

Superior Court Will Complete Criminal Docket Cases Today

Proceedings Drag Through First Day; Several Cases Are Continued

Opening a two-weeks term here yesterday, the Martin County Superior Court dragged through the day, clearing few cases, continuing several and carrying others over until today for trial. All of yesterday afternoon, or about three hours, court time, was devoted to the trial of a defendant who the jury found guilty in less than four minutes after receiving the case.

It was suggested this morning that all of today would be required to clear the docket, and some were of the opinion that the criminal docket would last until some time tomorrow. The court attracted a fairly large crowd yesterday, but the attendance is much smaller today.

Proceedings: Pleading not guilty, Joe Barnhill, Bethel man charged with drunken driving, was found not guilty. He had appealed from a judgment handed down by Judge J. C. Smith in the county court where the defendant was adjudged guilty. Direct evidence offered in the case alleged that Barnhill was so drunk he could hardly hold his head up. The defense, it was pointed out, had no witnesses who saw the man some little time before his arrest or who saw him immediately after his arrest. Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, presiding over the term, said nothing to the jury, but he was said to have told the defendant to be careful how he drove in the future.

Following the jury action in that case, at least one other similar case was continued by the State.

The case charging Berry Wynne with cruelty to animals was not prosed.

Cortez Hopkins, charged with larceny, was sentenced to the roads for twelve months, the court suspending the sentence for five years upon the payment of a \$100 fine and costs and on the further condition that defendant remain sober and gainfully employed during period of suspension and not violate any criminal laws.

Walter (Bud) Freeman, charged with breaking and entering, pleaded guilty of forcible trespass and was sentenced to the roads for six months.

After laboring through the trial of the case charging Aushorn Rogers with breaking and entering and larceny, the court ordered a recess shortly before 5 o'clock. The jury returned its verdict in about three and one-half minutes. Rogers is alleged to have visited over in Williams Township ever so often and carried away various goods and items while the good people in that neighborhood were attending church services. On the last trip he carried away some bird shot.

The case charging N. S. Godard with assault was continued until the June term. Court attendants were uncertain what course the case would take now that the prosecuting witness is dead.

A continuance was granted in the case charging Sam Godard with drunken driving.

The status of the case charging Herman Manning and Joe Martin with aiding in an illegal operation could not be determined definitely this morning. An appeal for a new trial was denied the two men by the State Supreme Court, but the court in this county has not been officially notified of that action. The two-year sentences imposed in the Martin County will not be invoked at this time, and, according to one report, the men will continue at liberty under bond until the next term of court. During the meantime, the case against the defendant doctor in Goldsboro has apparently bogged down in the Wayne County Superior Court. According to one report reaching here a true bill was returned in the Wayne court, and later it was alleged that the grand jurors were polled and announced they had voted against a true bill.

Brothers Meet Over In Holland Recently

Going for two and one-half years without seeing each other, two brothers, Cpl. John R. Coltrain and Pvt. Simon Coltrain met over in Holland a short time ago, and advised their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Coltrain, of Farm Life. It was a great meeting for the two.

The two young men have been in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, and at one time were stationed close to one another, but neither of them knew it at the time.

Both of them have met a goodly number of boys from North Carolina, but none from Williamson since they have been overseas. Both of them have been in front line action several times and each of them expressed the hope that the war will end soon and that they can return home to their families.

In a recent letter the young men stated they were receiving and greatly enjoying The Enterprise and said tell all their friends hello for them.

Third Boy In Neighborhood Group Ltsied As A Casualty

Pvt. Dewey Stalls, Martin County young man, was wounded in Germany on March 6th while in action his wife, the former Miss Vivian Bland of Hassell, was notified this week in a letter received yesterday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Stalls of near Oak City, the young man explained that he had suffered a fracture of his right arm and a fracture of the left leg, that he was in an Army hospital somewhere in England and getting along all right. He also pointed out that he was enjoying sleeping between white sheets and that Red Cross nurses were giving him every attention.

