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PROCEEDINGS IN CRIMINAL COURT FINALLY ENDED

Case, Charging Mabel Gibson with Murder Is Dismissed

MANY GO TO ROADS

Court Completes Large Number of Criminal Causes and Recesses Late Friday Afternoon

After consuming the two days allotted to it and three more days set apart for the trial of civil cases, the criminal docket in the superior court here was completed late last Friday, the court recessing over the week end, getting ready for the big church case. The docket, last week, developed a large number of road builders, several defendants being sentenced to the Edgemore roads for around two years each.

The case charging Mabel Gibson with the murder of Irving Gibson, Hamilton township farmer, came to an abrupt end last Friday after the State had completed the testimony of its witnesses. The motion made by the defense, asking that the case be dismissed as the evidence was insufficient was sustained by Judge Sinclair and the charge was automatically dropped from the docket.

The action of the court apparently gives weight to the suicide theory advanced immediately following Gibson's death. The untimely death of Gibson was investigated by officers, the evidence advanced at that time implicating the woman. The court, however, agreed that the evidence was insufficient for conviction on the second degree murder charge and the case was closed abruptly, the accused woman gaining her freedom after a stay of several weeks in the local jail.

Cases handled by the court last week and not previously reported follow:

Adjudged guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon, Earl Latham was sentenced to the roads of Edgemore county for a period of two years.

Sam Boston was sentenced to the Edgemore roads for a period of six months when found guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon.

In the case charging Buck Terry, Chester Terry and Herbert Page with an assault with deadly weapons, Buck and Chester Terry were each sentenced to the roads for eighteen months.

In the case charging George Purrlington, Dock Powell and K. Powell with hog stealing, the first two were found guilty. Purrlington was sentenced to the roads for six months, sentence of Powell being deferred for a week.

The case, charging Spence Hyman with house breaking, was continued.

A nol pros was returned in the case charging Lester Terry with larceny.

A nol pros also resulted in the case in which Wm. Harrington and Sam Langley were charged with larceny.

The case of T. H. Johnson, passing worthless checks, was nol prosed.

When found guilty of larceny, Robt. Price was sent to a state reformatory and Walter Harris was sentenced to the roads for six months.

Found guilty of larceny, Wm. Harrington was sentenced to the roads for six months.

Pleading guilty to a larceny charge, John L. Wynn was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs. Thirty days were allowed him to settle with the court.

Pleading guilty when charged with an assault with a deadly weapon, Earl Mobley was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs.

Raleigh Terry and Dennis Whitaker were each sentenced to the roads for a period of six months when found guilty of jail breaking.

TEACHERS MEET NEXT SATURDAY

Meeting in Robersonville Is the Last of the 1929-1930 Term

The sixth and final meeting of the Martin County teachers for the 1929-1930 term will be held in the high school building next Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, when reading circle work will be brought to a close with examinations and general tests.

The meeting was postponed last week when the session conflicted with the State meeting at Raleigh on Saturday. Teachers, several of them, attending the State meeting will report the activities of the Raleigh meeting, it was stated yesterday.

Woman's Club To Hold Regular Meet Thursday

The regular meeting of the Woman's club will be held Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock. This will be a business meeting and it is very important that all members be present.

The requirements to make the local high school an A grade one are very little at this time, and it will be discussed whether the club assist in meeting the requirements or not and it is especially necessary that a good membership be present.

Cyclone Mack to Speak Here Friday Night, March 28th

Comes Here Under the Auspices of the Community Builders' League; Special Seats Being Constructed in Brick Warehouse for the Meeting

B. F. McLendon, noted evangelist and renowned lecturer, will deliver a public address in the brick warehouse here next Friday evening at 8 o'clock. Approximately 2,000 seats are being constructed in the building to accommodate the crowd expected to attend the meeting. Invitations are being extended throughout this entire section, and from far and near people are planning to attend.

Coming here under the auspices of the Community Builders' League, "Cyclone Mack," as he is widely known, will champion the cause of local enterprises and industry. According to the reports from those communities where Mr. McLendon has made his address relative to the "Chain Store Menace," he has studied the conditions carefully and is well informed on the subject.

During the past few weeks, Mr. McLendon has addressed meetings in several states, the officers of the league here stating that he is in big demand all over the South, and has an appointment for practically every night week in advance.

In carrying on the drive in behalf of the community's welfare, the officers and directors of the league held two meetings last week, deciding at their Friday night session to have Mr. McLendon come down and address the people of this section. Leagues in other centers have expressed their interest in the next Friday meeting, and present indications point to a very successful undertaking.

