

MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT BEGAN MONDAY

Judge W. A. Devin Makes Favorable Impression in Charge to Jury

EXPEDITES BUSINESS

Judge Is Stickler for Promptness and Dispatch; Defines Crimes Carrying Death Penalty

Excepting the marked interest shown in the proceedings and the gross summons of witnesses for the grand jury yelled by Mr. Henry Taylor, officer of that body, the term of court opening here yesterday offered a striking contrast when compared with those held forty years ago when the horse-drawn vehicles, and even the lowly and forgotten steer carts, were the only means of transportation for court attendants. Yesterday, cars were parked side by side and end to end for blocks, pushing from the scene the types of vehicles once so popular. The cakestand on the corner, once as sure to be there as the court was to be held, was missing; not one wallet was seen on the back of a person, the courthouse as an exchange center, having lost the prestige so common in the years gone by.

Judge W. A. Devin, one of the State's ablest jurists, precise, clean-cut, and a man who would in all likelihood command a universal respect even without his judicial cloth, opened the court quietly, firmly outlining his general rules of procedure which he summed up in the words, "promptness" and "dispatch." He ordered the court opened at 9:30 this morning, stating to the witnesses, court officers, jurors and lawyers that they would be expected at the appointed time.

In his charge to the jury, Judge Devin briefly outlined the general duties of the members and the proper procedure in inquiring into cases, pointing out the sacredness of their oaths, and warning them to guard their proceedings.

Defining the crimes carrying the death penalty, the jurist, unlike many of the modern thinkers, expressed the opinion that we must continue the penalty, especially in those cases where charges of murder or rape are established. So far as arson and burglary, the two other crimes carrying the death penalty, are concerned, the judge stated that the punishment might be modified.

Although the statute is a very new one, Judge Devin described the automobile law as one of the most useful on the books. He discussed briefly the liquor laws, pointing out the need of their enforcement that the innocent and weak might be protected.

Instructing the jury to make an official inspection of all public offices and public buildings where prisoners and the poor are kept, the judge turned to the trial docket.

Ambers To Reopen in New Quarters Tomorrow

Moving into modern quarters in the new Station building on Main Street here last week, the Ambers' cleaning and pressing establishment has completed the installation of its machinery and by tomorrow, Mr. Ambers states, he will be better prepared than ever to care for his large number of patrons. With ample room, the cleaning and pressing works will, no doubt, witness an increase in business. The shop's arrangement was carefully planned and provided for in the building plans, and the firm enters its new home assuring its patrons a modern and expert service.

In addition to the cleaning and pressing works, a spacious room has been prepared where Mr. Ambers will continue his general cigar, candy, and fountain business. The several departments are adequately stocked and fitted to offer a prompt and reliable service.

WATTS
THEATRE
Wednesday September 18
WM. S. HART
in
"The Testing Block"
Also Comedy and Serial
Thursday-Friday Sept. 19-20
"The BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY"
with Lily Damita, Ernest Torrence, Raquel Torres
Also NEWS and COMEDY
MUSIC BY PHOTONE

Large Offerings of Tips on Local Market This Week

The marketing of tips on the local warehouse floors here so far this week has been very noticeable, the farmers holding their better grades, or those who are so fortunate as to have any in that class, waiting for a change. With a large part of the breaks made up of tips, the average price paid on the local market continues around the 13-cent mark, several stating that the average would go beyond the 14-cent point were it not for the large offerings of tips.

Yesterday, the 96,000 pounds on the floors here sold for an average price of \$12.94, the break today being several thousand pounds larger with no appreciable change in the price. The floors here today are carrying much of the common tobacco, the better grades probably showing a little more strength as to price.

There are approximately 115,000 pounds of the leaf on the floors today, according to reliable estimates.

NEGRO MAN IS SHOT BY WOMAN

Martha Farmer Jailed for Shooting of Richmond Johnson Friday

With little cause assigned for the act, Martha Farmer, colored, shot down Richmond Johnson, also colored, at the home of Fannie Ruffin on West Main Street here late last Friday night. Johnson was shot at close range, the ball, fired from a 38-caliber pistol entering the right thigh and fracturing the bone.