Pvt. Stalls entered the service in the late summer of last year and went overseas in early January. He was with Pvt. William J. Etheridge, also of the Hassell community, when he (Etheridge) was either missing or fell into the hands of the Germans

on or about February 6. Nothing more has been heard from Pvt. Etheridge officially since he was reported missing by the War Department.

Pvt. Stalls went overseas with several other men from the Oak City-Hassell-Bethel area, three of them have been included in the fairly recent casualty lists. Roy Ward of Bethel, was slightly wounded about the same time that Pvt. Stalls was hurt, his wife, the former Miss Frances Downs of Hassell, was just recently advised. Ward is now in a hospital in England, and indirect reports reaching here state that he is getting along all right.

The Stalls casualty report was the second to reach the county during the past few days, the other announcing that S/Sgt. William James Burnette was missing over Italy since February 28.

CANCEL CONTRACTS

Contracts for higher priorities held by industry, farmers' contracts for prisoner of war labor have been cancelled as of March 21, it was announced by the office of the county agent today. Very few prisoners have been made available for farm work during recent weeks, and it is possible that they will be continued in industry for the most part until harvesting time next fall.

It was learned, however, that the camp officials were asking for more prisoners and that possibly some would be made available for farm work in May or June.

Manuel M. Schwartz Dies Here Suddenly

Manuel M. Schwartz, produce dealer of Philadelphia, died in his hotel room here last Friday morning at 10:30 o'clock following an illness of only a few hours. Apoplexy was given as the immediate cause of his death. He had complained with terrible headaches for several weeks, and early Friday morning he said that his head was killing him. Before medical aid could reach him a few minutes later he lapsed into unconsciousness.

Born in Austria on March 20, 1895, he came to this country when about fifteen years of age. After working as an immigrant lad for about two years at various jobs, he entered the produce business in Philadelphia, and for about eight years he had traveled in this territory buying sweet potatoes. He had spent the past three winters here, and made many friends among the farmers in this county during that time. Through him, sweet potato farmers had found a dependable market, and news of his death was received with deep regret by them.

The body was moved to Philadelphia late Friday and the last rites were conducted by Rabbi Hertzberg there Sunday, interment following in Har Nebo Cemetery.

Mr. Schwartz was married twice, his second wife, the former Miss Mary Moss, surviving, with four sons, Benjamin S. Schwartz, U. S. Army now in Hawaii; Lt. Harry Schwartz, U. S. Army Air Corps, just recently back from overseas; Edward S. Schwartz, now with the Army in New Guinea, and Leonard Schwartz who was associated with his father after receiving his discharge from the Army following two years overseas. He also leaves a sister, Mrs. Ida Leibowitz, of Philadelphia.

Soldier Badly Hurt In Accident Here

Willie Lilley, about three months in the Army, seriously cut his right foot while chopping wood at the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. J. T. Bland, Sr., on North Smithwick Street here last week.

The young Martin County man was removed to a government hospital at Seymour-Johnson Field, in Goldsboro, the following day. He is about the fifth Martin County man to have been accidentally hurt while home on furlough.

Most of the men, it is understood were so badly hurt they have not been able to return to active duty.

ROUND-UP

Reporting a pre-summer slump on the crime front, local and county officers rounded up and jailed only three alleged violators of the law last week-end. One or two others were cited to the court for possible judgments.

One white and two colored youths were detained, one for alleged disorderly conduct, another for drunken driving and another for being drunk and disorderly. The ages of the group ranged from 16 to 26 years.

News From All The Major War Fronts Very Encouraging

Air Raids Continued Against Japs; Powerful Blow In The Saar Basin

For the most part, news from all the major war fronts continues good, with developments in the West pointing to the end of the European struggle or, at least, to the disintegration of the German armies. Encouragement for the Allies is found in the growing weakness of the enemy. When Siegfried defenses, the Germans had all the attributes of a powerful army, but recent developments along the northern sector of the Rhine area, indicate a new weakness on the part of the Germans. Surely, the fight is bitter, but reports indicate that the supermen have thrown down their light arms, deserted much equipment and raced across the Rhine ahead of the Third and Seventh Armies.

