

Lunacy Hearing In Court Before Judge Bruce Wynne Friday

C. C. James Ruled Incompetent For Jury Trial

The first round in a law suit over cash and property valued at approximately \$5,000 was ained in the courts here last Friday when a jury was asked to rule on the competency of C. C. James, aged colored man of this county. Eighteen men were called for jury service at the inquisition of Lunacy and E. R. Edmondson, J. Raymond Gurkin, C. A. Pate, G. F. Godard, W. K. Roebuck, Lester Keel, A. T. Perkins, J. T. Barnhill, Jr., D. L. Peel, Dalton Roberson, R. H. Harrison and T. L. Roebuck heard the case and rendered their decision after deliberating ten minutes. Ruled incompetent to manage his affairs, the respondent, through his attorney, Elbert S. Peel, appealed to the superior court.

The case was heard by Judge L. B. Wynne and lasted well over two hours, the action finding nieces and nephews battling on either side.

Living alone in his humble shack in Jamesville Township with about \$2,000 in cash in his safe, James, a few weeks ago, moved to the home of his niece, Ada Tyner, near Williamston. It was not brought out in court, but there was some talk about a will having been made recently. The petitioners, including Nieces Gladys Pierce and Iona James, brought the case to court without delay. Among the respondent's witnesses were Ada Tyner and her husband, Delbert Keys.

Taking the stand himself, James featured the testimony when he declared that he would not tell how much money he really did have. One report maintains that his good and trusted friend, Rev. Noah Boston, counted \$2,000 for him just before he (James) left his home to go and live with his niece. Boston, called as a witness by the petitioners, testified that the respondent's mind "seemed to go and come."

James, admitting that he is quite feeble, maintained that he was mentally able to handle his business, but due to failing eyesight offered to agree to have Rev. Boston help him handle his affairs.

While the case did not attract but little public attention, it has the ingredients for developing into a heated-in-law legal battle.

Raise About Half Of Paralysis Fund

About half of the \$2,120 quota assigned this county in the current paralysis fund drive has been raised and reported, Chairman L. Bruce Wynne announced yesterday.

Approximately \$500 has been raised from direct mail solicitations, and Williamston's elementary school materially boosted the income when it reported \$380.12 last week-end. Only one other school in the county, Biggs, has reported. The pupils there increased their collection last week-end to \$20.75. Commenting on the collection handled by the local elementary school, Chairman Wynne highly praised the work of the little folks and declared that the interest and success were very encouraging. The work of the youngsters here and that of those in the little Biggs school was so encouraging that the chairman expressed the belief that the quota would be raised with some to spare.

Approximately half of the direct mail letters are still unanswered, and with more replies coming in and with favorable reports from all the schools, the chairman believes the goal will be easily reached and passed.

In the first collection at the Watts theater here last week-end, approximately \$90 was raised for the fund.

A last appeal is being directed to Martin County people to get behind the drive and help push it over the top by Thursday of this week.

Young Man Hopes to Return Home Soon

Writing from the Philippines under recent date, Grover Nicholson, SM 3-C, advised The Enterprise to cancel his subscription and explained that he hoped to be home soon and read it "hot off the press."

He said, in part: "I have been receiving The Enterprise regularly and it has been a great pleasure to get it. I am going home sometime in the near future, so I hope to be reading it hot off the press soon."

"At the present time I am in Samar, Philippines, and while I don't know exactly when we'll be going back to the States, it will be a glad day."

"I know I can never thank you enough for sending me the paper here, but I'm sure that all who have received it will say it was a great morale builder, and we truly appreciate it."

Recent reports coming from the Pacific indicate that quite a few of the Martin County boys in that area are sailing or will be sailing for home within the near future.

Local Fishermen Find Key To Smokehouse in Roanoke River

Spurred on by the meat shortage, Haywood Cherry and Joe Smith, local fishermen, found the key to Martin County's smokehouse late last Friday afternoon when they slipped the first 1946 herring from the Roanoke river. The search was successful only after long hours of fishing with a dip net. It was the first time in years, possibly in history, that Jamesville fishermen did not launch the opening of a new season which this year is just about one week later than the opening a year ago.

The 1945 season, it will be recalled, was one of the poorest in many years. Few fish made their way up the Roanoke during the entire season and instead of exceeding well over one and a quarter million the catch was limited to a few hundred thousand.

With the coming of the first herring, spring can't be far away and fishermen all along the way are

making ready for the season which is almost certain to attract more than usual attention this year because of meat shortages. The Jamesville fishermen will start operations in about six weeks, the better operators, says C. C. Fleming stating a few days ago, that arrangements were advanced in preparation for a busy season. During the meantime, small operators will turn to the river with dip and drift nets and machines.

