

## Witnesses Placed On Spot In Court Tuesday Morning

### Defendant's Build-up Flops When Side Facts Are Brought Into Open

Acting in good faith and without reward, character witnesses in the Superior court this week were placed on the spot—a hot spot. They were not thrown into the fire directly, but they were scorched indirectly when the presiding jurist, Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, following their appearance on the stand, told how character witnesses in the Lenoir County Superior Court had apologized and pleaded with the court to overlook their evidence offered in behalf of an admitted abortionist.

Tom Scott, colored man, was being tried for assaults with deadly weapons. The defendant was really on the spot and counsel pleaded him guilty, depending on the mercy of the court to save the man. Witnesses, including the prosecuting witness, sheriff, police officers, merchants and newspapermen, vouched for the defendant's good character, and apparently a good lick was planted in the accused man's behalf.

Then the defendant's "outside" sweetheart took the stand, and during the questioning, it was brought out that the defendant was the father of her child recently born without legitimate standing.

That deplorable fact seemed to have slipped by without too much comment. To aggravate the case, the witness, when leaving the stand and in direct answer to a question propounded by Judge Frizzelle, admitted there were four children and that the defendant was the father of all four. She did not know that she had lived in adultery and violated the law, it was explained to the judge who kind face wrinkled a bit in disgust at such carryings-on.

And then to aggravate the case more, the defendant, when asked if he would marry the woman, answered he was already married. Judge Frizzelle waded into the case with bare fists, castigated, in a nice way of course, the character witnesses and mentioned for the defendant six years on the roads.

About the only redeeming angle in support of the character witnesses came when the jurist pointed out that they acted in good faith, that they did not know and were not supposed to know that the defendant had violated one of the most sacred of the Ten Commandments. And then to soothe the situation a bit further, the jurist told the defendant he was on the verge of sending him to the roads for six years, but because the good citizens had acted in his behalf he was reducing the term to two years.

The jurist then went on to say, in substance, "Be sure your sins will find you out," looking directly at the defendant and indirectly at a great many others at the bar and in the audience. "It appears your sins have found you out," the jurist told Scott, adding that the mills of the gods grind slowly but exceedingly fine, and in Scott's case the mills had turned fairly rapidly.

Scott was charged with dangerously cutting Charles Mason, his good friend and with whom he had shared drinks of alcohol earlier in the day of the attack, and Annie Clyde Davis while he was crazy drunk. The doctor almost ran out of thread and clamps in closing the victims' wounds. During the meantime Scott nursed serious head injuries inflicted with a chair by Mason who said in open court that he really "worked on him."

Meeting in Oak City Friday evening of this week at 7:30 o'clock, members of the Martin County Wildlife Club will enjoy a barbecue supper in the gymnasium.

Joe R. Winslow, recently sworn in as a member of the State Wildlife Resources Commission, will attend the meeting and a special speaker is to address the group, it was announced by the president, J. C. Manning.

## Number of Farmers Exceed Their Tobacco Allotments

Preliminary reports coming from the supervisors or community Triple A committeemen indicate that quite a few farmers in this county have planted in excess of their tobacco allotments. Up until the middle of this week, approximately 300 or about 20 percent of the tobacco farms had been measured. No official estimate on the number of farms where allotments have been exceeded could be had, but it is believed that the number is running slightly ahead of the figures for the 1946 crop. In most cases the excess ranges from just a fraction to almost three acres, with the possibility that the range will go even higher when all measurements are completed.

Started the 4th of this month, the measurements are being handled unusually rapidly in

some districts while in others very little work has been handled and reported to the office of the county agent. The work was described as 85 or 90 percent completed in one or two of the districts.

There is little that can be done to solve the problem created by excess plantings. The farmer is not allowed to destroy the excess, and by planting more than his allotment he subjects the excess to a penalty of 19 cents per pound, and forfeits his claim to price support by the Stabilization Cooperative Corporation. While the farmer who is within his allotment is guaranteed a price up to 90 percent of parity, the farmer with excess plantings is at the mercy of the open market, meaning he can turn to no one for relief if his tobacco should sell for less than 90 percent of parity.