Johnson, treated by a local physician soon after the shooting, was later removed to a Rocky Mount hospital where he is said to be recovering. The Farmer woman was arrested by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and Night Policeman Allsbrooks at the home of Hyman Woolard's, eight miles out on the Washington road, shortly after the shooting. It was stated that she left the Fannie Ruffin home with Ezekiah Keel, that he left her at the Woolard home until he could exchange cars. She was placed in the local jail, officers scheduling the trial for the first Tuesday in October before Judge J. W. Bailey in the recorder's court. Keel has not been arrested in connection with the case at this time.

The negress, according to court records, was arrested by prohibition agents between here and Jamesville last June when she was riding with Willie Whitfield and Willie Williams, colored run runners of Rocky Mount. She was held in the jail for a short while but was later released by the U. S. commissioner here. Since that time, it is understood that she has been spending much of her time at the Fannie Ruffin home, said by many to be of ill repute.

While no hearing has been held in the case, witnesses questioned by Sheriff Roebuck following the shooting, stated that Johnson went to the Ruffin home and entered the room where the Farmer woman and several other people were. Johnson is said to have opened the door and inquired as to who was in the room. Martha Farmer, according to an eye-witness apparently of direct white parentage, told the man it was none of his business and fired without warning. Shot down, Johnson was forbidden to get up by the Farmer woman.

Bond is being withheld in the case, pending the outcome of the wounded man's condition, it was stated by officers.

TEACHERS MEET HERE SATURDAY

Is First Meeting of Present School Year; 75 Expected To Be Present

The teachers of the Martin County schools will hold their first meeting for the 1929-30 term here next Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the new high school building, it was officially announced in the office of the county superintendent this morning. Although all the schools are not open at this time, Superintendent R. A. Pope stated that more than 75 teachers are expected at the meeting.

No definite schedule of procedure to be followed in the meetings this year was given, but it is understood that the general program common in the past will again be in force at the regular monthly sessions this term. Following the assembly, reading circle work will be outlined and leaders appointed, it was stated.

16 Attend District Meet of Woodmen at Wilson

Sixteen members representing the Everetts Modern Woodmen Camp attended the district meeting of that organization at Wilson yesterday and took part in the program. According to a report of the meeting, a large number of candidates were initiated at the session last night, following a large dinner served the 300 Woodmen. The large number of members representing the Everetts camp indicates an unusual interest in the organization's activities.

WITNESSES ARE PLACED IN JAIL

Three Men Jailed for Failing to be in Court Room When Called

Failing to answer to their names in court here yesterday, James Reddick, of Jamesville; Haywood Myrick, of Poplar Point; and Arthur Morgan, of Goose Nest; were found and placed in jail so that they could be had when summoned a second time. Judge W. A. Devin, the presiding officer, sent out the warning soon after court convened to all witnesses to be on hand so that the court would not be delayed, and while the courtroom was packed by witnesses and spectators all during the day, the three men took a few minutes off, taking them off at the wrong time, however.

After the judge's warning had circulated through the courthouse grounds and it was learned that the jurist meant what he said, the witnesses packed the court auditorium to such an extent that many of the spectators soon left for a cooler and purer air.

BOY NARROWLY ESCAPES DEATH

Four-Year-Old Boy Runs Directly in Path of Automobile

James Harrell Rogers, the four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Javan Rogers, of Bear Grass, miraculously escaped serious injury or even death this morning when he attempted to cross Washington Street in front of an approaching car, driven by Mr. J. E. Hedrick, of Jamesville. The little fellow crawled from a truck where he was left alone and started across the road with the Hedrick car hardly five feet away. The Hedrick car, a Dodge sedan, was running around 12 miles an hour and was stopped before the wheels reached the child. The bumper, knocking the child down, bruised the boy's leg and his ear was reddened when his head hit the pavement. The injuries were minor, the strong brakes on the car apparently saving the child from serious injury and probable death.

