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VOLUME XXXIX—NUMBER 101

Williamston, Martin County, North Carolina, Friday, December 18, 1936

ESTABLISHED 1899

## JURY FOR CASE OF WATSON CALLED FROM BEAUFORT

Special Venire of 50 Men Ordered Summoned by Judge Barnhill

Armed with an order handed down by Judge M. V. Barnhill, presiding over the December term of Martin County Superior Court here this week, Sheriff C. B. Sheriff raided Washington and parts of Beaufort County late Wednesday afternoon and signed up 50 good and true citizens for jury service in the case of State against Alvin W. Watson, young Georgia man, charged with the cold-blooded murder of Thomas Holliday, young white man in Robersonville, the 22nd of last month.

Deputy Marshlander, of Beaufort, worked late into the night button-holing the special venire of 50 men and heard all kinds of excuses, but anything short of death was not acceptable. Tagging two firemen, the deputy excused one but pointed out that the other one would have to attend court here, explaining that Williamston might have a big fire and need help.

All the men showed up except Charles Hoyt. George Webster misunderstood the order and reported for service at the courthouse in Washington. He came in later, however, and was excused when he said he did not believe in capital punishment on account of his religious beliefs. Incidentally, he was one of the 5 out of 79 called Tuesday and yesterday who did not believe in capital punishment.

Less than an hour was required to fill the box, the state and defense examining 23 of the special venire of 50 men before selecting the twelfth juror. The names of the jurors:

Cecil Keys, Washington hotel man; T. S. Payne, Washington fire insurance agent; J. A. C. Allgood, farmer of near Bath; S. F. Allgood, retired ice man; Frank Wynne, Washington cafe man; J. E. Hodges, farmer of Washington; H. K. Brown, a native of this county but now operator of a Washington cafe; M. F. McKee, jr., hardware merchant; Taylor Wallace, Washington Daily News employee; C. O. Tankard, pool room and soda fountain operator; and B. F. Whitford, drug store operator.

The state did not challenge a single man, and the defense rejected only six. The names of those who were examined and excused or rejected are: George Howard; James Russ; George Webster; Vernon Freeman; W. F. Cherry; W. T. Cratch; George Taylor; H. H. Satterthwaite; John H. Singleton; Jesse Rawls.

## Start Work on Radio Station Near Here

Preliminary work for the construction of a radio station near here was started yesterday morning, when 70 Civilian Conservation Corps young men began clearing the site, adjoining the county home just across from Mickey's Inn. The work will be completed within the next few days.

Construction of a home for the broadcasting equipment and the five station operators will get underway immediately, it was learned.

The highway patrol broadcasting system will be the most modern of any in the country when completed, engineers say.

## \$49 Reported Collected In Christmas Joy Fund

Answers to appeals to make this Christmas a happy one for the less fortunate in the community are coming in fairly rapidly as time for handling the thoughtful tax rapidly draws to a close. Considerably more is needed, however, to even reach, in a small way, the hundreds who face a bleak holiday season.

At noon today, the fund treasury has \$49. Contributions not previously reported were made by those whose names are, as follows: J. S. Whitley, \$10; Davis' Pharmacy, \$10; A. Friend, \$10; L. Bruce Wynne, \$2; Mrs. A. R. Dunning, \$1; Welfare Office Employees, \$1.

The use of fire breaks and cattle grazing to prevent forest fires has been recommended in Pamlico County by Extension Forester R. W. Graeber, following a trip of inspection over the pine forests of that county.

## Jury Finds Bullock Is Not Guilty of Murder

GAINS FREEDOM



Willis Bullock, charged with the murder of Thomas Holliday, was freed in Superior Court here Wednesday, the defendant showing a jovial mood during the two-day trial.

## Main Street Store Robbed Last Night

The store of the Norfolk Under-sellers on Main Street here was robbed last night, the robber gaining an entrance from the roof through a skylight. Charlie Frank discovered the robbery this morning when he opened the store at the usual time for business.

Piecing together several old barrel hoops, the robber attached the crude rope to a brace and lowered himself into the store. Finding both doors padlocked, the man had to climb a wire to get out, and it is believed he was unable to carry many articles with him. The robber, unable to climb the bare wire, opened a bolt of cloth and wrapped the wire.

An old pair of slippers was left in the store and several suits of clothes and a number of pairs of shoes were found on the floor.