Three rampaging United States tank divisions of Patton's Army, racing up to 15 miles through the toppling Saarland, thrust within forty miles of Kaiserlautern yesterday in a bid to crush 80,000 enemy troops in a giant vise.

Many of these badly-needed German troops were doomed when the enemy blew two Rhine bridges at Mainz, 12 miles in front of yet another armored division, the United States Fourth, which set the stage for the Nazi debacle with a breakthrough along the Rhineland plain. Already driven from more than half the Saarland and Palatinate—their last holdings west of the Rhine—and routed from their final foothold in Northeastern France by the U. S. Seventh Army, the Germans are faced with even grater peril to their vaunted Rhine Line farther to the north.

Hodges' First Army east of the Rhine struck northward more than two miles, reached the plains leading to the Ruhr at two points, and enlarged its bridgehead to eighteen miles wide and eight miles deep.

Opposite the Ruhr itself the U. S. Ninth Army cleared the way for a possible Rhine crossing by ordering German civilians evacuated from the west bank cities of Uerdingen, Homberg, Ossenberg, Orsoy and Rheinhausen.

With fighting manpower needed (Continued on page six)

County Young Man Has Mission Record

First Lieutenant Robert A. Haislip, Jr., recently returned from almost a year of service overseas, is believed to hold a bombing mission record among the many Martin County men now serving in the American Air Forces in England.

The young man, son of County Commissioner and Mrs. R. A. Haislip of Oak City, completed his seventieth mission as a bombardier on a B-25 just a short time before returning to the States.

A veteran of precision bombing, Lieut. Haislip made numerous forays over Southern France and Italy striking the enemy pin-point targets, including bridges, viaducts, tunnels, and other tactical objects.

Lieut. Haislip has received the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry and the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in combat. He wears the European Theater of Operations ribbon with 2 stars denoting combat duty over France before and after D-Day.

A graduate of State College, class of 1942, Lt. Haislip taught agriculture at Bunn and did his practice teaching at Gatesville. When he was at State he was vice president of the college chapter of the Future Farmers of America and treasurer of the Agricultural Club. Completing a three-weeks' leave at home, he will report at the Miami redistribution center on April 4 for reassignment.

Plan For Expansion Of Power And Light Lines In Rural Area

Company To Extend Lines Even When Income Is Not More Than \$6 a Mile

The Virginia Electric and Power Company has developed and filed with the Commissions of Virginia and North Carolina a new liberalized plan for the electrification of rural areas. This plan is designed to cause a widespread extension of electric service throughout the areas served by the Company just as soon as labor and material become available for making these extensions.

The new plan proposes that, under the conditions stated below, the company will extend its lines for rural and farm service to the customer's building or to some other delivery point on his premises, relieving the customer of the necessity of having to build any private line, as was so frequently necessary in the past. This new plan should reduce to a minimum delays in getting service, and also should result in a material saving to the farm and rural customer.

The company will, according to the filing with the commissions, construct at its own cost rural extensions when, in the company's opinion, the assured monthly revenue from such extensions will average not less than \$6.00 per mile. The monthly minimum shall be not less than \$2.00 per customer. Except for this minimum charge of \$2.00, customers will be served on the regular rates for electric service which apply generally in the area in which they reside.

In commenting on the new filing, J. G. Holtzclaw, President of Veeco, said that "the purpose of the new rural plan is to make electricity available at substantially lowered costs to virtually every farm and rural home in the company's territory, to the end that greater use of electricity on the farm may not only help to increase farm production but may also lower production costs and generally improve living conditions for farm and rural families."

Because of existing war conditions, Mr. Holtzclaw stated that relatively little construction of new lines is possible at the present time. However, a substantial number of farms can undoubtedly be served even under present War Production Board restrictions and prospective users are urged to apply now for service so that line extensions may be made at once where conditions permit and other extensions may be planned.