Wilmer Brown, the driver of the truck, stated that he instructed the boy to remain in the machine while he was to be waited on in a barber shop. Becoming lonely, the child crawled from the truck and started to join Brown across the street when he was struck by the approaching car.

Mr. Hedrick, because he had not crushed the life out of the child, went with joy when he stated that children should be warned against dashing into the highways and that their caretakers should be more careful.

SCHOOL OPENS AT BEAR GRASS

215 Enrolled First Day; Begin 8-Months Session for First Time

Beginning an eight-months term for the first time, the Bear Grass school yesterday morning broke all enrollment records when 215 children registered in the elementary and high school departments for work during the year. An informal exercise marked the school's opening, several of the officials making brief talks, and the principal announcing the tentative schedule to be adhered to during the coming months.

Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, local Presbyterian minister, led the devotional exercise, Principal S. E. Lee making the necessary announcements and addressing briefly the children and parents, played the role of the school head upon such an occasion. Mr. A. B. Ayers, a member of the school's committee, outlined, in an interesting way, the progress and history of the school. He told of the one-room school, but dealt, in his talk, mainly with the recent change in the school term's duration. "Principal Lee stated that the enrollment would increase as the term progresses, that the splendid cooperation evident in the school points to a very successful year there."

ESCOFFERY CASE ENDS ABRUPTLY; NEGRO IS FREED

Judge Sinclair Rules That Evidence Presented by State Insufficient

ESCOFFERY TESTIFIES

Tells of His Activities to Secure Verdict of Second Degree Murder Against Percy Miller

The trial of Philip Escoffery, colored lawyer of Durham, ended abruptly last Friday afternoon when Judge N. A. Sinclair, presiding in Chowan Superior court, ruled that the evidence was insufficient grounds for the charge of subornation of perjury.

The Albemarle Daily News says: A motion for a non-suit had been made by the defense when the state concluded its case Thursday morning, but the judge had reserved decision while testimony of defense witnesses proceeded.

The judge made his decision as the defense rested its case and lawyers for both sides prepared to make their final summation.

The other charges against Escoffery were not pressed. Bonds of Lem Pritchard, Willow Gilling and Christmas Lee, charged with perjury were reduced from \$500 each to \$250 each.

Testimony of defense witnesses in the trial of Escoffery continued in Chowan Superior court Friday, while Judge N. A. Sinclair reserved decision on the motion of the defense for a nonsuit. The highlight of the morning was the cross-examination of Escoffery by J. C. B. Ehringhaus. Escoffery went on the stand on his own behalf late Thursday, and his story of his efforts to save Percy Miller from being convicted of first degree murder instead of second degree murder, caused weeping on the colored side of the courtroom. At intervals he wept himself.

Escoffery began his story in a sort of dialect, but his English improved as he neared its conclusion. He is of West Indies birth, and was graduated from Mice College there. He has been in the United States 12 years. He is a member of four colored fraternal organizations.

Escoffery said that he obtained the affidavits which are the basis of the charges against him, after he had been told by colored residents of Windsor that Pritchard was not near Miller the afternoon the latter shot and killed Chief of Police Pat White. He sought in the affidavits, he said, not to condemn the prosecuting attorneys who are now appearing against him, but to establish justice for Miller and to brand Pritchard as a liar.

Previously C. D. Carstarphen, Williamston notary, testified that he did not swear Lem Pritchard when Pritchard and Escoffery appeared before him with the affidavits in question, but merely asked Pritchard if he had signed the paper which fact Pritchard affirmed.

Cleo Andrews testified that Escoffery read the affidavit in question to Lem Pritchard and that Pritchard said, "That is just what happened." Then, Cleo said, Pritchard left for Williamston to sign the papers before a notary as there was no notary in Windsor at the time.

It was brought out in the trial that after Pritchard gave his belated testimony in the Miller trial, he did not attend any of his lodges again.

