SPECIAL MID-WEEK THE BUTTERPRISE

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

After the jury was completed and

Afternoon Session

convened it was impossible to begin

proceedings until a part of the crowd

had been cleared out of the court room

by rder of Judge Sinclair, who insist-

by order of Judge Sinclair, who insist-

hosts which thronged the court hall.

Solicitor Gilliam made the direct ex-

Griffin, the sister of Miss Effie Griffin,

According to his story, on Friday

came to his home late in the after-

noon and told him to come to Griffin's

barber shop in Robersonville that

Plans Made Friday Night

At this meeting plans were made to

Gurkin said he then went to Kin-

ston, accompanied by his brother

Clarence. They told him to get all the

crowd he could and come 'o this coun-

at Skewarkee. His father, F. W.

would be a bad night for him to get

That night, Gurkin says, he went to

car. He was accompanied by Elder

Clarence Gurkin, Alfred Griffin, V. il-

son Griffin, Hubert Griffin, Allen Grif-

fin, J. H. Coltrain, Ben Lilley, John

G. Corey, Tom Lilley, also F. W. Spar-

row, jr., F. W. Sparrow, sr., Claro

Heath, and Dennis Griffin, and some

Young Sparrow introduced his father to Elder Stone and John A.

Griffin, and after a few minutes con-

sultation, Dennis Griffin lined the men

Someone told D. Griffin to give or

ders and he would see that they were carried out. Wilson Griffin at this

reup J. H. Coltrain said, "John Grey, let's go." A voice replied to this, "No one leave, or he'll get hurt."

ne said that they all ought go he

After taking off the car liences Gur-

To which Gurkin says he answer-

others whom he did not recognize. Griffin Takes Leadership

now Mrs. F. W. Sparrow, jr.

Yesterday afternoon when court

sworn court recessed until 2.30.

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 dillo. cases proper at the afternoon session.

John Gurkin was the first witness called by the culiar-looking animal, having neither 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 consider able 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 Kinston, E. C. Stone and Johnny Gurkin, of Griffins Township, and H. D. Griffin, Roy Gray, and Julies Indlock, of Robersonville. The soliciter announced the illness of F. W. Sparrow, ir., and upon motion of his court sel his trial was continued temporar

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

Defendants Have 28 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. I. Sutton and G. W. Cooper, only consumed ten minutes, and used but one challenge with cause and two

A. R. Dunning, of counsel for Stone Gurkin, and Gray, passed the jury ors in behalf of Dennis Griffin and of this place, and they had a conver-Julian Bullock. They made severat challenges without cause.

Critcher & Critcher and John Dawson passed the jury for Claro Heath. The court had 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, how-ever, exercised its full rights by setting aside as many as it was allowed.

The following jurors were cho 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. Sals-bury, W. A. White, L 3. Pleming and H. J. Haislip, of Hassell; C. D. Perkins of Hamilton; and W. S. White, of Williamston R. F. D.

> Strand Theatre TONIGHT

> Ramon Navarro and Alice Terry in

"THE ARAB"

One of the most entertaining pic tures to be presented Show Starts 8 P. M. Special Music

50c

Well-Known Weather **Prophet Visitor Here**

Mr. J. E. Monarch, who lived in Wiliams 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 arma

The armadillo, a native of Mexico and northern South America, is a pe 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

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 States. before leaving Gurkin said he saw Claro Heath, who stayed with the

Sheriff Refused Keys

the crowd which went to the sheriff's. They asked the sheriff to come out, and he answered that his wife was With everyone standing court was afraid and asked them to go away. He did not give them the keys. recally opened and John Gurkin was

formally enemed and John Gurkin was John Grey Corey and J. H. Coltrain said to him, "Johnnie, go get those fellows and let's leave." He says he amination. He testified that he was 26 years old, and married to Chloe tried to get them to do so, but fhey 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. before the mob took Needleman out of jail Elder Stone and Dennis Griffin 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 night. He, with Mr. Stone, went as planned, and besides himself, Griffin the prisoner and four men got in the and Stone, six or eight others were 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 accom-

sation in which they decided to let plans. At this time some one asked ing Needleman in the road. if Sparrow was a member of the Ku

Griffin Performed Operation

Dennis Griffin looked up at him and of death or castration.

Needleman lay down, after taking Sparrow, sr., said that Saturday night Skewarkee at 12.30 and drove his own eration. Meanwhile the Sparrows were members for further discussion 7 or 8 feet away. After the mutila-tion Griffin told Needleman that if he More than 50,000 members ing among whom were Albert Gurkin, an American girl, he was dead.

about 2.30 or 8 o'clock. He said that session is looked for this month. Smithwick had a gun. The witness also said that Dennis

affair and asked him to deny all that he had told and get the others to do up, and there were around 25 in the so, too.

kin'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 at the church grove, but that later most of them put on masks of various

Prior to going, however, it was discussed as to what to do to Needleman. Some said to kill him and them said to mutilate him. Dennis Grims suggested taking him to the river, killing him, and throwing him did not know whether that meant the number present or not, but supposed

F. W. Sparrow Jr., Very TOWN ELECTION 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 diptheria, but he was very much better Wednesday, and they have diagnosed his trouble as an acute attack of tonsilitis.

