

Judge J. J. Burney In Short Charge to County Grand Jury

Outlines Duties of Body in Fifteen-Minute Charge Monday Morning

Assuring them it was a pleasure to return to Martin County and do his bit in enforcing the laws of the land and maintaining the peace, Judge John J. Burney in his address to the members of the grand jury dwelt entirely on the duties of that body. "We have grown up until it is no longer necessary to make long speeches to a grand jury," Judge Burney said in explaining that he would merely outline the duties to the men and rush the work of the court along. And the judge did not vary from his accepted task. In less than fifteen minutes he briefly reviewed the grand jury system, defined types of crimes and instructed the jury to inspect public properties and institutions. Rounding out its preliminary work by 10:20, the court was idle while Solicitor Don Gilliam caught up with his work.

"The first trial by jury was held in the year, 820," Judge Burney said in his brief address to the jury. "In 1388 the grand jury was established in England, and the same oath you have just subscribed to was administered to that first jury," the jurist addressed the jurymen.

The duties of the jurymen were outlined in three classes. In instructing the jurymen to return bills of indictment, Judge Burney pointed out that it was not the duty of the grand jury to try the case. "You are to hear the State's evidence only. If you are satisfied after examining one witness that there is probable cause of guilt, you need not examine other witnesses. But before you return a 'no true bill' you must examine all witnesses, and if necessary you may call in additional witnesses where they are available.

"There are four capital crimes, murder, arson, rape and first degree burglary. In these cases you are to report to the court in a body when a true bill is found. Others may be returned to the court by the foreman or by the officer of the grand jury.

"You may aid the enforcement of officers by presenting alleged violators of the law to the court. You may call witnesses, and after passing on all other bills of indictment you are to seal your findings for consideration by the next jury."

Judge Burney was quite specific in his instructions directing the inspection of public buildings, offices and county institutions. He urged the jurymen to make recommendations where necessary. He also called for complete reports from justices of the peace, and directed a close examination of guardians' accounts to see that proper accountings had been filed and that the interests of minors are protected. The mechanical condition of all school busses is to be checked by court order.

Following the death a few weeks ago of Mr. W. A. James who had served the grand jury for a long number of years, Mr. S. S. Brown was appointed by the court as officer of the grand jury.

Man Is Seriously Hurt By Brother

Walter Bailey, 40-year-old Bear Grass farmer, was removed to a Washington hospital yesterday for treatment following a serious attack upon him by his brother, Garland Bailey, last Friday. His condition, last reports state, is critical.

Working at their father's hog killing, near Bear Grass, the brothers quarreled over hogs. Garland, the younger brother, was said to have warned the other to keep his hogs out of his garden. Using a lard paddle, the young man struck his brother over the head, fracturing his skull.

One report reaching here stated that Walter, begging his brother not to strike him, backed out of the yard into the road. The edge of the paddle did not cut the head but resulted in a fracture of the skull. Apparently suffering great pain, Mr. Bailey had to be fastened to the bed.

Fined For Violating The Automobile Laws

George William Collier, Hassell colored man, was fined \$10 and taxed with the costs by Mayor J. L. Hassell here last evening in the case charging him with operating a car with improper licenses and parking a car on the highway.

Collier left his car on the highway near the Taylor farm in Poplar Point Township, and it was struck by another driven by W. S. Bailey. No one was hurt, but damage, estimated at \$100, was done to the Bailey car.

Filling Station Robbed On The Hamilton Road

Breaking through the front door, robbers stole a pistol and a rifle and a box of cartridges from the C. B. Allen filling station on the Hamilton Road last Saturday night. No other goods were missed by the owner.

First Martin County Draftees Are in Uncle Sam's Army Now

Martin County's first draftees under the Selective Service Act are in the Army now. Receiving their credentials at a special meeting of the county draft board here yesterday morning at 10:30 o'clock, Ellis Clifton Wynne, of Oak City Route 1, and Leslie Worth Pierce, of Williamston Route 3, rolled into Fort Bragg yesterday evening in time for supper. The young men, apparently expressing no regrets and perfectly willing to go to answer their country's call, were given their tickets and expenses by R. H. Goodman and J. H. Ayers, of the draft board, and Wheeler Martin, draft board appeal officer. No formal farewell party was held, but friends and acquaintances waved goodbye to them as they boarded a bus for the trip.

The county's first colored draftee, Walter Louis White and James Earl Hyman, both of Williamston, are scheduled to enter the Army Friday morning, the thirteenth, but the day and date are not worrying White, more commonly known as "Lightning".