Asked why he didn't he said, "I didn't want to." Willie Ruffin, colored, testified that he saw an attempt to get to Judge Moore made after the trial, by Willow Gilling. The judge had to rap for order when laughter greeted Willie's explanation that the lodge could not kick Lem Pritchard out because Lem hadn't been back to get kicked out.

CHECKS UP ON ILL DEFENDANT

No One Can Play 'Possum With This Court and Get Away With It

That there will be no stunts pulled after the 'possum variety in this term of Martin's superior court was made certain yesterday afternoon when health certificates were checked and rechecked by an officer and a physician.

J. S. Williams, of Beaufort County, sent in a certificate yesterday vouching for a sudden illness contracted the day before. The certificate itself was all right, it was stated, but suspicion entered the case and an examination of the man's physical condition was ordered. The physician checked the certificate telling of Mr. Williams, the defendant in a case preferring the charge of non-support, stated he would try and go if the doctor and officer insisted. The physician stated that he would not ask a sick man to go to court, Mr. Williams assuring the doctor and officer that he would appear here as soon as he was able to be out and about.

Court to Begin Trial of Sawyer Case Tomorrow Morning, 9:30

T. BOG SLADE, SR., DIES SUDDENLY

Apoplexy Claims Prominent County Citizen at Home in Hamilton Sunday

T. Bog Slade, sr., a member of one of Martin County's most distinguished families and a Civil War veteran, died at his home in Hamilton late Sunday evening of apoplexy. While he had been in feeble health for a number of months, Mr. Slade had been active in the management of his farm, and his death was unexpected at the time.

The funeral was held in Hamilton this afternoon by Rev. L. C. Brothers, the pastor of the Methodist church there, of which Mr. Slade had long been a member. Interment was made at the old home place, three miles from here on the Hamilton road, following the funeral services.

The son of the late William and Penelope Slade, he was born near here 84 years ago, receiving his training in the home and in the community school. At the age of 16 he ran away and volunteered for service in the Confederate Army. Leaving here with a few of his boy friends, Mr. Slade was one of the first to enter the war from this county. He was in Walker's Cavalry, walking from here to join a company in Washington. Throughout the war he served the Cause of the South, his company finally surrendering to the Union forces near Richmond while trying to reach and support General Lee's lines.

Returning from the war he entered earnestly into the spirit of the reconstruction days, striving hard on the farm where he was born to regain that which had been lost. After a few years on the farm, Mr. Slade moved to Hamilton, where he opened a mercantile store, continuing to engage in agriculture, however, to some extent. It was only a few years ago that he turned the management of the firm over to his son, Bog, jr., giving all his time since then to the management of his farm, which he visited regularly up until a few days before his death.

He was married twice, first to Miss Mary Griffin, of Bertie, one son, T. Bog, jr., surviving the union. His second wife also survives. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Helen Rhodes, of Montgomery, and Miss Fannie Slade, of Hamilton, and three grandchildren, T. Bog, III, Richard and Mary.

The Slade family has held high posts in local and national affairs, Alfred M. Slade having served as United States Minister to Argentina from 1836 to 1840. He was also the first master of Skewearce Lodge of Masons here. Another ancestor, Jeremiah Slade, was a member of the North Carolina Senate for a number of years.

IN CONTEST FOR CATTLE JUDGING

Jamesville Boys Only Miss Winning First Place by 10-Point Margin

Representing the Jamesville agricultural class at the dairy cattle judging contest held in Kinston last Saturday for the entire section of East Carolina, William Gaylord and Edwin Getsinger missed the winning score by only a 10-point margin, said W. T. Overby, head of the agricultural class at Jamesville. Practically all the agricultural schools in this part of the State had their contestants there, and the judging was close, the Jamesville boys commanding a position close to the top in the contest.

The winners of the contest last Saturday will go to Raleigh next Saturday where they will compete with the winners of the contests held in the Piedmont and Western sections of the State. The winners at Raleigh will represent North Carolina at the International judging contest to be held in St. Louis next month, the Jamesville teacher stated.