TOBACCO CO-OPS **ELECTION MAY 9**

Farmer Members Will Cast Ballot 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 from the twenty-wo districts in the three

The counting of the battots will begin at noon of next Saturday in the that of the men. crowd all the time. Albert Gurkin courthouses of every important todirected the crowd to the sheriff's bacco-producing county of the Carolinas and Virginia, and all ballots must be in by noon of that day. The dele About eight or ten cars were in gates who are elected at this meeting Robbers Get \$5,000 will gather in district meetings within the next few days to nominate the directors from their districts for the coming season, and members of the association from every county in the tothe directors from the entire area.

There is much interest in the elec tion, and the annual meeting of the no clue to the robbers. tobacco growers cooperative association this year, and a large attendance the looters used no explosives, but is looked for when the members from worked the combination of the safe. three States will meet at Raleigh to discuss with the directors and general manager of the association the plans Modern Woodmen Meet and policies for the coming season.

The tobacco association is already partially putting into effect the policy regarding directors that was recom- Salem, F. M. Brown, of Greensboro, mended by the committee which it inmended by the committee which it in-vited to inivestigate its affairs, and Rees, of Oakland, Calif. were in town do something to Needleman, but rain panied by Smithwick and Stone, got it has been known for some time that this week en route to Elizabeth City, and instructions from the department of the sexual heads of of the sexual h kept them home that night. The next out, and all of the occupants of the day he met D. Griffin and Tom Lilley Buick got out except Claro Heath, association have voluntarily declined council of the Modern Woodmen of who was sitting at the wheel when reelection. It was pointed out by the America. investigation committee in connection The two Sparrows, D. Griffin, and with its criticism that "the highest Messrs. Brown and Owens are district sation in which they decided to let young Sparrow know about their others that he did not know were holdmade in the sections where directors are employed on a full-fime basis. Notwithstanding this fact, the with-drawal of heads of departments from the association? Dennis Griffin looked up at him and drawal of heads of departments from great States of the Union. In road asked him to perform the operation; the association's directing board building, schools, public building, and nis then said, "Damned, if I can't do cy which the directors believe will many other things it apparently outto which he replied, "I can not." Den- marks a very definite step in a polity that night and meet them at 12.30 it." He gave Needleman his choice work for the eventual good of the visited. association.

The tobacco association has an out his handkerchief and spreading it nounced other changes in policy, and Benjamin S. Clark on the ground under him. Griffin the practice since inviting the public pulled down his outside clothing and officials of three States to make a then ripped his underclothing, took frank criticism of its management and out his knife and performed the op- is urging a full attendance by its

got on the stand and swore against association live within a hundred early Tuesday morning. He was buried Sudan Temple that the monday luncil phase of education which he menmiles of its headquarters at Raleigh, at Petersburg on Wednesday, at 2 Gurkin testified that he left right and with the present keen interest in p. m. then and picked up Smithwick about the affairs of the association a record-45 yards up the road, getting home breaking attendance at the annual of the Bank of Roper, became ill about Wilson May 20th.

Griffin had been to his home since the Mrs. Charlie A. Coltrain him. Dies in Robersonville

Mrs. Charlie A. Coltrain died at her nome in Robersonville Monday morn ing 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 Dr. Moore is not only a practicing for several years.

The funeral was held at the Christlan Church in Robersonville Tuesday of the State. and burial was made at the J. A. Roebuck farm in Cross Road: Town-

Shoppers Here Yesterday Jackson, Jerry Hayes, and Don Davis, alongevery well. He was accompanied possible. of Plymouth, were shoppers here yes- to Washington by Brs. D. T. Tayloe,

QUIET AS USUAL

Women Vo.ers 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 indorsed by the convention to vote on.

R. L. Cobrun 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 in creased 200 per cent at this election. In 1923 one lone vote was cast by polls and voted. This brings the percentage of inicrease of women voters this year over last quite a bit over

poll holders for the day.

From Sheriff Harris

Washington, May 4.-The office of lames H. Harris, sheriff of Beaufort bacco belt are being urged to attend County, was entered and the safe robthe annual meeting at Raleigh on bed last night of \$5,000 in cash, in May 19 to confirm the nomination of cluding \$200 in gold, the latter the property of the sheriff's wife. The balance was tax money. There was

It was discovered this morning that

Held in Elizabeth City

Messrs. M. L. Tremain, of Winston-

Dies in Chester, Va.

