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Judge Calvin Smith Calls Seven Cases In County's Court

Tribunal Holds Seven and Unsuccessful Session Monday Morning

Judge J. Calvin Smith held the county recorder's court in session less than two hours last Monday in handling the seven cases on the docket. The proceedings attracted a very small crowd and the session was a very uneventful one. However, Judge Smith really bore down on non-supporters when he sentenced one defendant to the county roads for nine months.

Solicitor Paul D. Roberson prosecuted the docket. Proceedings:

After failing to appear for trial last week, R. R. Hilliker, charged with speeding, answered when he was called Monday. Pleading guilty, he was fined \$5 and taxed with the cost.

Lollie Williams, charged with disorderly conduct, pleaded not guilty. The defendant had been placed under a 90-day suspended sentence at a previous session and when he was adjudged guilty last Monday, the sentence was invoked.

The case charging Berry Wynne with cruelty to animals was continued until Monday, February 26.

Pleading guilty in the case charging him with assaulting Albert Wilson with a deadly weapon, George Purvis was sentenced to the roads for ninety days. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of a \$10 fine and costs. He was also directed to pay the prosecuting witness \$23.88 for doctor's bill and \$15 for damage done to Wilson's overcoat. The court also stipulated in its judgment that the defendant be regularly employed during one year.

Jonah Clemmons, charged with carrying a concealed weapon, was fined \$50 and taxed with the cost. The defendant's pistol was confiscated.

Eva Knight was sentenced to jail for ninety days for alleged violation of the health laws. The sentence was suspended upon the payment of the cost and on condition that the defendant comply with the health laws.

Carried into court for failing to comply with a judgment handed down in the court last April, William Staton, charged with non-support, was sentenced to the roads for a term of nine months. The bond posted last April and guaranteeing the payment of stipulated amounts for the support of his children, was ordered forfeited.

More County Boys "Touring" Europe

Quite a number of Martin County boys have recently landed in the European War Theaters during recent days. A note received this week stated that Pvt. Garland Tice was seeing the sights in France following his safe arrival across the "pond" just a short time ago.

Pvt. William E. Davis advised his wife who lives on RFD 3, Williamston, that he was in Belgium. In his letter he said that the war news sounded all right and that he hoped to start the return trip "soon."

Pvt. Elbert S. Harris recently notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Harris, of Bear Grass, of his safe arrival in Northern France.

Pvt. Winford Mobley has been traveling quite a bit in the European theater recently. In a letter to his wife he stated that he landed safely and had already "toured" France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and then back to Holland. The young man added, however, that he expected to make his headquarters in Germany. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Mobley.

While Pvt. Garland Tice was landing in the European area, a brother, Thomas Tice, was reportedly beginning a trip across the Pacific.

News From The Soil Conservation Front

One of the farmers who laid drainage tile on his farm in cooperation with the Coastal Plain Soil Conservation District in the winter of 1944, and who reports that he is well pleased with results, is Clyde Williams of near Williamston on the Washington highway. Mr. Williams removed several open ditches on his farm by laying about 1000 feet of four inch drainage tile.

Mr. Williams states that he is not only getting a better job of drainage, but by eliminating the open ditches he does not have to shrub and maintain the ditches, and has added land occupied by them to cultivation, so it has been worth the price of the tile in the added convenience and appearance. Mr. Williams plans to lay more tile this season.

During the month of November complete soil conservation plans were made on the farms of Mr. M. T. Gardner of Fairview church community, Russell Turner of near Oak City, and R. H. Peele farm, near Oak City.

Pvt. Earley Briley Loses Life By Drowning In Pacific Area

County colored man, was recently reported to be missing in the Territory of Hawaii on last December 23. The 21-year-old Marine is believed to have lost his life while in swimming, unofficial reports indicating that he was not on active duty at the time. However, details could not be had immediately and just how the young man lost his life could not be learned other than that he was drowned.

The son of Ed Briley, now of Greenville, and the late Priscilla Goss Briley of this county, the young man entered the service on May 18, last year. He was stationed at Cherry Point until November of last year and was reportedly on his way to the far Pacific for combat service. He was born and reared in the Robertsonville section where he lived until just a short time before he entered the service.