Fishing in the Roanoke is unpredictable, but if the herring travel in such quantities on this side of the Atlantic as they are said to have appeared off the coast of France a short time ago, a great season can be expected. Reports from France declare that the fish were sighted in the hundreds of millions there about two weeks ago. Nearly starved Frenchmen went after the herring with wire nets and even pails. Special trains were ordered to the sea coast to move the anticipated catches to the hungry in the cities.

BROKE DOWN

The Martin County Bookmobile was forced to cancel the last two days of its schedule last Thursday and Friday on account of a broken axle on the truck. Books due on those days will be renewed until February 21 and 22, Miss Elizabeth House, librarian for the Beaufort-Hyde-Martin Regional Library, announced.

Nearly worn out when it was purchased for service in this territory, the bookmobile truck has managed to meet most of its schedules until last week. The library officials plan to place a new unit in service as soon as one can be had.

Writes Appreciation For Red Cross Gift

Making and packing various items for members of the armed services and destitute in various countries, the Red Cross Production unit or sewing room of the Martin County Red Cross Chapter here frequently receives notes of appreciation from distant points. A short time ago, the chapter received a note from Sgt. S. T. Carmichael, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, who is now in Japan. He wrote:

"Your extremely useful toilet kit is with me in Akita. Please accept my sincere thanks for the gift and my deep appreciation for your thoughtfulness."

"I am working with the Counter Intelligence Corps in connection with AMG and will have ample time to use the kit before I return to the States."

"It's very cold in Japan and there is a steady, quiet lazy snow fall every day. We're fairly comfortably fixed here in Akita, but all of us look forward to coming home as soon as possible."

"With best wishes for the continued commendable work of your chapter, I remain..."

Mrs. Edna Laughinghouse, home service director for the county chapter, stated this week that very few volunteers are reporting to the Red Cross sewing room in the Woman's Club hall each Tuesday, that Mrs. N. C. Green, finding it difficult to carry on the work as chairman without sufficient help, is resigning as soon as the present work quota is completed.

Mrs. Green has worked hard as chairman of the sewing room project for several years, but it is unreasonable to expect anyone to carry on without volunteer help.

Mrs. Laughinghouse points out that there is a great need for continuing the production unit, that every item prepared can still mean much to those men who are being held in the service, and that every garment made can mean much to some destitute soul overseas.

County Young Man Home From European Theater

After nearly eighteen months spent in the European theater, T/Sgt. Joseph H. Lilley returned to the States a short time ago and arrived home with his discharge last Thursday night. The young man along with a goodly number of other servicemen, was delayed when diphtheria broke out and they were quarantined.

DELAYED

Plans for closing German prisoners of war camps in this section have been delayed, the President of the United States announcing last week-end that the removal of the prisoners will be postponed until early April. However, few will likely be released to agriculture.

German prisoners in this country now number 20,000. Prisoners of other nationalities are not affected by the order. The last Japanese were due to depart this month and the War Department said some 10,500 remaining Italians would leave in the next few days.

Lions Sell Large Quantity Peanuts To Aid Scout Fund

Variety Of Inquiries Come From Almost All States In Union, Club Reveals

In an effort to raise funds for the proposed Scout Hut for this community, which they are co-sponsoring, the Peanut Committee of the local Lions Club began a nation-wide peanut selling program several weeks ago.

In the October edition of The Lion magazine, the local club had an attractive ad published picturing the handy 5 pound bag of shelled extra large N. C. peanuts, along with suggested methods of using the peanuts and also price quotations.

Soon afterward, the club here began receiving orders from individual Lions from all over the country. As a follow-up advertising scheme, the committee had a form letter printed in which the various uses and values of peanuts were stressed. Approximately 4300 of these letters were mailed, or one to almost every Lions Club in the country. The response to these letters was gratifying, but was not up to expectations. Orders have been received ranging in size from one to forty 5 lb. bags, from various clubs.

To date the gross sales have amounted to almost one thousand dollars, which represents about one and a half tons of shelled "goobers", and covers 158 separate orders. Orders have been received from at least 40 states in the Union.

In addition to a small amount of profit for a worthy project, this program has helped considerably to advertise and promote the use of a locally grown product. The town and the club have also gained a fair amount of publicity from this project. Quite a few repeat orders have already been received and along with them were some interesting comments, such as "the peanuts are wonderful, send me 2 more bags", and "I was surely glad to get all the good peanuts I could eat at one time." Several odd inquiries were also received, one requesting peanuts salted in the shell.