Roy Davis, 27-year-old colored man, was arrested this afternoon by local police in connection with the robbery, reports coming from police headquarters indicating that others including a woman, would likely be implicated.

Several blankets, a number of shirts and other articles were missed from the store, it was revealed following a hurried inventory by the store owners.

## Woman Fatally Hurt In Bertie Accident

Mrs. John White, 36, of Bertie County, was fatally injured and her 3-year-old son, Thomas White, was critically hurt in a three-truck wreck about two miles this side of the Chowan River bridge early last evening. The child, removed to a Windsor hospital, was reported not expected to live.

Roy E. Littleton and Lee Jones, of New Bern, operating a fish truck, and Jim Hendricks and Elsberry, of Hertford, and Louis Harrell, of Norfolk, riding in an egg truck, were hurt but not badly, reports received here stated.

The fish truck was said to have been stopped on the highway while the operators repaired a flat tire. Mrs. White, driving a pick-up truck, approached from the rear and did not see the truck until too late to stop. She turned to the left and crashed into the egg truck driven by Hendricks, it was said.

## 5 SHOPPING DAYS

Just five more shopping days are left before Christmas, and those days are numbered among the shortest of the entire year. Shoppers, if they have not already done so, will have to get busy and get busy right now.

Remember the Williamston merchants during these few remaining days. They have sufficient and varied stocks to meet your needs, and surely if you stop and think you will see a far greater advantage to be had by patronizing the home merchant.

## PROCEEDINGS IN MARTIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Expected To Adjourn This Afternoon; Working on Final Case

The December term of Martin County Superior court is expected to adjourn by mid-afternoon today following the completion of the trial of the case charging Thomas A. Spencer with reckless and hit-and-run driving. The court has been in session all week handling a docket that was not so long as far as case numbers are concerned but which attracted attention from all parts of the county. Interest in the proceedings abated considerably following the completion of the murder trials of Willis Bullock and Alvin W. Watson. Today there were very small crowds in attendance upon the court.

Completing the case against A. W. Watson yesterday afternoon, the court started the trial of T. J. Jackson, young Robersonville man, charged with robbery. He was found guilty and sentenced to the roads this morning for 18 months, the judge stating that the defendant would be required to finish 15 months of a previous sentence imposed for the alleged robbery of James' store in Robersonville. Howard Roberson, a customer of Gray's Cafe in Robersonville when Jackson attempted the robbery, was a star witness in the case. He pointed out that Jackson lost his nerve when he (Roberson) told him to either shoot or take that gun out of his face.

Kader Brown pleaded guilty of unlawful removal of crops, the court suspending judgment upon payment of costs.

Grover Bland was sentenced to the roads for 12 months, and his wife was given a six months suspended jail sentence in the case charging them with the theft of tobacco from a Robersonville warehouse floor.

Henry Thomas, charged with forgery, was found guilty, and was sentenced to the roads for 12 months. Robert Edmondson, co-defendant in the case, was ordered held that his case might be re-submitted to the grand jury.

## Local Man Escapes Injury in Auto Wreck

George Harrison, jr., escaped with minor bruises and scratches about 11 o'clock last night when his car, a sport roadster, turned over about two miles this side of Windsor. The machine was wrecked.

## Watson Found Guilty of Murder And Sentenced To Death in Gas Chamber on Friday, March 5th

### Resume Hearing on Disputed Boundary Line Next Monday

The dispute over the boundary line location between Beaufort and Martin Counties will again be up for consideration next Monday morning at 9 o'clock, when the special committee and representatives of the two political divisions meet in the courthouse here.

Oral evidence will be received during most of the day probably, there being some doubt as to whether the committee and representatives will venture into the woods to find a certain cypress tree.

The dispute, pending for more than a year, is due for quick settlement following the hearing here on next Monday, it is understood. Several hearings have been scheduled, but only one or two of them were held, the committee continuing the work first on account of snakes in the woods and then on account of weather conditions or for other causes.

Beaufort County has offered all its oral evidence, and it is almost certain that a settlement can be expected after Martin offers all its oral testimony.

Attorneys William B. Rodman, of Washington; H. G. Horton, of Williamston; and Tobe Connor, of Wilson, are on the committee named to settle the dispute. E. S. Peel is representing this county.

