco association has announced other changes in policy, and the practice since inviting the public officials of three States to make a frank criticism of its management and urging a full attendance by its members for further discussion of plans and policies at the annual meeting in Raleigh on May 19.

More than 50,000 members of the association live within a hundred miles of its headquarters at Raleigh, and with the present keen interest in the affairs of the association a record-breaking attendance at the annual session is looked for this month.

Mrs. Charlie A. Coltrain Dies in Robersonville

Mrs. Charlie A. Coltrain died at her home in Robersonville Monday morning at the age of 87 years. Old age may be said to have been the cause of her death.

Mrs. Coltrain was at one time a resident of Williamston, living here for several years.

The funeral was held at the Christian Church in Robersonville Tuesday and burial was made at the J. A. Roebuck farm in Cross Roads Township.

Shoppers Here Yesterday Messdames L. W. Gurkin, E. R. Jackson, Jerry Hayes, and Don Davis, of Plymouth, were shoppers here yesterday.

TOWN ELECTION QUIET AS USUAL

Women Voters Show Two Hundred Per Cent Increase in Number, Three Voting This Year

The town election yesterday was, "as per usual," very quiet. After the excitement of the convention of some weeks ago was over little attention has been turned to the election. There was a quiet whispering in the air several days ago that there would be an independent ticket brought out, but it never materialized, so there was only the ticket endorsed by the convention to vote on.

R. L. Coburn was elected mayor, and W. T. Meadows, C. O. Moore, G. H. Harrison, E. P. Cunningham, and C. B. Hassell were duly elected town commissioners.

Fifty-six votes were cast, a net gain of five votes over the election of 1923. The percentage of women voters increased 200 per cent at this election. In 1923 one lone vote was cast by a woman; yesterday three visited the polls and voted. This brings the percentage of increase of women voters this year over last quite a bit over that of the men.

J. S. Cook and T. W. Thomas were poll holders for the day.

Robbers Get \$5,000 From Sheriff Harris

Washington, May 4.—The office of James H. Harris, sheriff of Beaufort County, was entered and the safe robbed last night of \$5,000 in cash, including \$200 in gold, the latter the property of the sheriff's wife. The balance was tax money. There was no clue to the robbers.

It was discovered this morning that the looters used no explosives, but worked the combination of the safe.

Modern Woodmen Meet Held in Elizabeth City

Messrs. M. L. Tremain, of Winston-Salem, F. M. Brown, of Greensboro, R. S. Owens, of Lexington, and H. V. Rees, of Oakland, Calif. were in town this week en route to Elizabeth City, where they will attend the State council of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Tremain is State deputy, Messrs. Brown and Owens are district deputies and Mr. Rees is national deputy of the Modern Woodmen.

Mr. Rees stated that he found North Carolina ranks among the great States of the Union. In road building, schools, public building, and many other things it apparently outclasses any of the many States he has visited.

Benjamin S. Clark Dies in Chester, Va.

Mr. J. B. Clark, of Belhaven, passed through town Tuesday morning on his way to Chester, Va., to attend the funeral and be at the burial of his brother, Benjamin S. Clark, who died early Tuesday morning. He was buried at Petersburg on Wednesday, at 2 p. m.

Mr. Clark, for many years cashier of the Bank of Roper, became ill about four years ago and has since been an invalid. His wife, who was Miss Lee Roberson, of Martin County, survives him.

Elm City Physicians Visit Doctor Warren

Dr. W. E. Moore and Dr. S. Putney and wife, of Elm City, visited Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Warren here Tuesday.

Dr. Moore is not only a practicing physician—but is a real orator and stands high in the political councils of the State.

Dr. Rhodes Taken to Hospital

Dr. J. S. Rhodes was taken to the Washington Hospital yesterday afternoon and operated upon immediately after his arrival. The latest news from his bedside is that he is getting along very well. He was accompanied to Washington by Drs. D. T. Taylor, D. T. Taylor, jr., and J. H. Saunders.

Oak City High School Is Host To Many Distinguished Guests Gathered for Commencement

Highlights From Governors Talk

The following are a few high lights and observations from Governor McLean's address at Oak City Wednesday:

"I have plowed in new ground behind an ox; but the days of the ox cart are gone, and the days of good roads and automobiles have come."

"I was raised on a farm and raised to work; I am proud of it."

"True education consists in experimental as well as academic learning."

"No man can be a successful farmer without keeping books. It is necessary to know the cost of production; the cost of marketing before you can tell whether you have a profit or loss."

"Every county needs a farm demonstrator."

"My grandfather was one of the kind who believed in education for the doctor, the lawyer, the preacher, but not for the farmer. He provided for the education of three of his sons whom he believed would enter the professional life, but the fourth, Allen, who was to be a farmer, he said needed no education. But the farmer needs education in order to take advantage of the best in order to learn to produce a crop at the least expense and to market that crop to the best advantage; in order to use the latest and best modern methods of farming."