More Martin County Men Enter Services

Four Martin County young white men left Monday for final induction into the armed services at Fort Bragg. A fifth one beat the draft call when he enlisted in the Navy on the 18th of this month.

Three of the five entering the services come from the farm, and all are eighteen years of age and single. David Clifton Roberson, RFD 3, Williamston, volunteered and entered the service week before last.

The names and addresses of those answering the final induction call Monday follow:

James Robert Smith, Hamilton, William Alfonza Jones, RFD 1, Williamston.

Raymond Matthew Pope, Williamston.

Dannie Randolph Rogerson, RFD 2, Williamston.

Officers Wreck Still In County On Friday

Raiding in the Leggett's Mill Pond section of Cross Roads Township last Friday morning, ABC Officer Joe H. Roebuck, assisted by his son, Julian Roebuck, found and wrecked a cheaply-prepared liquor plant. They blew up a 50-gallon capacity oil drum used as a still, a doubler, a fermenter and a condenser.

No beer was found at the plant, but the raiders confiscated two large stands of molasses found near a path leading to the plant.

More than a dozen illicit manufacturing plants had been found and wrecked in the county during the first 25 days in January.

Jas. S. Whitehurst Reviews Record Of Carrier Shangri-La

Martin County Young Man Was On Famous Ship During Pacific Campaign

(In the previous installment Seaman Whitehurst told of the first raid on Kure in which five planes were lost, along with two pilots and two aircrewmembers. He now tells of the excitement attending further raids on the Jap stronghold.—Ed.)

The next day our planes were back over Kure, but the weather again interfered. Never-the-less the pilots roared off the flight deck all day plastering Jap merchant shipping and air fields, catching many planes on the ground. Twice that day of July 25 "Shangri-La Luck" held out. Once when a returning fighter landed and accidentally sprayed the deck with machine gun bullets. Sailors clawed into the deck digging "fox holes" and no one was hurt. Another time, when a plane was being catapulted the sudden jerk broke the detachable gas tank loose spilling highly inflammable gasoline over the deck. One spark would have made the deck a mass of flames, but all that happened was that gasoline fumes were sucked into the ship's ventilation system, making it impossible for the men below decks to smoke for a while.

Late that afternoon a Navy "Dumbo" (Rescue Flying Boat) ran out of fuel near our task group after making a rescue near Japan and had to land. All the ships in the group made a quick turn to produce a smooth "slick" on the choppy water, and the big ship landed smoothly.

Because we were so close to Japan, none of the ships dared stop long enough to refuel the plane for its return trip to base and after the pilot and passengers had been removed by a destroyer, we all watched while a destroyer sank the mercy plane with gunfire.

By dark, we were ready to secure once more when suddenly "Bogie" began to appear on our radar once more. It was the Jap alright making one of his famous dusk attacks and the planes closing in on our destroyer screen had "Meat Balls with Catch-up" on their wings. Anti-aircraft tracers spurted into the sky as we stood there watching the fireworks, wondering if the Jap would get through. Suddenly there was a big ball of orange fire in the sky that plummeted into the water. One less Jap. A few minutes later tracers spurted again. Another Jap was trying to find a hole through our destroyer screen through which to attack, but after several poor attempts he returned to his base while he still had a whole skin.

A couple of days later, after refueling, we were back hitting the Kure area once again to wipe out the rest of the Jap Fleet. The night before we had heard that the allied powers had given Japan their final ultimatum for surrender or face complete destruction and we were determined to put all the emphasis we could in this strike.

Our planes maintained a constant shuttle between the ship and the target and again Jap air power, railroads, merchant shipping, and installations were smashed. But best of all our attack on the Jap Fleet was highly successful with the battleship Haruna and the light cruiser Oyodo being left burning. Later the Oyodo capsized, and the Haruna was beached and was down by the stern which was flooded.

Our pilots and gunners faced intense anti-aircraft that day and as their planes would land one by one, we didn't have to hear their stories to tell it. Again "Shangri-La Luck" was with us and most of the planes were alright. One pilot returned with the plexi-glass of his cockpit shattered and his goggles dangling about his shoulder. A piece of shrapnel burst through the cockpit right behind his head and he felt his goggles hit his shoulder. He rubbed the spot expecting to find a mass of blood, but none was there. The fragment had come close enough to sever the goggle strap but had com-

AUCTION SALE

One of the largest auction sales of farm machinery and supplies, including team and a varied list of allied items, was held on the Glasgow farm near Gold Point last Friday. The sale, conducted by Henry A. Johnson, attracted buyers by the thousands, one report declaring that there were no less than one thousand automobiles and trucks parked in the vicinity by spectators and potential bidders.