These four draftees, subject to draft call, volunteered their services before they were called.

When the board meets next Friday morning to see the next two draftees off, its members will probably classify about 250 more registrants. Chairman Goodman states that the work will be continued until about 600 men are classified. After sending out 850 questionnaires, the draft board ordered a delay, and little work in connection with the draft will likely be handled until after Christmas when fairly heavy quotas are to be filled.

Daring Youth Draws 5-Year Prison Term

EVEN DOZEN

An even dozen days remain for handling the big Christmas shopping tasks. Williamston stores are better prepared than ever before to handle the shopping needs of the people throughout this entire section. The stocks are larger and more varied, and reports state that Williamston compared favorably with the shopping centers in the big towns and cities.

Give Williamston merchants the first opportunity to serve you this Christmas, and make the season a happy and successful one for your year-around friends.

S. Benjamin Stalls Ends His Life At Home In Hamilton

Desponded and Feeble, Aged Man Did Not Want To Face Winter Alone

Experiencing ill health and desponded over the recent and sudden death of a brother, S. Benjamin Stalls, well-known and respected Hamilton citizen, ended his life in the backyard of his home there about noon last Friday. Just a short time ago, Mr. Stalls, nearly 70 years of age, had told friends that he dreaded the cold winter months ahead. His health had been failing him rapidly in recent weeks, and he was believed to have been nearing the end of life's race when he brought it to an abrupt end.

Taking a shotgun, Mr. Stalls went to the well in the backyard near the end of the porch. He made himself a seat with a potato basket and breached the stock of the gun against the well curbing. Unfastening his shirt, he placed the barrel of the gun against his heart and pushed the trigger with a stick. He was found a short time later slumped on the ground by Mr. Roscoe Downs, a friend. Death was instantaneous, and Coroner S. R. Biggs, called to the scene, ruled that in the face of the evidence and facts no inquest was necessary.

Living in a four-room house on a side street in Hamilton, Mr. Stalls lived a lonely life. Acquainted with his condition, Mr. Downs, Hamilton merchant, had been looking after him and had carried him breakfast that morning. While he was said to have been despondent at that time, he said nothing of any plan to end his life. He was seen around the yard by neighbors that morning, and the report of the gun was heard by several but nothing was thought of that until Mr. Downs returned at noon with lunch for him. Receiving no answer to his front-door knock, Mr. Downs went around the house and found him dead.

Apparently Mr. Stalls had no financial worries, reports stating that he had no outstanding obligations and that several hundred dollars in cash were found in a prayer book.

CATCHES DEER

Toby Barber, Williams Township farmer, caught a young deer on the W. W. Griffin farm in the island section yesterday morning. Wandering from its haunts back in the swamps, the deer had just about taken away a cow's teat from a young calf and was waxing fat while the calf faced starvation.

Relishing the cow's milk, the deer refused to leave its source of food and Farmer Barber had little trouble making the catch. After being displayed here a short while, the fleet-footed animal was returned to the swamps.

Judge Still Sees Something Good In 16-year-old Boy

Arna Wallace Pleads Guilty In Case Charging Him With Robbery

Another chapter in Arna Wallace's crime career has been written in the courts of this county. Pleading guilty in the case charging him with robbery, the sixteen and one-half years old boy was sentenced to prison for five years by Judge John Jay Burney in the superior court here yesterday. Boasting that he was out to establish a new crime record and one that would outshine Dillinger's, the boy has now reached a new turning point in his life. Despite a record of crime that extends almost from one end of the State to the other, the youth still maintains an air of indifference, and the pronouncement of a five-year prison sentence was not reflected in the boy's facial expression.

Despite all that there was something in the boy that attracted the attention of both Judge Burney and Solicitor Donnell Gilliam. Charges in three of the cases were dismissed by the prosecutor possibly because he still saw there were the makings of a man behind that indifference. Possibly the youth's tender years attracted the attention of the court and a personal letter from the jurist to State Prison Warden Hugh Wilson is accompanying the youth to prison. Judge Burney's letter reads, "I have today sentenced a young boy sixteen and a half years of age to five years in the State's prison for breaking and entering, larceny and receiving."

"There were four cases against this young man for the same offense and the solicitor took no pros with leave in three cases and he pleaded guilty in the case he was sentenced. "This young man has been examined at the Stonewall Jackson Training School and found to have the mentality of a boy eighteen years and five months old, is above the average in intelligence. He escaped from the training school on three different occasions. The last time he was found in a box car asleep with a pistol in his pocket and his hand on it. Previously when he was arrested once for larceny while being conveyed from Wilmington he took the sheriff's pistol and tried to hold him up on the way back.