SLIGHTLY WOUNDED

Sgt. William R. Harris was slightly wounded in Belgium on January 6, his mother, Mrs. Nora Harris, RFD 2, Williamston, was advised a few days ago. The young man is improving in an Army hospital and expects to be able to return to active duty shortly.

Entering the service from Pitt County in November, 1941, Sgt. Harris went overseas a year later, participating in the North African and Sicilian campaigns. After a short stay in England he participated in the invasion of France, moved into Belgium and Germany and then was pushed back into Belgium where he was wounded.

Group I Bankers In Call Meeting Here

The Executive Committee, Group I, of the North Carolina Bankers Association held a called meeting in the George Reynolds Hotel here Wednesday night, with A. G. Small of Elizabeth City, presiding. Due to government regulations prohibiting the assembly of more than 50 persons, the annual meeting of the entire association, which is always held on George Washington's birthday, February 22, was definitely called off this year. At the meeting of the executive committee here Wednesday night all business matters of the association were transacted for the year 1945.

Speakers were scheduled for the called meeting of the Eastern Carolina bankers but unforeseen difficulties and pressing business matters prevented their coming. Short talks by several visitors and members of the association were the outstanding features of the comparatively short meeting.

The following officers were elected: J. L. Hoffer, Jr., Windsor, president; J. E. Edwards, Belhaven, vice president; H. A. Bowen, Williams-ton, secretary-treasurer. The executive committee is composed of A. G. Small, Elizabeth City; W. H. Gardner, Edenton; G. D. Brackhouse, Elizabeth City; W. R. Pearse, Manteo; and D. V. Clayton, Williamston.

Attending the meeting were: W. H. Woolard, Herbert Waldrop, and Joe Moyle, Greenville; Hugh Copeland, Ahoskie; D. R. Everett and B. L. Stokes, Robersonville; W. E. Griffin, A. G. Small and C. D. Pappendorf, Elizabeth City; M. R. Griffin, Woolard; L. E. Walston, Farmville; A. F. Rowe, Ayden; R. M. Riddick and W. H. Harcastle, Hertford; J. L. Hoffer, Jr., Windsor; M. A. Matthews, Columbia; D. V. Clayton, Joe Griffin, Herman Bowen and Clyde Griffin, Williamston. Special guest, J. D. Woolard, Williamston.

Two Injured In Accident On Highway 11 Wednesday

Two persons were injured and a property damage estimated at \$400 resulted when a 1937 model Ford turned over on Highway 11 in this county a few miles north of the Edgecombe line about midnight last Wednesday.

The car was registered in the name of Leo Harrell, RFD 1, Bethel, but the names of the driver and the two persons hurt could not be learned immediately. It was reported that the injured were colored persons and that they were removed to a Tarboro hospital for treatment.

POLIO VICTIM

Bradley Roy James, two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper James of Stokes, was stricken with infantile paralysis last Wednesday and was removed the following day by ambulance to the Polio Hospital in Charlotte.

Transportation was furnished by the Pitt County Infantile Paralysis Chapter. This is the first polio case reported in this section in several months.

Hold Funeral Today In Hamilton Church For Miss Pritchard

Wife of County Woman Died in Local Hospital Last Tuesday Evening

Funeral services are being conducted in the Hamilton Methodist Church this afternoon at 3 o'clock for Miss Georgia Pritchard, well-known Hamilton citizen, who died in the local hospital last Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock. Rev. T. H. House, her pastor, will conduct the last rites, and interment will follow in the Hamilton Cemetery.

Suffering with heart trouble, Miss Pritchard had been in declining health for nearly ten years. She was fairly active, however, up until about three weeks ago when her condition became worse and she was removed to the local hospital the early part of last week. She was almost 87 years of age.

The daughter of the late G. L. and Catherine Congleton Pritchard, she was born in Pitt County on June 17, 1858. When quite young she moved with her family to this county, locating in Hamilton where she had since made her home.

She was the oldest member of the Methodist Church in Hamilton, having joined there more than sixty years ago. She was faithful in her attendance upon its services as long as she was able to be out, and was a teacher in the Sunday school for a number of years.

Miss Pritchard never married but she maintained a home and was a mother to her nephew, J. L. Pritchard, whose parents died when he was quite young.