(Continued on page six)

Williamston Boy Tells Of The Fight For Iwo Jima

"At one time, the Japs were killing seven out of ten of our men," Mack Simpson, former Williamston boy and a nephew of L. T. Fowden, said in a letter written to relatives here under date of February 28th. Mack was getting along very well at that time.

Quite a few Martin County boys are believed to have participated in the fight, one, Pfc. Lester L. Harrell, Jr., of Oak City, having been painfully wounded there on February 25th.

Johnson-After Very Costly Fire Store Mat Very Expensive

Burned out in the costly fire that swept a portion of Hamilton's business district on the 11th of this month, Johnson-Matthews, a leading Hamilton mercantile firm, is rapidly making plans for continuing operations, according to an announcement by Mr. Henry Johnson, junior member of the firm. Temporary quarters have been obtained and business will be carried on there until repairs can be completed to larger store, it was explained.

MISSING

S/Sgt. William James Burnette of Jamesville has been missing in action over Italy since February 28, according to a message received by Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer J. Holliday with whom the young man had made his home since he was about three years old and up until he entered the service.

Graduated from the Jamesville High School with the class of 1945, the young man entered the service the following November and went overseas last October. He was a tail gunner on a B-24 and had completed fourteen missions over enemy territory. Jimmie recently spent his 19th birthday over Munich, Germany.

Sgt. Burnette is the son of Dan Burnette, formerly of Jamesville. His mother was the former Miss Ethel Byrd of Mt. Olive who came to this county and taught school, married Tommy Martin, and after his death married Mr. Burnette. She died when Jimmie was about three years old and he had made his home with the Hollidays since that time. He has a half sister, the former Miss Tommie Martin, now of Florida.

Tax Values Gain More Than \$382,000 in Eight Townships

Martin County's property valuations were virtually approved in their entirety here yesterday when the county commissioners remained in session during a greater part of the day and received only three cases for review. In those cases there had been physical alterations in the properties and adjustments were effected, but since they amounted to only \$1,300 it isn't likely that the tax structure will be thrown badly out of balance.

The valuation placed on the J. H. Ayers residence in Goose Nest was reduced from \$1,775 to \$1,175 for the years 1944 and 1945.

A reduction of \$200 was allowed J. Edward Corey on 126 acres of land where timber had been cut in Griffins Township.

The valuation on 100 acres of land belonging to the A. L. Roebuck estate in Cross Roads Township was reduced from \$1000 to \$500.

During the day, the commissioners reviewed the 1945 tax listings in eight of the ten townships, but no budget estimates will be offered until the tax listing job is completed. All the books are expected in shortly and work on the new fiscal budget will get underway. According to Tax Supervisor M. Luther Peel, eight of the ten townships reporting show a gain in values of approximately \$382,000. The gain is traceable mainly to personal properties.

One or two other minor items were considered during the meeting, the commissioners deciding to sharecrop the county farm this year.

Air Corps Officer Tells About Death Of Sgt. J. W. Watts

Jimmy Watts Calmly Awaited Turn to Parachute from Plane in Face of Death

In a letter received last week-end, Major Douglas F. Sanford, United States Army Air Corps, went in to more detail than previous messages and letters in explaining how T/Sgt. Jimmy Watts, Jr., local youth, paid the supreme sacrifice in Italy on last February 7th.

Addressed to the young man's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Watts, the letter reads, in part:

"... James was on a bombing mission to Vienna, Austria, on that date, and while over the target his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire which disabled the No. 3 engine. The pilot through almost super-human effort brought the crippled plane back to the Italian mainland and was materially assisted by James who was flying in his regular capacity as engineer. Shortly after crossing the coastline, the No. 4 engine stopped and the plane was thrown into a violent lurch with a rapid loss in altitude. The pilot, First Lieutenant John A. Dunsmoor, immediately ordered all men to parachute to safety as it was apparent he could not control the plane. James calmly awaited his turn to abandon the airplane, but by the time he jumped there was not sufficient altitude to complete a successful parachute jump and he met death instantly."