The spectators reported a lively sale, one explaining that it was better than a three-ring circus. Prices, with few exceptions, ranged in the higher brackets and quite a few items were sold for more than their cost.

Sensing the size of the sale, politicians, according to one report, were there shaking hands in preparation for the coming May primary.

Victory Clothing Drive Will End in the County on Friday

The town-wide collection of old clothes in the Victory Clothing Drive was very successful last Sunday afternoon, according to a report coming from the project for the local Lions Club, the sponsoring organization. It is estimated that approximately 2,000 pounds of clothing had been delivered to the receiving station in the offices of the Virginia Electric and Power Company here up until yesterday, including the collection Sunday afternoon.

No report has been received recently from the other receiving stations in Jamesville, Farm Life, Bear Grass, Everetts, Hamilton and Oak City. It was stated a short time ago that the drive was receiving encouraging support in most of those areas. Mr. M. M. Everett, chairman for the Rotary Club, the organization sponsoring the drive in the Robersonville area, is making progress with the collection which he is handling through the schools.

About a year ago, approximately 5,000 pounds of clothing were collected in this area. While the poundage will hardly come up to last year's collection, the drive ending on Friday of this week is unusually good, Lion K. D. Worrell explained following a hurried inspection of the deliveries. Williamston merchants boosted the collection by contributing quite a few new garments. Veterans of World War II turned in their GI shoes in fairly large numbers, and the shoe collection was unusually large. Last year shoe rationing was in effect, and local people held on to the walkers.

Furniture trucks are scheduled to pick up the collections at the various stations the latter part of this week. Those who have not bundled up their surplus clothing are reminded to do so not later than Thursday or Friday that some destitute soul might share it overseas next winter.

Honor Students In The Local Schools For Recent Period

Names of Ninety-Four Elementary and Eighteen High School Pupils On List

The names of 112 pupils appear on the honor roll for the latest scholastic period in the local schools, it was announced this week by Principal Sam D. Bundy. All but eighteen of the names in the list belong to the little folks in the primary or those in the elementary department. In addition to the current list there are other names to go on the list later, the principal explaining that on account of the illness of the teacher, Miss Estelle Crawford, the list for the second grade was delayed. Miss Crawford is returning to her post this week, it was announced.

Names of the pupils meeting the scholastic requirements:

First Grade: Henry Handy, Joe Murphy, Floyd Thomas, Clayton Weston, Molly Biggs, Emma Godard, Peggy Godard, Ann Harrison, Mary Hunt, Blanche Manning, Jimmy Hardison, Robert Williams Magaline Hoggard, Dorothy Brown, Mary Lou Cox, Priscilla Gurganus, Elsie Scott, Betty Taylor, Billy Thornton, Nancy Britton, Mary Martin, and Jane Peele.

Second Grade: Bobby Parham, Rudy Ward, Gerald White, Rodney Pittman, Jane Gray Biggs, Betty Carstarphen, Lilly Mae Gardner, Sandra Gardner, Sandra Margolis, and Faye Peele.

Third Grade: Janice Rogers, Doris Rogers, Joyce Manning, Bobby Manning, Frankie Everett, Robert Weston, Samuel Holliday, Edward Rogers, David Jones, James Pittman, Joan Coltrain, Sondra Buffan, Mary Britton, Barbara Cherry, Lella Goff, John Dunn, Patricia Harrison, Barbara Everett, and Melva Lee Wynn.

Fourth Grade: Tommy Hardison, Martha Kimball, Judith Ayers, Jane Ross, David Davis, Betty Sue Clark, Bobby Coburn, Ralph Parker, Turner Manning, Bettie Mobley, Lee

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Bankers Committee Meets Here Friday

Meeting here last Friday evening, the executive committee of Group I, North Carolina Bankers' Association, made plans for the annual meeting of the group in Elizabeth City on February 22. Herman A. Bowen, secretary, announced. Following the business session, the committee members were served dinner at the Central Cafe.

Mr. J. L. Hoffer, Jr., Windsor banker, was appointed to make the program arrangements, including speakers, for the 30th annual session of the organization.

Those attending the Friday night meeting of the executive committee included: W. H. Woolard and Mr. Jarrett of Greenville, D. R. Everett of Robersonville, J. L. Hoffer of Windsor, Mr. Simpson and L. E. Walston of Farmville, R. M. Riddick of Hertford, A. G. Small and G. D. Brickhouse of Elizabeth City and H. A. Bowen and D. V. Clayton of Williamston.