## Local Attorney Improving In Hospital At Durham

Entering Duke Hospital three weeks ago, Mr. Wheeler Martin, local attorney, was reported this week to be improving gradually. It could not be learned when he'll be able to return home.

## Prosecution In Case Commended

Acting in the name of justice, without hope of regaining lost property and with the aim of checking further law violations, Farmer J. E. Copeland of this county was highly commended for his action by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle in the superior court here Wednesday afternoon.

"Too many who have lost property to thieves prefer to forget it rather than go into court," Judge Frizzelle said, adding that such action accelerates law violations. "Everyone owes it to society and good government to see that law violators are brought to justice," he said.

Reminded by Attorney Julian Allsbrook that the state's prison population now stands at 6,500, Judge Frizzelle admitted it was bad and expressed the belief that it will become worse. "I believe we are going to have a crime wave similar to the one following World War I when the wheels of justice could not turn fast enough to cope with it," the jurist said, citing a case he recalled back in that period in which a well-to-do man whose father had lost his property and who to maintain his standard of living went out to commit crime. "I see evidence of such a trend already," the jurist said, adding that the best way to hold crime down is to enforce the law vigorously.

George R. Myers, editor of the Western Tobacco Journal and a prominent figure in tobacco manufacturing circles, stopped here overnight this week while touring the tobacco section of eastern North Carolina. Mr. Myers, a man who is well acquainted with the tobacco industry in every section of the country, was en route to Virginia Beach to attend the annual meeting of the Tobacco Association of the United States. It was his 28th consecutive trip to a meeting of the association.

## Journal Editor Touring State

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## Former Prisoner Writes To Friend

Writing to his former employer, Mr. Roland Sills of Oak City a short time ago, Otto Steinfeldt stated that he hoped to get back to his old home in Germany by the time he received the letter. Steinfeldt was one of the German prisoners of war held in the local camp and who worked on the Sills farm. Held in the British zone following his return to Germany, Steinfeldt stated that he had heard from Mr. Sills, but did not reveal any details relative to conditions in Germany, but said he would write more later.

## Funeral Thursday For Mrs. Ballard In Robersonville

### Native Of Griffins Township Died At Son's Home Late Tuesday Night

Funeral services were conducted in the Robersonville Primitive Baptist Church Thursday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Mrs. Byrd Ballard who died at the home of her son, Dalton Brown, near there last Tuesday night at 11:30 o'clock. Elders B. S. Cowin and W. E. Grimes conducted the last rites and interment was in the Robersonville Cemetery.

Mrs. Ballard had been in declining health for some time. She suffered a stroke of paralysis on Wednesday evening of last week and her condition had been critical since that time.

The daughter of the late William E. and Mary Jane Roebuck Manning, she was born in the Farm Life section of Griffins Township sixty-six years ago, the 10th of next November. She spent her early life there and in early womanhood she was married to Robert Brown, locating in the Robersonville community where she had since made her home most of the time. One son, Dalton Brown, was born to the first union. Her second marriage was to Byrd Ballard who died some years ago. Surviving that union are three daughters, Mrs. Mary Selleck of Cambridge, Maryland, Mrs. Lisha Bassett of Seaford, Delaware, and Mrs. Lyda Dieker of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Also surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Sherrod Corey of Griffins Township and Mrs. B. B. Biggs of Everetts, and two brothers, John Eber Manning of Mississippi, and A. Eddie Manning of the old home in Griffins Township.

Mrs. Ballard was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church for many years, holding membership at Hayes Swamp at the time of her death.

She attended the schools in this county and studied at the old Ayden Academy and taught in the schools of this county for a number of years.

George Anthony Perry was bound over to the county court under \$100 bond in the case charging him with an assault with a deadly weapon.

Sam Brooks, charged with indecent exposure, was sent to the county court for trial next Monday. Bond was required in the sum of \$100.