She was the last member of her immediate family, a brother, T. H. Pritchard, dying in Swansboro many years ago, and a sister, Miss Mary Pritchard, dying about 50 years ago. Her brother, S. L. Pritchard, died in Hamilton in 1906. Besides her nephew with whom she made her home, she is survived by a niece, Miss Lala Pritchard of Greensboro, and three nephews, Dr. G. L. Pritchard, of LaGrange, Frank H. Pritchard, U. S. Army, and Thomas H. Pritchard of Swansboro.

Assaults Man On Main Street Here

Charged with assaulting and causing serious bodily harm to Manuel M. Schwartz on the main street here early Wednesday evening, N. S. Godard, local cafe operator, waived rights to a preliminary hearing last night and was bound over to the county court for trial next Monday.

The prosecuting witness, it was reported to Justice Hassell's court last evening, was not physically able to appear for the hearing at that time.

No official version of the attack could be had immediately, but it was declared that the defendant was angered because the victim had allegedly charged him with exceeding price ceilings in serving meals at his (the defendant's) cafe. One report stated that the defendant knocked Schwartz, a sweet potato buyer, down and kicked him, that he broke the man's false teeth and glasses, causing a gash in his jaw. The victim, treated in the local hospital, was able to return to his hotel room a short time later.

The OPA sent a representative to the cafe, but developments relative to excessive prices have not been reported. During the meantime, Schwartz has had several flat tires on his truck, two of them reportedly resulting from a carelessly handled ice pick.

On Way Home After Long Stay In The Pacific Area

After a stay of three and one-half years in the Pacific area, Cpl. Atwood Gurganus arrived in San Francisco this week. In a message to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Gurganus, yesterday, the young man stated he hoped to reach home about next Wednesday for a 30-day leave.

Five Brothers Are In Nation's Service

With five sons and a son-in-law in the service, Mr. Sid A. Mobley of Williamston is well represented in various corners of the world. Two of the brothers and their families, Lt. and Mrs. Jas. L. Mobley and twin daughters, Gale and Dale, of Hondo, Texas, and Storekeeper and Mrs. Sam Mobley and daughter, Lindy Sue, of Norfolk, visited Mr. Mobley here a few days ago. Lt. Mobley recently received his wings at Hondo. Pfc. Sidney Mobley is soldiering in France, Maynard and Warren Mobley are in the Merchant Marine, Warren having been in that branch of the service since 1925. M. K. Harrington, a son-in-law, is in the U. S. Navy. A son, Jack Mobley, is attending Wake Forest College.

Plan Lunch Room Project For Bear Grass School

Meeting in the school auditorium there next Monday night at 8 o'clock members of the Parent-Teacher Association and other interested citizens will discuss plans for opening a lunch room in the Bear Grass School. The president, Mrs. Pete Mendenhall, asks all parents and other patrons to be present and take part in the discussion.

Lose Claims To Game Rights Along Roanoke

Jury Gives Verdict To J. C. Staton In Unusual Law Suit

Decision Leaves Sportsmen With a Boat and No Place To Land and Hunt

Several local sportsmen, including J. H. Edwards, T. B. Brandon, N. C. Green, Dr. J. S. Rhodes, "Ace-in-the-Hole" Titus Critcher, Charlie Roebuck, Kader Crawford, Rossel Rogers and others, were left high and dry with a house boat and no good place to land and hunt when in the Bertie County Superior Court yesterday a jury found that Jim Staton and Staton alone was the Broad Creek Hunting Club. After debating the issues for more than two hours, the jurymen reached a verdict favoring Mr. Staton shortly after 8 o'clock last evening, marking the close of a "friendly" but doggedly-fought civil action that had been aired in the neighboring county court during the greater part of two days.

Cutting through strong friendships that had lasted down through the years, the unusual law action had its origin some time back but simmered until a year or two ago when the plaintiff, J. C. Staton, withdrew from the hunters' household and walked off with the hunting privileges to the lower reaches of the Roanoke River, the jury upholding him in the action.

The plaintiff called Clayton Moore of Winston-Salem as an expert witness, and he reviewed the case in detail. He told who built the house boat and declared that he approached the plaintiff and made arrangements for the owners to share the hunting rights with Mr. Staton who held the lease to quite a few acres along the lower reaches of the Roanoke River and along Broad Creek. His evidence tended to show that the defendants had never leased the land, that they were hunting there at the good grace of the plaintiff all the time. Some cash remuneration, naturally, was extended.