Crowds Mill Around Visiting Movie Star

Frank Jenks, comedian in the movies, was almost mobbed by movie fans when he stopped here for dinner last Saturday evening. Incidentally, the comedian was directed to a filling station to have a light fixture on his car repaired. He got caught in a traffic jam and had to wait to autograph all kinds of paper handed him by both old and young movie fans.

Accompanied by his wife, the comedian was traveling south. While here he had dinner at a cafe, but moved out as quickly as possible after having his station wagon lights fixed.

Series Of Accidents Reported In County During Week - End

No One Was Hurt But Property Damage Figures Soar

No one was hurt but considerable property damage resulted in a series of automobile and truck accidents on the highways in this county last week-end.

The first of three accidents reported during the period took place one mile out of Oak City on the Hamilton Road last Friday evening about 7:00 o'clock. Milton Phelps Bennett of near Oak City was driving toward Hamilton and met a log truck and trailer owned by the Veneer Products Company of Tarboro and driven by James William Killett, also of Tarboro. Killett turned his dimmer switch and his lights went out for a second. By the time they came on, the two vehicles crashed into each other, the truck ripping away the left side of the Bennett car. Bennett and his young lady companion and Killett were not hurt, but damage to the car was estimated at about \$500 by Cpl. W. S. Hunt of the highway patrol. Very little damage was done to the truck. Both drivers were charged with reckless driving, and the cases were aired in the county court.

R. E. Gurganus, operating a 1939 Plymouth, was driving out of Jamesville toward Plymouth Saturday evening about 7:30 o'clock when Jesse Hawkins, driving a 1941 Ford and traveling in the same direction, crashed into the rear of the Gurganus car, causing about \$50 damage to each car but injuring no one. The accident was investigated by Cpl. Bill Hunt and Patrolman Whit Saunders who charged Hawkins with reckless driving.

Sunday morning about 2:00 o'clock Charles Thomas Dixon of Edenton lost control of his 1939 Plymouth 4-door sedan when the left rear wheel ran off on Highway 17 near the L. T. Holliday farm. The wheel turned to the right and came to a stop in a field about 100 yards away. The car swerved to the left, jumped a ditch, tore down a telephone pole and turned over. Dixon and his family were not hurt and his family were not hurt and his family were not hurt, stated that the damage to the car will hardly exceed \$300.

So far this year only fatal accident has been reported in this county, but they are being slaughtered in numbers in other sections, reports state.

County Young Man Earns Air Medal

John H. Bland, ARM2c, USNR, was awarded the Air Medal a few weeks ago for meritorious achievement during the dark war days in the European theater. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bland of Williamston.

The citation reads: "United States Atlantic Fleet Air Force, Fleet Air Wing—Award: 'For outstanding airmanship and meritorious achievements while participating in aerial flights as a member of the crew of a PB4Y-1 bomber on anti-submarine patrol in the Bay of Biscay and the English Channel north of 40 degrees North latitude during the period from October, 1944, to May, 1945.'

"His skill, resourcefulness and co-operation contributed greatly to the effectiveness of his crew in accomplishing its assigned missions. Patrols of long duration were flown, often under adverse weather conditions, which materially assisted in the eventual defeat of the enemy U-Boat campaign in the Battle of the Atlantic."

"His coolness in flight and devotion to duty during this period were in keeping with the best traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The citation was signed by A. C. McFall, Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy, Commander, Fleet Air Wing Seven.

Warns Against Use Of Old License Tags

A meaningful warning has been issued against the use of old state and town motor vehicle tags after Thursday of this week. Orders have been given to state and local officers, instructing them to stop all vehicles bearing old tags after Thursday of this week.

During the meantime the sale of the little black and yellow plates continues to lag considerably behind the 1945 figures. Up until last night, the local bureau of the Carolina Motor Club has sold only 3,520 tags for cars, 622 for trucks, 40 for farm trucks, 514 for small or car trailers and \$9 for commercial trailers. The sales this year are running about 500 behind those up until the same time a year ago. During all of 1945, the local bureau, located in the offices of Harrison and Carstarphen, sold 1,200 tags.

The sale of town car and truck tags is lagging considerably behind the figures for the state, it was learned. A warning has been issued by the town authorities against the use of old tags or no tags at all.

Two were booked for drunken driving, and one was charged with forgery.

Of the seven were colored, and the ages of the group ranged from 17 to 38 years.