The young man's commanding officer briefly told about the last rites, that Jimmy was buried by the Methodist chaplain in a government cemetery in Southern Italy with full military honors.

Major Sanford's letter continued: "I consider it my rare privilege to have been James' commanding officer for several months. He was an experienced combat man when I assumed command of this organization and I never was the least bit hesitant about relying on his judgment made either in the air or on the ground. All orders and requests made by me were immediately fulfilled by him in the most courteous and efficient manner, and his unquestioned completion of his duties was an inspiration to all members of his squadron."

Major Sanford declared that he considered it a privilege and honor to award Jimmy the Good Conduct Medal for exemplary behavior and fidelity, "and to pin the Air Medal and one cluster to the Medal on him, for meritorious achievement in aerial combat against the enemy." The commanding officer also explained that Jimmy had been recommended for the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary

(Continued on page six)

Sgt. Paul Simpson Awarded Air Medal

S/Sgt. Paul Simpson, local young man, was recently decorated with the Air Medal in the Southwest Pacific Area in recognition of "courageous service to his combat organization, his fellow American airmen and others."

Sgt. Simpson was cited for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flights in the Southwest Pacific Area from September 3, 1944, to October 14, 1944. He took part in sustained operational flight missions during which hostile contact was probable and expected. The flights included bombing missions against enemy installations, shipping and supply bases, and aided considerably in the recent successes in that theater.

In a personal letter to Mrs. Simpson citing the honor bestowed upon Sgt. Simpson, Lieutenant General George C. Kenney said: "I would like to tell you how genuinely proud I am to have men such as your husband in my command, and how grateful I am to know that young Americans with such courage and resourcefulness are fighting our country's battle against the aggressor nations."

Jurist Points Out Dangers in Timely Speech to Jurymen

Indifference and Disintegration of Home Topics of Talk to Grand Jury

Speaking to the Martin County Grand Jury here yesterday, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn struck at the dangers on the home front and stressed the importance of giving the war effort all-out support. It was a timely address and offered much thought for consideration.

"Your duties," the Judge said in opening his address to the jurymen, "are important to your county and state. If ever there was a time for everyone to do his duty, it is now. Those of us fortunate enough to stay home will never know the sacrifices made by those who have gone to war, and those of us who shirk their duties will not feel very comfortable when they return," the jurist warned.

Continuing, he said, "Those who have already returned are sensitive because we haven't done all we could or should for their best interests."

The judge recalled an address delivered to a business men's club in Charlotte by a member of General MacArthur's staff. The officer, according to the judge, told of the carnage, difficulties and death at Bataan, and how he felt when he arrived in San Francisco and heard and saw how some people were doing. Judge Burgwyn said the officer was disappointed when he saw thousands, living in comfort, striking for higher wages.

The jurist then went on to warn his audience to be careful and not fall into the same error. He continued, "The war in Europe may soon end, but our other foe has been taught not to surrender, not to live for but to die for their country. The common foe has been taught to believe that they will go to heaven, that all charges against them will be dismissed if they die in battle. In my opinion we will never conquer the Japs," the jurist then explained that we will have to exterminate them and that we will do, the nearly 100 million of them, if necessary.

He supported his opinion by citing Jap casualty figures on Iwo where nearly 21,000 of them were killed and only 30 surrendered. "This," he said, "should cause us to realize that when we conquer Europe the war will not be over."

Judge Burgwyn was impressed when no members of the grand jury asked to be excused. "It shows you are ready to do your duty, and I urge you to maintain decent respect for law and order in your country, to see that gross or flagrant violations of the law do not go unpunished. You need not be a detective, but I charge you to see that violations are not allowed to go unnoticed." The jurist left his topic long enough to pay a glowing tribute to Solicitor Don Gilliam who was fair and diligent and who is ready to prosecute crime. Judge Burgwyn explained that he did not mean for the jurymen to listen to men and women, "who come talking behind their hands, and will not allow their names to be used. Pay no attention to them."