Ed Parker and his 17-piece orchestra will be here that evening, it was stated yesterday, to play just prior to the address, assuring entertainment for all. The orchestra will appear in an hour's concert and the public is cordially invited to be on hand at 7:00 o'clock when the musical program opens. Mr. McLendon will start his address promptly at 8 o'clock, and will discuss for an hour the problem that is attracting an almost nation-wide attention.

The president of the community builders' league stated yesterday that it is a community undertaking, one that should be of vital interest to every man, woman and child. No charge will be made and a cordial invitation to attend is extended to all.

The arrangement committee has contracted with the Murray-McCabe Lumber company to erect the seats and platform, and this work with all other details will be made complete within the next two or three days, it was stated.

SHIP CARP TO PHILADELPHIA

Local Fishermen Ship Approximately Thousand Pounds Yesterday

Messrs. Pete and Claude Cherry, local fishermen for a number of years, are making large shipments of German carp, cat fish and eels to the northern markets at this time, yesterday's catch netting them over one thousand pounds of marketable fish.

With modern equipment and large pod nets, the two fishermen are increasing their business over last year to a marked extent, and the possibilities for a continued increase are good. Hauls are made several times during the week, the work depending upon the swiftness of the water. When the waters begin to rise, the fish become more active and travel more swiftly making it possible for the fishermen to reap large hauls from their nets.

Regular fish boxes are being used and the shipments are made from the plant of the Lindsley Ice Company, where the fish are packed in ice.

So far this season, the fishermen have been marketing their catches through big fish dealers in Philadelphia where the carp and allied fish are considered a very select dish. The fish on the Philadelphia and other northern markets are selling for around 15 cents per pound at this time, according to statements made by the two fishermen yesterday.

DEMONSTRATION IS SUCCESS HERE

Ohio Demonstrator Shows Large Number Use of Electric Stove

The electrical cooking demonstration put on by the Virginia Electric and Power company in the Woman's Club hall here last Friday afternoon was very successful. There were housewives present from this community, from Everetts, Robersonville and Jamesville.

An economist from the Westinghouse Electric company, of Mansfield, Ohio, began the demonstration by preparing and cooking a meal on the electric stove especially installed for the demonstration. This was said to be very interesting and instructive.

Mr. R. H. Goodman, sales manager of the company in the Carolinas district next explained the new rates which he said are as low as any in the country. Mr. Stricker, of the Westinghouse company completed the program with a talk on hot-water heating by electricity.

Kiwanis Club To Hold Regular Meet Tomorrow

Messrs. J. D. Woolard, Norman Harrison and Frank Margolis, will have charge of the Kiwanis meeting tomorrow. They are arranging a good program and every Kiwanian is expected to attend.

The meeting will begin promptly at 12:30.

Will Conduct Two-Weeks Revival in Holiness Church

The Rev. Mrs. Edge, of Richmond, will conduct a two-weeks revival service at the local Pentecostal Holiness church, beginning April 7, it was announced today. The public is extended a cordial welcome to attend any of the series of services.

CENSUS PLANS IN THE COUNTY ARE COMPLETE

House-to-House Canvass to Begin in All Parts of the Country Next Week

NINE TAKERS NAMED

Survey of Business Houses in Martin County Practically Complete, According to Reports

Preparations for the taking of the 1930 census in Martin county are almost complete, according to information given out by a branch of the census department yesterday afternoon. Nine of the census takers had been named yesterday and the appointment of three others is likely to be made tomorrow or Thursday, it was stated.

The business survey, handled in this county by Mrs. David Grimes, of Robersonville, Mrs. O. S. Anderson, of this place and Mr. W. W. Walters, of Jamesville, is nearing completion, it learned yesterday and will be out of the way when the house-to-house canvass is started the early part of next week.

Twelve persons will call on every house in the county during the course of the next several weeks, asking the greatest number and most varied questions ever prepared in a census before.

The information will be used for statistical purposes only, the facts being guarded closely in all cases.

The people of the county can be of much help to the canvassers by answering all questions promptly, stating the facts truly in all cases.

It is not known just how long it will require to complete the survey in this county, but the work will extend over a period of several weeks, it is generally believed.

The towns of Robersonville and Williamston will form two separate units in the working organization in this county, each of the townships having one census taker. There will be one each for Williamston and Robersonville townships outside the towns, it was stated.