"I want to see a broadcasting station at the State college in Raleigh, and a receiving set in every rural schoolhouse in North Carolina. Let the people hear over the radio the best lectures and instructions from the department of agriculture; economic from the department of revenue."

Chief Justice of the State of Iowa, the Hon. F. F. Faville, in comparing North Carolina and Iowa, said:

"North Carolina has 100 counties and Iowa has practically the same. We have 99."

"North Carolina has two and a half million people; so has Iowa."

"North Carolina has its problems in rural life and so has Iowa. North Carolina has a wonderful system of hard-surface roads and—Iowa hopes to have some day."

Will Not Serve Meals At Shrine Ceremonial

(Special to The Enterprise) Wilson, May 6.—The Wilson Shrine Club wants to inform its Nobles of Sudan Temple that the noonday luncheon, also the banquet, has been cut out, and that no meals will be served at the spring ceremonial to be held in Wilson May 20th.

In accordance with what they believed to be the views of the Divan, the Wilson Shrine Club extended the invitation for this year's ceremonial with the understanding that the noonday meal would be eliminated as part of the official program.

The membership of Sudan Temple has increased to such proportions that the expense in connection with the banquet has become so great that the Divan of Sudan Temple decided to eliminate the banquet in the future as a part of the official programs of Shrine Ceremonials.

The Wilson Shrine Club has engaged the Woman's Club and other organizations of Wilson to prepare and serve food at a nominal cost, in order to take care of the visiting Nobles and their friends. The hotels and restaurants of the city will also open their doors and take care of as many as possible.

(All papers within jurisdiction of Sudan Temple please publish.)

Chief Justice Faville, of Iowa, Also Present and Makes Short Address

The graduating exercises of the Oak City High School yesterday morning were the most auspicious ever held in the progressive town of Oak City. It is indeed rare that such a gathering of notables take an active part in the graduating exercises of a high school.

While a procession was being played by the Tarboro orchestra Governor A. W. McLean, the graduating class, Hon. R. O. Everett, Rev. C. O. Pardo, Supt. R. A. Pope, Judge F. F. Faville, of Iowa, and Col. Benham Cameron entered the auditorium and took their places on the stage.

The invocation was made by Rev. Mr. Pardo, preceding a chorus by the members of the senior class. Then Professor H. M. Ainsley, superintendent of the Oak City schools, introduced Hon. R. O. Everett, a Martin County and Oak City citizen originally, who is considered one of the leading citizens of the State, and who is now living in Durham.

His very pleasing and grand address impressed the governor, who, in his opinion, was a model of a man who saved the State from financial and educational backwardness, saying that in the same way Governor McLean would regulate and increase efficiency in our State government by insuring sound business principles in its operation and save the great Commonwealth from financial destruction. Continuing he said that the wisdom of the people was shown when they made A. W. McLean a leading business man of the State, their governor. "He is a national figure attaining prominence as head of the War Finance Board, his work in this capacity having been the salvation of the country."

The governor in a few words, which rang with sincerity, expressed his pleasure at being present. As he had promised, he outlined a practical plan, having previously said that he would not make any formal address.

Education broader than academic training was the basis of his remarks.

"Education, the word with so many different meanings, is a development of all the faculties so that they may be of use to the individual and to the State. God has provided other means of education other than book learning. The three R's are no more. In fact, one of the most essential phases of education, the necessity for training in citizenship, is almost overlooked. Like training should be given all the people, equal opportunities presented all children, which would give the rural districts better schools."

Healthy Living Important "Another phase of education which should be of vital importance," he said, "is training in principles of healthy living. Healthy men and women make the best citizens."

Industrial training was a third phase of education which he mentioned. "Power to capitalize our material resources brings prosperity and advantages. Our good roads are a result of this educational crusade made by Ayeock. Agriculture is the foundation stone for development in our section of the State, and it has not been so prosperous as it should have been. The remedy is agricultural education."

Need Good Marketing System The Governor stressed the need of a marketing system by saying that "if the farmers and producers had a good marketing system, they would get results. As it is, the producer averages getting only 33 per cent of the dollar that his produce sells for. Another mark of inefficiency is inability to produce at a minimum cost. Farmers must be educated. Old methods are gone. We must adopt modern methods. The days of the ox cart are gone. Slipshod methods are gone. The farmers must understand business methods or they are lost. This is one of the prime needs of the State today and education through the

(Continued on page four)

Strand Theatre TONIGHT Ramon Navarro and Alice Terry in 'THE ARAB' One of the most entertaining pictures to be presented Show Starts 8 P. M. Special Music 25c and 50c