## Release Two of Trio Arrested Last Week

### Jailer and Berham Freed; Lucks Held For Federal Officers

Arrested in Robersonville a week ago, Albert Lucks, native Austrian who winters in Miami, continues in the county jail awaiting his transfer to Florida, where he is reported wanted for alleged violations of Federal laws. His two companions, Louis Jailer and Henry Bernham, of New York, arrested with Lucks, were released yesterday following an investigation by FBI agents. The nature of the charges Lucks is to face in Florida was not revealed by officers, who stated that the man would be transferred from the Martin jail to Miami, probably the early part of next week.

Luck's wife, taken into custody last Friday, is being detained in the jail here pending the completion of an investigation now thought to be nearing a close, the investigators stating that her release could be expected within the next day or two. Officers also explained that Luck's wife, a Miss Whichard before marriage and formerly of Robersonville, and other girls from this county, were not wanted in the case that is being developed against Lucks. An investigation proved them innocent, and those now detained are merely being held while the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents complete their work in the case. Reports, founded on investigations, were very favorable to Lucks' wife and others directly or indirectly implicated by family connections, officers pointed out.

"It's my first trip South and my last," Jailer said yesterday afternoon following his release from the county jail. Jailer is a garment cutter in New York, and during the past few weeks he explained sweatshops recently opened in small centers had reduced work for him and others in the trade in New York City. He met Lucks through his friend Bernham only a few days ago, and when invited gladly accepted a ride down to see North Carolina. "We reached Robersonville Wednesday noon, and I wrote my wife I'd be home Saturday. Luckily, I did not say which Saturday." He was last seen late yesterday awaiting money by wire from his wife to buy a ticket home.

Bernham, while enjoying his own freedom here, could not get his car released because he had it registered and licensed under an alias. Members of the highway patrol explained to him that he would have to get his identity straightened out before he could get the car.

## Car of M. L. Barnes Is Recovered in Windsor

The Ford coupe stolen from County Agent M. L. Barnes from in front of his home on Haughton Street here last Sunday night, was recovered in Windsor this week.

## Jury From Beaufort County Deliberates Less Than Half Hour

A special jury of Beaufort County citizens found Alvin W. Watson, young Georgia white man, guilty of murder in the first degree here yesterday afternoon in superior court, Judge M. V. Barnhill this afternoon sentencing the youth to die in the gas chamber at Raleigh for killing Thomas Holliday, young white man at a filling station in Robersonville on Sunday morning, November 27, Friday, March 5, was the date set for execution. And thus one of the most dastardly killings ever reported in this section was brought to a close today, as far as this county and its courts are concerned, the doomed man's attorney indicating that no appeal would be taken for a new trial.

In rendering its verdict, after holding the man's life in balance for only 25 minutes, the special jury recommended mercy. While evidence in the case made imperative a verdict of guilty, the jury, out of sympathy for the defendant's youth, addressed its sympathetic appeal to the court. Powerless to act in behalf of Watson, Judge Barnhill pronounced the death sentence this afternoon, after he explained yesterday that any appeals could only be addressed to Edwin Gill, commissioner of pardons, Raleigh.

Late yesterday afternoon Watson, with tears in his eyes, still maintained that Willis Bullock, co-defendant in the case, did the actual killing. Public sentiment, pointed at first to the guilt of both Watson and Bullock, switched to some extent after Bullock gained his freedom in the court just 22 hours earlier. The final outcome of the case, as it has to do with Watson's life, rests largely in the hands of the public, the trial jury, and the prosecution, the general opinion being, however, that little can be done in the man's behalf when the evidence is remembered.

The trial of the case was hardly more than mere formality, and did not attract as large crowds as were present for Bullock's plea for freedom during Tuesday and Wednesday. Eight witnesses, J. B. Whitehurst, Leslie Riddick, Dr. J. E. Ward C. D. Carraway, Chief W. H. Gray, of Robersonville; Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, Patrolman W. S. Hunt and Linwood Bland were used by the state in presenting its case. The first evidence was heard shortly after 10:30 yesterday morning, the court recessing for lunch at 12:50. The state called one new witness that afternoon and rested its case about 2:30. Not a single word was spoken in defense of Watson, who had no witnesses and who exercised the right not to take the stand in his own behalf.

The state did not use its expert witness, J. J. McCarthy, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratories, Washington, indicating the blood found on Watson's clothes was found not to match that found on Holliday's shirt.

In less than an hour, Prosecutor Donnell Gilliam and Defense Attorney Henry D. Hardison made their addresses, which were very brief, and Judge Barnhill completed his charge. Attorney J. C. Smith, of the private prosecution, did not address the jury.