TWO SHORT TERM SCHOOLS CLOSED

Cross Roads Closes Friday; Farm Life Completes Term Next Tuesday

The second of Martin county's six month term schools will close next Friday, when the Cross Roads school completes its work for the 1929-30 term, it was learned yesterday in the office of the county superintendent.

Angie Town, completing the term last month, was the first of the short-term schools to close.

Hardly a week will pass from now until the middle of May but what one or more schools will close in the county. Farm Life will herald its closing next Tuesday with appropriate exercises and probably a picnic dinner.

Old Ford High School To Give Play at Farm Life

The Old Ford High School, of Beaufort county, will present a one-act farm play and negro minstrel in the Farm Life auditorium Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. Part of the proceeds will go for the benefit of the Farm Life school, it was stated.

Bear Grass Organization To Hold Important Meet

The parent-teacher's association of the Bear Grass School will meet Thursday evening of this week at 8 o'clock, it was announced yesterday.

An interesting program is being arranged, it was stated, and an address will be made. The association is very desirous of having a large attendance and is especially urging all parents to attend.

Young Men To Conduct Mid-Week Baptist Service

The Young Men's Baraca class of the Memorial Baptist Church will conduct the mid-week service at the church Wednesday of this week. The pastor will be in Greenville attending the Centennial celebration of the Baptist convention of this state.

The young men's class has grown into a considerable organization in recent months, and under the able leadership of the young men themselves, is doing a notable piece of work.

Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the church the class will conduct, in its entirety, the service, and the membership of the church are cordially invited.

Conoho Chapter To Hold Special Convocation Here

The Conoho Chapter, No 12, R. A. M., will hold a special convocation on Thursday night, March 27 at 7:45 o'clock, it was announced yesterday by C. B. Clark, High Priest.

In addition to the annual election of officers, other important business will come before the meeting, it was stated. Every member of the chapter and all visiting Royal Arch Masons are urged to attend.

Smithwick's Creek Church Case Called Here Yesterday

MARTIN RAISES LITTLE COTTON

1929 Production in County Is Lowest in Twenty-five Year Period

Cotton production in Martin county during the past year was the lowest in twenty-five years, wet weather and the boll weevil resulting in the unusually low production record. While there were only 5,213 bales raised in the county in 1928, production last year dropped to 3,029 bales, a decrease of 2,184 bales or nearly 50 per cent.

The farming industry, in addition to losing thousands of dollars on the crop, suffered heavy losses in the cultivation of tobacco in this county, many acres formerly used in the cultivation of cotton being turned into tobacco. The State yield per acre is given at 197 pounds in 1928 as compared with 215 pounds in 1928. While figures are not available for Martin county alone, it is believed that the acreage yield here was far below that for the State, as a whole.

Pitt county, probably suffered the greatest decrease in yield, only 6,861 bales being raised there during the past year, as compared with 17,579 bales reported in 1928, a decrease of 10,718 bales. Washington county reported more than a 50 per cent decrease, while Bertie reported a decrease of 3,620 bales last year as compared with the 1928 production.

Of the one hundred counties in the State, only 21 reported increases, and none of them was very large. In 1928, the State production totalled 869,248 bales, while last year the yield dropped to 766,787 bales, a decrease of 102,461 bales in one year's time.

TO LEND \$2,500 TO MARTIN FARMERS

Sum Expected Here Is Part of \$7,000,000 Appropriation by Congress

While the appropriation of \$7,000,000 for aid of farmers in the stricken areas of the South and West has not actually been passed, preparations for the handling of the loans are being made at this time, according to information received here.

A committee has been appointed in this county to pass upon the loans, but further action locally depends upon the government.

The sum allotted this county, while it has not been definitely determined, will range around \$2,500, according to County Agent T. B. Brandon, who is in active charge of the preliminary arrangements here.

200 SHARES SOLD BY ASSOCIATION

Sales Expected to Reach 300 Mark Before the 26th Series Closes

According to a statement made last night by an official of the Martin County Building and Loan association, 200 shares of stock have been sold in the organization's twenty-sixth series. While the sale has established no new high mark, the results are very satisfactory considering the conditions as they now exist in this part of the State.

While the sale of shares in the present series has reached the 200 mark, it is an assured fact that at least 100 more shares will be issued before the subscription period closes.

Norfolk Undersellers To Open Store Here Friday

The Norfolk Underselling company announced today their opening sale which will begin next Friday. The firm has been located here before, and will specialize in the purchase and selling of bankrupt stocks as in the past.

The stock of Mr. F. K. Hodges has been purchased and a large stock shipped here from Atlantic City will be added to the stock bought from Mr. E. K. Hodges.