L. L. Britt, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was sentenced to the roads for thirty days, the court suspending the term upon the guaranteed good behavior for 12 months and upon the payment of \$10 trial costs.

Drunk and disorderly, Lemuel Outerbridge was fined \$5 and required to pay \$8.50 costs.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and with improper brakes, Sam Roberson was bound over to the county court under bond in the sum of \$100.

Charged with the larceny of a case of wine from Hollywood Inn, Elton Ruffin and James Baker were bound over to the county court for trial next Monday. They were required to furnish bond in the sum of \$50 each.

Charged with the theft of dresses valued at \$50 or more, Mary Bryant was bound over to the recorder's court for trial next Monday. She was required to post bond in the sum of \$50.

Gathering the eggs early this week, members of the George E. Lilley family in Griffins Township found one with a very unusual marking on it. Embedded in the shell was the perfect figure "7". Other than the clear marking, the egg resembled any other normal specimen of hen fruit.

## Span For River Bridge Unloaded

Delivered in eight cars, the steel span for the river bridge here was unloaded this week, and workmen are to start erecting the structure within the next few days, possibly the early part of next week.

The steel structure and machinery exclusive of the concrete floor weighs 455,000 pounds and its erection will require about four weeks, according to information released by Superintendent Dickinson of the Bower Construction Company.

No definite date for opening the bridge to traffic has been mentioned.

## Unusual Marking Found On Hen Egg By Farmer

Gathering the eggs early this week, members of the George E. Lilley family in Griffins Township found one with a very unusual marking on it. Embedded in the shell was the perfect figure "7". Other than the clear marking, the egg resembled any other normal specimen of hen fruit.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . . One person was hurt in a lone accident reported on the highways of this county last week, leaving the record trailing the figures for the first 24 weeks of 1946. The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend; first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

24th Week			
Accidents Inj'd	Killed	Damage	
1947 1	0	\$ 000	
1946 1	0	0 500	
Comparisons To Date			
1947 57	29	3 12,700	
1946 67	56	3 17,670	

## Perfect Record Of Attendance In School Here

### Seventy-one Pupils Neither Absent Nor Tardy During the Recent Term

Seventy-one pupils went through the entire 1946-47 term in the local schools without missing a day, Principal B. G. Stewart announced a few days ago.

While the attendance figures were considerably better than those of a year ago, they are not yet up to what they should be, according to the school man.

The names of those with perfect attendance records for the term recently ended, follow:

First Grade: Dianne Cherry, Billy Ray Bowen, Larry Pate, and Dorothy Leggett.

Second Grade: Gene Copeland, Ronald Peaks, Evelyn Wynn, Ann Lilley, Jeannette Leggett, Mary Lee White, Edna Taylor and Clarence Thomas Wynn.

Third Grade: Albert Cherry, Lee Glenn, Alex Jones, Angeline Dickerson, Vivian Pate, Alice Fayet Nicholson, Dickie Clayton, Kenneth Hardison, Joseph Tyre, Sandra Gardner, Jeannette Raynor, James Price, Phyllis Jones, and Janie Harrison.

Fourth Grade: Jean Whichard, Dorothy Biggs, William Coke, Jessie Marie Corey, James Spruill, and Bennie Harrison.

Fifth Grade: Evelyn Nicholson, Wayne Lilley, W. B. Bullock, Dick Manning, Wilber Stewart, Charles Johnson, William Cullipher, Virginia S. Price, Theresa Modlin, William Lassiter, Turner Manning, D. R. Sullivan.

Sixth Grade: Ernest Godard, Wanda Jones, Sallie Roberson, Jerry Savage, Willie Edwards, June Glenn, Marie Peele, Taylor Rogerson.

Seventh Grade: Joyce Andrews, Pauline Bullock, Doris Peele, Priscilla Roberson, Mary Jane Rogers, Hugh Spruill, Adelaide Fussell and Ira Rogerson.