Early Cotton Deliveries Found Disappointing

Dunn, Sept. 12.—Much of the cotton marketed here so far has been rather disappointing so far as quality goes, the buyers state. Farmers have been too anxious to rush the cotton to the gins and much of it has been ginned too green causing it to "gin-cut" and to be too moist when baled. Buyers must naturally fix their price to compensate for loss in weight of green bales and the farmer loses around \$10 a bale when his cotton is "gin-cut." Much could be saved if farmers would take time to season or dry their cotton before having it ginned.

PROCEEDINGS IN SUPERIOR COURT

Thirteen Cases Had Been Called Up to Noon Today

Thirteen cases had been called up until the noon recess today in the regular term of Martin Superior court. Despite jury deadlocks and other drawbacks, the court is progressing rapidly, and will be ready for the Sawyer murder case in the morning, according to present indications.

The cases: The case charging Johnson Corey with an assault with a deadly weapon was dismissed. Corey had entered a plea of guilty at a previous term of the superior court, and it was when he showed good behavior that the action was dismissed.

Pleading guilty in a case charging him with an affray, W. C. Wallace was discharged upon the payment of costs.

Robert Edmonds was sentenced to twelve months on the Edgcombe County roads when he was found guilty of stealing an automobile. No evidence was given to connect Chas. Ben McKee, charged with stealing in the same case, and he was released. The charge stated that the two boys stole an automobile from the home of Joseph Hollis on Easter Sunday morning and that they sold it in Burlington.

Entering a plea of nolo contendere in the case charging him with seduction, Haywood Myrick was required to pay the costs of the case and \$75 for the use of the prosecuting witness.

Capias was issued when J. S. Williams, charged with assault with a deadly weapon, failed to appear when called.

A nine-months-suspended-road sentence was given Daniel D. Stalls when he entered a plea of guilty in an assault with a deadly weapon case. The sentence was suspended for two years upon the defendant's paying the cost.

John Haywood Taylor, pleading guilty to an assault with a deadly weapon charge was released upon the payment of the cost.

At the request of the State, the case charging T. L. Johnson with passing a worthless check, was continued.

Pete Hoggard, charged with driving an automobile while he was under the influence of liquor, was found not guilty. The case attracting the greatest attention up until this morning was the one charging J. H. and Burley Nelson with the larceny of one yellow hen. They were found not guilty. Requiring several hours of the court's time, the case involved much swearing and a long chain of testimony. The boys were not freed until much had evidence had been given against them. They were forced to admit that they had been in court several times before to face larceny charges and one of them had actually served a term on the roads for stealing meat. One is only seventeen years old while the other is just past the twenty-year mark.

The jury placed great importance on the case charging Bossey Slade with assault with a deadly weapon, for the twelve men deliberated a part of yesterday, all night last night and a mis-trial was apparently in order when the defense enter a plea of nolo contendere and the case was settled upon the defendant's paying the costs. The jury was called in and told of the settlement, giving the long-winded debaters a much-needed relief. At 11:30 this morning the jury, apparently disgusted with the case, asked to go before the judge. When told that some were for conviction and others were not, Judge Devin told them it was up to them to make a decision; they went back and apparently were still arguing when the case was settled.

Tom Nicholson, pleading guilty of driving a car while drunk, was sentenced to four months on the roads, the sentence to begin November 1.

The case charging Sylvester Taylor, Luther Clark, John H. Biggs and Perlie Coltrain with breaking into W. L. Moore's store, the Coast Line depot and stealing money, goods and an iron safe was the last case called before the noon recess. The State put on O. G. Carson, agent at the Jamesville station, Perlie Coltrain and J. H. Biggs, both of them having turned State's witnesses previously and Luther Clark, another of the defendants who also plead guilty. Dallas Price and W. L. Evans were also called as witnesses in the case. Taylor, the fourth defendant in the case, did not plead guilty, but failed to go on the stand. The entire case was

JUDGE ORDERS SPECIAL VENIRE OF 75 SUMMONED

True Bill Charging Murder in First Degree Returned Yesterday

COUNSEL APPOINTED

Harry W. Stubbs to Appear for Defendant; A. R. Dunning to Assist in Prosecution

The case charging John Sawyer with the murder of J. S. Britton, Cross Roads farmer, will be called in the superior court here tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock, according to information coming from the court-room yesterday afternoon. A bill charging first-degree murder was returned by the grand jury at noon yesterday, and a special venire of 75 citizens was ordered summoned by the court just before the noon recess yesterday.