Mr. Jack Frank, the manager states that they have an unusually large stock of goods and that they anticipate a large opening sale. Mr. A. Hassell will assist Mr. Frank in his new business.

Fail To Organize Walton League Here Last Friday

The organization of an Isaak Walton League in this county failed to materialize at a scheduled meeting to be held here, but efforts for the organization of a body in this county will continue, it is understood.

Colonel Seymour Bullock, of Wilson was here, but the attendance upon the meeting was insufficient to warrant organization proceedings, it is understood. Colonel Bullock is expected to make another visit here some time in the future.

LARGE CROWDS PACK ROOM TO HEAR EVIDENCE

Selection of Jury from Special Venire Made In A Very Short Time

CASE MOVES SLOWLY

Only One Witness Has Reached the Stand So Far; Defense Has 70 Witnesses, Report States

Only one witness, Mr. P. E. Getzinger, has been called in the case so far, and at noon it was thought that he would continue on the stand for another hour or longer. He was questioned until a few minutes before the noon recess by A. D. MacLean.

The case will consume the entire week and may go over into the next, according to the beliefs entertained by many at this time.

The defense has seventy witnesses, many of them coming from as far away as Alamance to the west and Tyrrell and Hyde in the east. The plaintiffs will perhaps have a dozen or more to go on the stand.

After a delay of several days as a result of a large criminal docket, the much-talked about Smithwick's Creek Primitive Baptist Church case was called in the Martin County Superior court here yesterday morning, about 75 members, who are known as the majority faction, suing about 18 members, called the minority faction, all of the same church, for possession of the church building and property.

The court house was packed, and with the lawyers, Messrs. Ward and Grimes, and Paul, of Washington, and E. S. Peel, of Williamston, representing the plaintiffs, and Messrs. A. D. MacLean, of Washington, and A. R. Dunning, of this place, taking their places, the case was called by Judge N. A. Sinclair at 10:05 o'clock.

The selection of a jury was made in a very short time, only thirteen of the special venire summoned in Pitt county being examined to complete the list. After questioning thirteen members of the venire as to their kinship, knowledge of the case and their respective church affiliations, the plaintiffs turned the jury over to the defense, who, after entering two objections rested, the following jury being selected:

J. L. Jenkins, merchant, of Ayden, member of Christian church; J. E. Humble, farmer, Ayden, Free Will Baptist; A. F. Rowe, banker, of Ayden, Primitive Baptist; W. D. Owen, farmer of Fountain, non-member; H. S. Ragsdale, tobaccoist of Greenville, Missionary Baptist; C. M. Smith, of Farmville; W. D. Bailey, farmer of Stokes, Methodist; Geo. Dale, farmer of Winterville, Free Will Baptist; J. H. Byrum, merchant of Ayden, Free Will Baptist; W. T. Allen, farmer of Greenville, Free Will Baptist; E. H. Hooks, merchant of Winterville, non-member; L. C. Fletcher, merchant of Winterville, Free Will Baptist.

According to present indications, the trial is very likely to continue for several days, a large number of witnesses being scheduled for the stand. Following the general arrangements yesterday, the court busied itself with the examining of only one witness during the remainder of the day, and it is reported that the defense has around 75 witnesses, not even mentioning those for the other side.

Following the selection of the jury, Attorney Ward read the complaint, Lawyer MacLean, for the defense, reading the answer. After discussing the case at length, trial issues were finally determined, and at 12:40 the plaintiffs introduced what is known in the case of the Sylvester Hassell Pamphlet, which they allege is a proper exemplification of the Primitive Baptist Faith or Creed.

Court adjourned until 2:30.

Perlie E. Getzinger, star witness for the plaintiffs, was the first to take the stand, going there at 2:35. He stated that he was 46 years old, that he was elected clerk of the Smithwick's Creek Church in November 1924, and has in his possession all books and records of said church recorded since 1803 up to and including last Saturday. Mr. Getzinger stated that all entries since his election have been made in his own hand writing and contain a true record of all motions and resolutions passed by the conferences of said church, that the minutes are always read at each meeting, also at the ensuing meeting.

Continuing, the witness said that there were 98 members of the church in 1927 and that all the plaintiffs to this suit were then members. Elder J. N. Rogerson was pastor of the church for 15 years until he resigned in November, 1927, that W. B. Harrington was assistant pastor from 1915 to the fourth Saturday in March, 1928, when he resigned; his resignation being duly accepted by the conference. Mr. Har-

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