Mr. J. B. Clark, of Belhaven, passed of through town Tuesday morning arrived there he found a crowd wait. nearby. Gurkin says he was about plans and policies at the annual meet. his way to Chester, Va., to attend the funeral and be at the burial of his More than 50,000 members of the brother, Benjamin S. Clark, who died

> Mr. Clark, for many years cashier four years ago and has since been an

Elm City Physicians Visit Doctor Warren

stands high in the political councils Dr. Rhodes Taken to Hospital Dr. J. S. Rhodes was taken to the serve food at a nominal cost, in order modern methods. The days of the ox Washington Hospital yesterday after to take care of the visiting Nobles and cart are gone. Slip-shod methods are

D. T. Tayloe, jr., and J. H. Saunders. Sudan Temple please publish.)

Oak Ctiy 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 good roads and automobiles

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

have come "

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

farmer without keeping books. It is necessary to know the cost of production; the cost of marketing bef re you can tell whether you have a profit or loss.

"Every county eneeds a farm demonstrator."

"My grandfather was one of the the doctor, the lawyer; the preach er, but not for the farmer. He provided for the education of three of his sons whom he be lieved would enter the profes sional life, but the fourth, Allen who was to be a farmer, he said needed no education. But un farmer needs education in order to take advantage of the best crop at the least expense and to market that crop to the best ad vantage; in order to use the lat est and best modern methods of

"I wan 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 ment of agriculture; economics from the department of revenue

Chief Justice of the Safe lowa, the Hon, F. F. Faville, in comparing North Carolina and

"North Carolina has 100 coun ties 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 -lowa hopes to have some day.

Will Not Serve Meals At Shrine Ceremonial

(Special to The Enterprise)

Wilson, May 6 .- The Walson Shrine the best citizens." Club wants to inform all Nobles of Industrial training was a third eon, also the banquet, has been cut tioned. Power to capitalize our maout, and that no meals will be served terial resources brings prosperity and at the spring ceremonial to be held in advantages. Our good roads are a

invalid. His wife, who was Miss Lee lieved to be the views of the Divan, foundation stone for development in Roberson, of Martin County, survives the Wilson Shrine Club extended the our section of the State, and it has invitation for this year's ceremonial not been so prosperous as it should with the understanding that the noon- have been. The remedy is agriculday meal would be elimina ed as part tural education. of the official program.

Dr. W. E. Moore and Dr. S. Putney the expense in connection with the "if the farmers and producers had a and wife, of Elm City, visited Dr. and banquet has become so great that the good marketing system, they would Mrs. W. E. Warren here Tuesday. Divan of Sudan Temple decided to get resul s. As it is, the producer Dr. Moore is not only a practicing eliminate the banque in the future as averages getting only 33 per cent of physician but is a real orator and a part of the official programs of the dollar that his produce sells for. Shrine Ceremonials.

ed the Woman's Club and other organizations of Wilson to prepare and methods are gone. We must adopt noon and operated upon immediately their friends. The hotels and restaur- gone. The farmers must understand after his arrival. The latest news arts of the city will also open their business methods or they are lost Mesdames L. W. Gurkin, E. R. from his bedside is that he is getting doors and take care of as many as This is one of the prime needs of the

(All papers within jurisdiction of

Chief Justice Faville, of lowa, Also Present and

Makes Short Address

The graduating exercises of the Oak Ly High School yesterday morning vere me most auspicious ever held the progressive town of Oak City ox cart are gone, and the days of ing of notables take an active part in the graduating exercises of a high

played by the Tarboro cichestra Govfnor A. W McLean, the graduating lass, Hon. R. O. Everett, Rev. C. O. Pardo, Supt. K. A. Pope, Judge F. F. Faville, of Iowa, and Col Beneham 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, superint inlent of the Oak City schools, n County and Oak City citizen origially, who is considered one of the leading citzens of the Stale, and who now living in Durham

overnor sickean would regulate and

inciples in as operation and savo great commonwealth from finanin destruction. Continuing he said when they made A. W. McLean Lading business man of the State, her governor. "He is a national figrea attaining prominence as head of War Fmance Board, his work in capacity having been the salvan of the country. The governor in a few words, which

with sincerity, expressed his issure at being present. As he had ould not make any formal address. falucation broader than academic ning was the basis of his remarks. Education, the word with so many lifferent meanings, is a development of all the faculties so that they may by of use to the individual and to the Stare God has provided other means f education other than book learn-

The three R's are no more. In fact, one of the most essential phases of education, the necessity for trainng in citizenship, is almost overlooked. Like training should be given alt the people, equal opportunities preented 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

result of the educational crusade In accordance with what they be made by Aycock. Agriculture is the

Need Good Marketing System The membership of Sudan Temples The Governor stressed the need of has increased to such proportions that a marketing system by saying that Another mark of inefficient is ina-The Wilson Shrine Club has engag- bility to produce at a minimum cost. "Farmers must be educated. Old

> State today and education through the (Continued on page four)