Appointed by the court, Harry W. Stubbs, local attorney, will appear for the defendant, Sawyer, while Solicitor Donnell Gilling will be assisted by Lawyer Archie R. Dunning in prosecuting the case.

Forming the center of interest in the present term of the court, the trial is expected to attract large crowds beginning tomorrow morning. To select the jury, hear the evidence, and complete the judge's charge, it is the opinion of many that the case will continue at least two days.

The special venire summoned to appear before the court tomorrow morning include: R. O. Mobley, H. G. Griffin, J. H. Davenport, F. C. Williams, Levin Ange, and J. W. Martin, Jamesville Township; N. R. Griffin and C. L. Daniel, Williams Township; John E. Griffin, Ira T. Hardison, W. C. Ellis, W. D. Manning, George P. Roberson, O. S. Coltrain, James A. Roberson, D. G. Griffin, C. C. Coltrain, and John A. Lilley, Griffins Township; Nathan Rogers, M. B. Ward, L. H. Taylor, J. W. Harris, and W. O. Peel, of Bear Grass; W. H. Carstarphen, B. W. Hardy, J. Daniel Biggs, L. B. Harrison, J. D. Leggett, J. A. Leggett, W. H. Booker, J. L. Hassell, S. C. Griffin, John R. Peel, N. K. Harrison, J. H. Rogers, P. H. Brown, and W. E. Dunn, Williamston Township; E. R. Carson, W. E. Everett, G. P. Bullock, C. T. Smith, Raleigh Gurganus, A. R. Ausbon, H. C. Norman, H. L. Everett, O. P. Smith, B. F. Coburn, Eli Rogers, C. L. Green, W. A. Ausbon, J. G. Leggett, R. J. Whitehurst, R. E. Grimes, Jasper Perkins, S. H. Gurganus, Jos. Roberson, S. T. Woolard, Robersonville Township; J. P. Harris, L. G. Taylor, and V. U. Bunting, of Poplar Point; Asa Johnson, W. G. Anthony, Paul I. Chesson, H. L. Hopkins, P. C. Edmondson, of Hamilton Township; J. McNeilson, E. L. Glover, W. O. Council, T. H. Johnson, W. B. Bennett, C. L. Etheridge, W. J. Johnson, jr., W. C. Hall, W. R. Everett, and J. R. Rawls.

Mrs. Addie Louise Ayers Dies at Home of Daughter

Mrs. Addie Louise Ayers, 46 years old, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Willie Roberson, near Everetts, last evening at 8:00 o'clock following a stroke of paralysis suffered several weeks ago.

The funeral will be held this afternoon, Rev. C. B. Mashburn, of the Robersonville Christian Church, conducting the last rites. Interment will be made in the family cemetery at Hassell.

Mrs. Ayers, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Coltrain, this county, lived a greater part of her life in the Hassell community, moving a few years ago to Virginia. She was visiting her daughter at the time she was taken ill. Several children survive.

Yard Improvement Contest Will Be Staged in County

Miss Sleeper is asking all Martin County women interested in a yard improvement contest to notify her very soon. The contest will be started this fall and completed in the spring and will be open to every one interested.

fully explained by the three defendants. Each described the details of the robbery, accounting for everything from soon after night fall until 3:00 o'clock the next morning. All agreed to the fact that Sylvester was the leader of the gang and the only armed man in the group. According to the testimony of Clark, the Coltrain boy was the pilot in the Jamesville raid, as he had lived in that section for several years.

The jury convicted Taylor after deliberating only a few minutes. Sentence had not been passed at three o'clock this afternoon.