The plaintiff maintained that there was only one member of the Broad Creek Hunting Club, that he tired of all the crowds (estimated as high as 300 at times) that were invited by others from as far away as Richmond and Lexington, that he could not sleep with all the boats coming and going, and that he wanted it quiet and peaceful so he could take his canoe, place his old blanket in the bottom, lay his head on his sweater and take a nap.

Other witnesses stated that they had signed leases with the plaintiff as agent for or trading as the Broad Creek Hunting Club, but had never signed one with any of the defendants.

In their defense, members of the other side maintained that they joined the house boat club with the understanding that hunting rights along the lower Roanoke would be made available to them, that the group had paid the rental fee every year until it was refused by the plaintiff. Other witnesses testified that they had leased land to the plaintiff as agent of the Broad Creek Hunting Club with the understanding that the defendants were members of the club.

As far as it could be learned this morning, the case will not be appealed to the higher courts.

Officers Tear Up Two Liquor Stills

In recent raids to hold in check the manufacture of illicit liquor, Officer J. H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel wrecked several stills and confiscated a quantity of white liquor.

Going into the Gold Point area, the officers found a partial plant and wrecked it, and picked up a lead to another plant where they found two fifty-gallon capacity oil drums linked together and red hot. The operators, apparently hearing the officers blowing up the first partial plant, took the output and some equipment and escaped ahead of the raiders.

Day before yesterday the officers went into the lower end of Bear Grass and found ten gallons of liquor, and back-tracked it several miles into Cross Roads where they found a 50-gallon wood still and two barrels of beer.

Leaders To Visit Churches In This County On Sunday

Harry Poll and Miss Mildred Welshimer, of Cincinnati, will be at the Maple Grove and Macedonia Churches Sunday. In their talks they will bring facts, information and inspirational messages concerning work and responsibility in the Bible school and with the youth.

They will be at the Maple Grove Church Sunday morning at 11:30, at Macedonia Sunday night at 7:30.

WOUNDED



Pvt. Melville Wynne, local young man, was slightly wounded in Germany on January 24, his wife, the former Miss Armanda Edwards, was advised a short time ago. He is a son of Mr. Dan Wynne and one of three brothers in the service. Writing with his left hand, the young man said in a letter received this week that he was wounded in the right hand and had lost his middle finger, but was getting along very well.

Nine Cases Heard In Mayor's Court

Following weeks of normal activity, business picked up in Justice J. L. Hassell's court here during the past few days. Some of it was so tough the trial justice referred several cases to the higher courts.

Edward Davenport, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was required to pay \$8.50 costs. James Bud Reeves was fined \$1.50 and taxed with \$9.50 costs in the case charging him with being drunk and disorderly.

Facing similar charges, Walter Andrews and Milton Harrison were fined \$1.50 and required to pay \$8.50 costs each. Probably cause of guilt appearing, the case charging Walter Freeman with breaking and entering Buck's Place was sent to the superior court with the defendant under bond in the sum of \$500. The amount had not been supplied and Freeman continues in jail.

Charged with forcible trespass, Linwood Speight, deaf mute, was bound over to the county court for trial in \$200 bond. He too, continues in jail in default of bond.

Johnnie "Dump" Latham, charged with assaulting a female, was sent to the higher court for trial, and he was released in \$100 bond.

J. D. Wiggins, charged with assaulting a female with a deadly weapon, was bound over to the county court under bond in the sum of \$200. At the preliminary hearing before Justice Hassell last evening, the prosecuting witness said that the trouble started over a remark the defendant made about her clothes at the Cotton Club Sunday night. Pardons were asked, and all went well, according to the prosecuting witness, until she reached her home and Wiggins ran up on the porch and stabbed her in the back. Wiggins was quoted as saying at the close of the hearing that he would appeal from the judgment not yet rendered in the county court.

Recover Sizable Amount Money Reported Stolen

Approximately \$450, alleged to have been stolen from Lizzie Evans last week, was recovered yesterday. According to reports reaching here, Will Evans and his wife went to a hog killing at Ben Mason's home in Bear Grass. The wife had the money and did not want to leave it at home. She turned the money over to Mason's wife for safekeeping in a locked wardrobe. The money disappeared during the day and just before officers started to get the fingerprints off the pocketbook, the money showed up in Mason's mail box and he returned it to the owner.