"I feel that there is something good in this boy if it can be brought out. I am asking you to kindly show him consideration and mercy and place him in a ward where he will not be with hardened criminals, and give him work where he may learn a trade and come out fitted to earn a living for himself by honest means. Anything you do for him will be appreciated."

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Corn Barn Burned On Farm Near Here

Fire, believed to have been of incendiary origin, destroyed the corn barn on the Jesse Whitley farm at the edge of town on the Hamilton Road about 1:45 o'clock last Sunday morning. About twelve barrels of corn and a pet dog lost its life in the fire.

Traveling to his home in Oak City George Mobley discovered the fire and called Farmer Eli White who operated the farm. Mr. Mobley then turned in an alarm, and volunteer firemen responded, their efforts possibly keeping the fire from spreading to other buildings. The corn barn was hardly more than 18 feet from the dwelling, and it looked as if the fire would spread to the larger building at one time.

No estimate of the loss could be had immediately.

"Big" Court Clears Docket And Quits For Term Monday

Speed Record Established by Judge Burney in Handling Large Docket

Opening the regular one-week term of the Martin County Superior Court two minutes ahead of schedule, Judge J. J. Burney established a speed record in handling a large criminal docket and in bringing the session to a close before nightfall. Very few cases ever reached the jury, and the court called only for the bare facts in the others. In addition to the regular docket, the court granted three divorces and allowed ample time for lunch.

Comparatively small crowds were present for the proceedings, and even though there were many cases on the docket the court attracted very little attention. Several cases were continued for one reason or another.

Proceedings in the court: The case charging Gus Forrest with non-support was continued under a former order.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with drunken driving, Hilary Ward Spruill was fined \$50, taxed with the cost and had his license revoked for one year.

Charged with violating the liquor laws, Ralph Dugger was sentenced to the roads for nine months, the court learning that he was in feeble health, suspending the sentence upon payment of the cost and upon the condition that the defendant violate no law during the next three years.

The murder case lodged against Raymond and Sam Powell was continued. Raymond is at liberty under bond, and Sam is still at large, the case having been continued pending his arrest.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with forgery and false pretense, Richard Lee Given was sentenced to prison for from 2 to 3 years. The judgment was suspended upon payment of the case cost and the amount of the check. The

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Warner A. Bailey Dies At His Bear Grass Home Sunday

Funeral Service Held Yesterday For Highly Respected County Citizen

Warner A. Bailey, highly respected citizen, died at his home in Bear Grass Sunday morning at 10 o'clock following a long period of declining health. Suffering from a complication of ailments, he had spent the past several months in bed, the end coming gradually.

The son of the late Lawrence Bailey and wife, he was born in this county 64 years ago. He spent his entire life on the farm, working diligently to meet his obligations and to merit the friendship and good will of his fellow man. Possessed of a quiet and unassuming character, he enjoyed a large friendship in his community and was recognized as a good neighbor, giving of his time in the service of others.

In early manhood he was married to Miss Allie Peel, who survives with eight children, Mrs. Alonza Revels, Miss Elizabeth Bailey, Mrs. Claiborne Whitaker, Buie Bailey, Robert Bailey, Clarence Bailey and W. A. Bailey, all of Bear Grass Township, and W. A. Bailey, Jr., of near Hamilton. Mr. Bailey was a thoughtful husband and father. He was not pretentious in his daily walk through life, and while he held membership in no church he was a firm believer in the Primitive Baptist faith and was liberal in its support. He was the last member of his immediate family.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock in the Primitive Baptist Church at Bear Grass by Elders B. S. Cowin and A. B. Ayers. Interment was in the Bailey Cemetery just across the road from the home.

BARGAIN COURT

Opening his second term of superior court in this county, Judge John Jay Burney yesterday frankly announced a bargaining scheme with the defendants as they were about to appear before him for alleged violation of law and order.

"It's near Christmas, and I don't want to be hard on anyone at this time," the jurist explained. "Come clean, submit pleas of guilty if you are guilty and I will be as light on you as I possibly can be," the judge bargained. "If you don't plead guilty and the jury adjudge you guilty, I am going to be hard on you," Judge Burney warned his clients. "If you start lying, 'I'll start supplying,' he added.

One client had already pleaded not guilty, but he immediately changed his plea, the court imposing the lightest sentence possible in the case.