Taking the case at 3:30, the jury was out 16 minutes before it returned, and some misunderstanding resulted. The jury said the defendant was guilty of being at the filling station, the spokesman first failing to add, "and therefore we find him guilty of murder in the first degree, but recommend mercy." It was quite apparent that the jury had just found the man guilty of being at the filling station where Holliday was killed, and Judge Barnhill reviewed and offered additional instructions. The jurist explained that it made no difference who did the actual killing, that if Holliday was killed while Watson was being the station, then a verdict of

## TO DIE MARCH 5



Adjudged guilty in superior court here yesterday of the murder of Thomas Holliday in Robersonville on November 27, Alvin W. Watson, 21, was sentenced to die in the gas chamber, Raleigh, on March 5, 1937, by Judge M. V. Barnhill here this afternoon.

## "Movie Queen" To Arrive Tomorrow

Arrangements are complete for receiving Williamston's "Movie Queen" when she arrives here tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 p. m. at the bus station on Main Street. The public is invited to participate in the welcome.

Firms who will be represented for the welcome ceremony and parade are: Peele Jewelry Company, Kader Crawford, Insurance, Clarks' Drug Store, Davis' Drug Store, Van Dyke Furniture Co., B. S. Courney Furniture Co., Williamston Hardware Co., Ford Motor Co., Chevrolet Motor Co., Harrison Wholesale Co., Colonial Oil Co., V. E. P. Co., Fowden and Simpson, Insurance, Sinclair Service Station, Home Security Insurance, "Hawk" Peel, Culpepper Hardware Co., Good and Bad Furniture Co., W. D. Ambers Pressing Club, J. E. Pope Insurance, Margolis Bros., Edgewood Dairy, Imperial Life Insurance, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., Harrison and Carstarphen Insurance, Barnhill Bros., Dr. W. C. Mercer, Texaco Service Station, Cap. York.

## OPEN NIGHTS

Startin' next Monday, all Williamston stores will be open nights for the convenience of shoppers in this section, and will remain open evenings until Christmas.

There has been some talk about closing the stores here on next week, giving employees a three-day holiday—Christmas day, Saturday and Sunday. No definite decision has been reached in the matter at this time, however.

## The Final Appeal

(An Editorial)

Appeals, pitiful as can be and disquieting in this section of plenty and self-claimed humanity, are coming in rapidly daily, the appealers pleading their cases before the Christmas Joy Campaign workers, and expressing earnest hope that their little children will be remembered this Christmas time. Pathetic falls short in describing the pleading heard by the sponsors of the joy movement. At the present time, cash contributions are far from adequate to meet, even in a small way, the actual needs existing in this community.

Near crop failures, adversity in one form or another are cited by those who hesitate to beg but who realize there will not be a single article in their homes this Christmas time indicative of the holiday season unless a thoughtful people remember them.

"My husband failed farming this year. He is now working for \$5 a week, an amount too small to even feed our several children, one report reads. "If you have anything left over, we'll be mighty glad and thankful if you will let us have it," the mother pleaded.

There are nearly 100 people living in this county who receive \$2 or \$3 a month, and they live on that amount, plus what a gracious people may be inclined to give them. For them the fast approaching Christmas season is just another period of the year, a period devoid of all hope and happiness.

There are many fatherless homes with many children entirely dependent upon others. There are those who are mentally deficient, and who are denied a place in institutions. There are those who are afflicted and who bear their suffering without complaint, hoping against a hope long gone that they may enjoy the blessings that you and I enjoy.

A growing list of appeals is taking form day by day, the list carrying the names of nearly 200 little children, not to mention older people who are entirely dependent. Most of the cases are not subject to direct relief.

Sufficient toys have been received, it is believed, to go around, but the people of this community have not responded even half-heartedly, with cash contributions, and the last appeal is being made today. If you have not already made a contribution, and if you think it humanly possible to participate, won't you leave a small donation for the cause at The Enterprise office today?

Pleas for old clothes are also being heard, and while the Joy Campaign sponsors did not plan to include the collection and distribution of any wearing apparel, the need is so great that the original task has been enlarged. If you have any old clothes that can be spared and you wish to spare them, just call The Enterprise and a messenger will be sent for the bundle.

## Mercy Recommended Due To Youth of Defendant; No Appeal Indicated

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