EARLY CLOSING

In accordance with an announcement released this week, most Williamston stores and business houses will close their doors at 7 o'clock p. m. each Saturday, beginning tomorrow. The action is being taken as a conservation measure, the merchants explaining that their fuel supplies are running low and that government authorities had asked a curtailment in lighting.

Patrons are earnestly asked to cooperate with the merchants by doing their shopping early or before going to the shows.

Bombers And Ships Closing In On The Main Islands of Japs

By Konev's Army in Its March to the North

Believed to be the forerunner of a new offensive, American warships penetrated to within an estimated 300 miles of the Japanese home islands early this morning and released hundreds of their carrier-based bombers for attacks on the main Japanese islands, telling blows having been directed at Tokyo and other strategic targets in the enemy's front yard. At about the same time, American warships were firing salvos into Iwo Jima, possibly the most bombed spot in the Pacific to date. The recent action is a direct challenge to the Jap fleet, and marks an important turn in the Pacific war.

The superforts, based in the Marianas, yesterday were over Nagoya, raining destruction down on Japanese aircraft manufacturing and the port. Tokyo was off the air for over half an hour this morning, and observers are of the opinion that the city's electric system had been partially wrecked.

In the Philippines, MacArthur's men are nearing final victory in the fight for Manila, while the Americans have severed enemy defense lines on Batavia.

It has been officially announced that 1,800 Allied prisoners lost their lives when a Jap ship was torpedoed and the Japs trapped the victims in the ship without a chance of escape. Only five of the prisoners were saved, the report said.

Over on the European fronts, Berlin is facing a new threat. Konev's Army has sent a force to the north to flank the enemy while the march toward Dresden has been advanced to within 42 miles of the Saxony capital. The Red Army has toppled the German defenses along a 30-mile sector of the Oder and captured three of the enemy's largest strongholds southeast of Berlin. The Russians are bringing up more reserves on the central sector, and Allied air might is moving in to cooperate closely with the advancing Soviet armies. Targets, less than ten miles from the Russian columns, have been blasted and troop concentrations feeding to the front in an effort to check the Red Army have been disintegrated. During the meantime, Allied air power has sent 12,000 planes over Germany in the last 72 hours, laying waste to important targets all over the place.

On the Western Front, the Canadians are holding a two-mile stretch along the Rhine, but the Germans were said to be rushing in reserves and no great advances have been reported by any of the Allied forces. In other sectors along the front, bad weather has all out halted the drive.

Goes To Maxton For Advanced Training

Flight Officer F. C. Stallings, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Stallings, of Jamesville, has returned to Maxton, N. C., for advanced training in airborne tactics after spending a 15-day furlough with his family in Jamesville.

He enlisted in the Army Air Force on July 25, 1942, and trained to be flight instructor in the C. A. A. program. He completed primary flying in Raleigh, secondary flying in Charlotte, cross country flying in Winston-Salem, and link instrument course in Greenville, S. C.

He was approved as an Army primary flight instructor in 1943, and instructed some over six months at Bennettsville, S. C. In March, 1944, he was sent to Sheppard Field, Texas, and then to Denver, Colo., for B-29 instrument training. He was recalled to Sheppard Field, Texas for glider training. After completion of basic glider training and flying he was transferred to Lubbock, Texas, where he was trained in combat type gliders, both night and day problems. He graduated, received his wings and was appointed flight officer at Lubbock, Texas on January 15, 1945. He was selected by his superior officer and fellow classmates as a class leader.

Fire And Smoke Damage Sewing Room Yesterday

Considerable damage was done to the sewing room of Mrs. Mary Coltrain in the old Dr. J. B. H. Knight office on Main Street here yesterday morning shortly after 9 o'clock when an oil stove went out of control and smoked the room. There was very little oil in the heater and the actual fire damage was not extensive. No estimate on the loss could be had immediately.

The heat was so great that several glass panes were broken. Firemen soon had the fire under control.

Mrs. Mollie Modlin of Jamesville was recently notified that her son, Pvt. Elmer Modlin, had landed in France. Pvt. Modlin's wife and small son are making their home in Plymouth with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Alexander.