County Commissioners Appoint Tax List-Takers and Assessors For Property Revaluation Work

Peanut Deliveries Continuing To Increase in Volume Here

After establishing what was described as a record last week, the local peanut market yesterday was off to a fresh start toward capping that record. The open market, with the exception of the activities at the plant of the Williamston Peanut Company, was dull yesterday and few purchases are being made today to the independents and direct representatives of the millers.

However, the rush in the government storage houses pushed on toward a climax and reminded one of the hustle and bustle following the tobacco marketing holiday, a year ago. Fifteen farmers' trucks, loaded high with the goobers, were lined up at the warehouses here at one time yesterday as large forces of men worked feverishly to handle the offerings. And while there were short delays, the warehouse operators were effectively handling

the big rush. Possibly the warehouses are now employing more men than they did during the tobacco marketing season. Farmers are anxious to sell their peanuts, and unable to find ready buyers they are turning to the storage houses. Deliveries were made here yesterday by farmers from Craven, Beaufort, Washington, Bertie and Martin Counties. The crop is now moving in from Bertie in large quantities.

Approximately 100,000 bags of this point so far. It is believed that the storage space will be ample to handle the remainder of the crop. The Farmers warehouse has been filled, and deliveries were made yesterday at the Planters house. There is still room for thousands of bags at the New Carolina. If all the houses are filled additional space will be sought elsewhere.

Farmers Strong For Cotton Control Plan

County Casts Solid Vote For Quotas In Recent Referendum

Support Here Holds Spotlight In Voting Throughout Cotton Belt

Casting just about twice as many votes as were predicted, Martin County farmers last Saturday in the cotton referendum again supported their stand for the farm program by voting 100 per cent for 1941 marketing quotas. As far as it could be learned today, it is the first time that any measure, political or otherwise, ever received a support 100 per cent strong. Last year in a similar referendum two votes were cast in opposition to cotton marketing quotas, but this year that little opposition was wiped out and the supporters of the plan increased their support by a margin of more than 33 per cent.

While the vote count was larger than had been predicted, hardly more than two-thirds of the cotton farmers eligible to vote participated in the referendum in this county. Farm leaders are of the opinion that the opposition in the group that did not participate in the referendum would be limited to less than one-half dozen farmers.

When cotton growers cast less than 800 votes last year and after less than one-half hundred farmers attended the district meetings held in connection with the referendum, farm leaders predicted a vote of not more than 500. A large crop yield restored interest in cotton in this county, and more farmers recognized the value of the control program. It was also pointed out that more farmers, anxious to save their cotton allotments, planted a small acreage to the crop and thereby gained the right to vote in the referendum.

The vote in this county for last year and this year, by townships, is as follows:

	1939 For Vs.	1940 For Vs.
Jamesville	27	0
Williams	30	0
Griffins	17	0
Bear Grass	48	0
Williamston	134	0
Cross Roads	91	0
Robersonville	163	0
Gold Point	51	0
Hassell	73	0
Hamilton	52	0
Goose Nest	227	0
	791	2
	1069	0

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Store Robbed Here Early Last Sunday

Forcing an entrance through the front door, robbers made a raid on the store of Robert Ormond, colored, on Broad Street here early last Sunday morning.

The robbers centered their attention on something to smoke, shoot and eat, the small-scale merchant reporting two cartons of cigarettes, a pistol and a cheese missing. A costly watch was also stolen, an object that will be of little use to the robbers if they are caught and pened.

No clue on the robbery has been established by the police so far.

Present Plans Call For Personal Visit To All Properties

Personal Property Listing To Be Handled Following Work By Assessors

Tentative plans, bordering on a fairly definite system, were advanced by the Martin County Commissioners in special session here yesterday for handling the revaluation of all real estate in the county beginning early in January. Discussing the huge task with Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes, the commissioners delayed final action for handling the revaluation until a joint meeting is held with the assessors on Monday, December 23.

The plans as discussed at the meeting yesterday call for a personal inspection of all real estate in the county. The appointment of three assessors for each of the ten townships has been recommended subject only to the appointees' acceptance. The assessors will include the list-taker in each district. Beginning early in January, after a schedule of values has been discussed on the 23rd of this month, the thirty assessors will value real holdings at random in each of the ten townships. This will aid the assessors in maintaining an equitable schedule of values over the county, as a whole. Assessed property valuations will be determined whenever possible in the presence of the owners.