He ordered the jurymen to inspect the prison camps, explaining that while the inmates should not be kept in luxury, they should not be in want. "They are entitled to humane treatment. Civilization in this country has reached the point where inhumanity to man is not to be tolerated."

The only other direct instruction given the jurymen called for the inspection of school buses. Judge Burgwyn did not elaborate on the duty but he talked much about youth and the disintegration of the home. "Schools today are not like they were in the old days," the jurist declared, pointing out that he was

(Continued on page six)

Grand Jurymen Are Drawn for the Year

Nine members of the Martin County grand jury, completing 12 months' service, were replaced yesterday in accordance with a special law giving the county a "permanent" grand jury system. The names of the new members are, Robert Rogers, John H. Wynn, G. G. Bailey, Albert Tyre, Frank Weston, who is serving his second year as a member of the body, J. B. Harrington, A. W. Boyd, N. R. Peel and Clyde Modlin. K. D. Worrell, selected for service, was dismissed but retained for work on the petit jury. The names of the nine men retiring as members of the jury are, H. B. Roberson, M. E. Roberson, V. J. Spivey, L. H. Taylor, Oswald D. Stalls, W. A. Coffield, Ben B. Courtney, J. H. Chesson and R. L. Leggett.

The names of the jurymen completing six months service as members of the body are, Vance L. Roberson, who continues as foreman, Arthur C. Roberson, Henry F. Williams, W. J. Gardner, J. Daniel Lilley, Arthur L. Modlin, Wm. Lambert, Jesse Keel and J. W. Gurganus.

Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, opening the term of court, was all business. He started about 10 o'clock and slapped a \$25 fine on Hugh Roberson when the Robersonville man failed to report for jury duty. When Jurymen J. H. James asked to be excused, the jurist, advised that Mr. James had no one at his sales tables, asked why it was when a man got ready to sell a 7-year-old mule he could not get an offer of more than \$150, and when he got ready to buy a pair of 6-year-old mules he had to pay \$600? "The profit has to be considered," Mr. James frankly admitted.

Wounded Soldier Home For A Visit

Badly wounded about the face in the fight for Peleliu Island in the Pacific the latter part of last August, Cpl. George Norman White finally made it home last week-end for a short visit with his mother, Mrs. W. A. White, RFD 1, Oak City.

The young man was said to be extremely happy to get home one more time and see his people and friends. His visit was a short one, however, and he is returning to a hospital in Virginia for further treatment.

He was returned to this country last October and underwent a facial operation in Norman, Oklahoma, last November 14. He was recently transferred to the Atlantic Coast.

PARENTS-TEACHERS

Holding their first night session on Thursday of this week at 8 o'clock, members of the local parent-teacher association will discuss a number of timely topics. Attorney H. G. Horton will deliver the main address and an interesting meeting is assured, Mrs. A. J. Osteen, secretary, announces.

The meeting will be held in the grammar school building.

Youth Recovering In Army Hospital

Seriously wounded in action in Germany on February 28th, Pfc. Ernest Clifton Hollis is getting along very well in an Army hospital somewhere in England, according to a letter received yesterday by his mother, Mrs. Dock Hollis, RFD 3, Williamson.

After expressing the hope that all were well at home, the young man said in a letter dated March 8, "Mama, I had a little accident last week. I hurt my back, but you must not worry over me because I'm in England, getting the best of everything and I am getting along pretty good now. The food here is perfect, just like home—almost."

Pvt. Hollis, commenting briefly about the beautiful country, wanted his note on mail. "Mama, I want you to give everybody my new address and ask them to write. Promise you won't worry over me because I'll be O. K. with God's help and you good folks back home praying for me."

The young man's address is: Pfc. Ernest C. Hollis, Detachment of Patients, 181 U. S. Army Hospital, APO 65, Care Postmaster, New York, N. Y.