While the assessors may complete the work in a few weeks, they must finish it within ninety days. They will be paid at the rate of \$5 a day. No trend as it affects the total assessed valuation has been predicted, but it is believed that the authorities are looking for an increase. It is also believed that no blanket increase will be tolerated, but that after inequalities are ironed out the total list will show some gain.

Personal property listings will be handled after the real property has been assessed. This work will be carried on at the usual places where the list-takers have maintained their headquarters in years past with possibly a few exceptions.

Continuing in session until well in the afternoon with no recess for lunch, the commissioners yesterday turned from the tax problem just long enough to appoint W. E. Early constable for Goose Nest Township.

The names of the assessors, that of the list-taker-assessor appearing first after the township, follow: Jamesville Township: R. L. Stallings, Ferd W. Holliday and J. Linwood Knowles.

Williams Township: C. L. Daniel, R. J. Hardison and Walter Gardner. Griffins Township: George C. Griffin, J. Dawson Liley and W. Tom Roberson.

Bear Grass Township: A. B. Ayers, C. Urban Rogers and W. O. Peel. Williamston Township: H. M. Burras, Albert T. Perry, S. C. Griffin. Cross Roads Township: G. G. Bailey, J. S. Ayers, Gaston James.

Robersonville Township: H. S. Everett, Joe Winslow, Tom Roebuck.

Poplar Point Township: L. G. Taylor, Mayo Hardison, W. S. White. Hamilton Township: L. R. Everett, F. L. Haislip, D. R. Edmondson. Goose Nest Township: James A. Rawls, Henry Early and Jack Smith.

Three Are Hurt In Main Street Wreck

Mr. Ralph Parker was painfully bruised and his young son, Ralph, Jr., and James Allen Hoggard were slightly hurt in an automobile accident at a main street intersection here last Friday evening. Mr. Parker is able to sit up some now, and the other two victims are getting along all right.

Mr. Parker, accompanied by Mrs. Parker and their son, was traveling across Main Street at the Presbyterian Church corner when Hoggard, alleged to have been operating a car while intoxicated and without lights, crashed into him.

Hoggard is now facing trial in the courts for alleged drunken driving.

Country Home Destroyed By Fire Saturday Night

Fire, believed to have started from a falling spark, destroyed the Thaddeus Hadley home on the Washington Road in Bear Grass Township last Saturday evening at 8:30 o'clock. The two-story structure was built by the late Sylvester Webb.

The family was away from home at the time, but travelers, seeing the fire, stopped and removed much of the furniture on the lower floor. The property was partially covered by insurance.

TRADING

Jurymen, seeking to be excused from service in the superior court here yesterday, were released upon the condition that they send other men to take their places. T. J. Roberson, regular jurymen, wasn't long in trading places with Mr. W. H. Adkins. Assuring the judge that he would try to get another man to serve in his place, a second jurymen was warned that if he failed the sheriff would be sent for him. A trade was effected, and the court continued its work.

Hitler Is Predicting Victory At End Of Long European War

Meanwhile Greeks and British Score Successes in Albania and Africa

Adolf Hitler in a speech to the German people early today predicted, with some reservation, that Germany would be triumphant at the end of a long war. German's No. 1 mad man threw out hints in his speech which was not broadcasted in this country. "We have constructed bases on the coast that no power on earth can take," he said intimating that he anticipated an invasion of the continent by England. Pointing out that blitzkrieg warfare entails too many sacrifices, Hitler told his people that by waiting more could be gained, that the German people were prepared to wait. While Hitler was preparing his people for a long war, it is possible that he was trying to offset the serious reversals dealt the Axis powers in recent weeks.

Assuring his listeners that the New Order will tear down the Old Order as the latter exists in England and the United States, Hitler declared that work will triumph over gold, that a just distribution of territory will follow a German victory.

While Hitler was talking to his people, the British and Greeks were scoring new gains in Africa and Albania. Prime Minister Churchill stated today that preliminaries had been handled for an extensive offensive.

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CHEER FUND

Williamston's annual Christmas Cheer fund received its first support over the week-end when six persons contributed a total of \$15 that some less-fortunate tot may enjoy the Christmas season. Early reports from a survey of needy and most worthy cases state that a substantial fund will be necessary if the movement is to be successful. A fairly sizable collection of toys is now being repaired and made ready for distribution following a canvass of the town by the Scouts last Saturday. Cash contributions are acknowledged, as follows:

Harry Biggs	\$10.00
Mrs. W. E. Old	1.00
Joel Muse	1.00
Mrs. J. A. Eason	1.00
Mrs. E. T. Walker	1.00
Mary Taylor	1.00