Eighth Grade: Jack Edwards, Betty Sue Gurganus, Harriet Peele, Lona Johnson, Rhoda Faye Peel, and Harriet Ward.

Ninth Grade: Bobby Harrison and Charles Carver.

Tenth Grade: William Rogerson.

Eleventh Grade: Elizabeth Hopkins, and Elizabeth Parker.

## Bumper Peanut Crop Expected

With indications of a bumper 1947 peanut crop to be marketed through Commodity Credit Corporation, representatives of all segments of the peanut industry, appointed by their sectional associates, met in Washington, D. C., June 10, 11, and 13 to evolve a program that will be practical to the industry and prevent large unsaleable surpluses at the end of the crop year.

These selected representatives formed themselves into the National Peanut Industry Committee for 1947, and elected Roy Parrish, of Moultrie, Ga., and past president of the National Peanut Council, chairman and Harold Smith of Washington, D. C., secretary. A diversion plan was recommended which would make only the finest peanuts available for salters, confectioners, and peanut butter manufacturers at a more favorable competitive price. These recommendations would result in second and lower grades being diverted into the oil industry in a more orderly manner. This would spread the supply of peanut meal over the entire year.

After studying the proposed program from all angles, Commodity Credit Corporation agreed that a program might be promulgated in which they would buy No. 2 and lower grade peanuts from shellers at a level that will enable shellers to sell No. 1 peanuts at a lower price than otherwise would be possible, with exact price to be established after parity price of July 15 is known.

C. C. C. emphasized that the price of No. 1 peanuts sold by shellers cannot be under control and the program would only be offered in order to place shellers in a better position to price their peanuts on a more nearly competitive basis with other food items and at the same time offer the market a better shelled peanut.

## Peanut Case Blocks Early Adjournment Of Superior Court

### Directed Verdict Frees Murderer In Court Tuesday

Starting out with what was sized up to be a two-day docket, the Martin County Superior Court ran into a peanut case block and did not complete the trial of its criminal cases until Thursday, throwing the civil calendar schedule into confusion and prolonging the visits of witnesses and litigants by almost a week.

The court, placing a record number of youthful defendants on probation, was making fairly rapid progress up until Tuesday morning when the case charging Arthur Davis, William Taylor and Simon Ellison with the theft of six bags of peanuts from Farmer Copeland, was called. Battle lines were drawn quickly with Solicitor George Fountain on one side and Julian Allsbrooks, state senator from Roanoke Rapids, Jas. Liverman of Scotland Neck and Edgar Gurganus of Williamston on the other. Attorney Gurganus admitted his man was guilty in helping transfer the stolen peanuts from the Davis car to the barn, but maintained he did not know they were stolen. Taylor was allowed to testify for the state and he helped score a victory for the prosecution.

Hours were spent hearing the testimony of the principal witnesses, and then Attorney Allsbrooks used a large number of prominent Halifax citizens as character witnesses for his client, Arthur Davis. At the conclusion of the evidence Wednesday morning, a motion calling for a directed verdict of not guilty as to Ellison was allowed by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, and the battle centered on Davis and Taylor. Attorneys and Solicitor Fountain argued the case before the jury that morning, winding up just in time for a late lunch. Judge Frizzelle completed his charge at 3:20 and the jury returned a verdict of guilty twenty-five minutes later.

During the meantime a special jury was literally chased into the box to hear a divorce case brought by Mamie Davenport Coach against Leo Coach, the plaintiff alleging adultery. Witness Mitchell said he saw the defendant enter a Norfolk hotel with a woman other than the plaintiff, that the plaintiff asked him not to say anything about it. The divorce was granted.

Apparently disappointed, Attorney Allsbrooks made a long and appealing plea in behalf of his client, Arthur Davis, the plea delaying work on other cases almost an hour. After commenting on the case and reviewing the current crime trend, Judge Frizzelle sentenced Davis to the roads for twelve months and suspended the sentence for three years upon the payment of a \$200 fine and the case costs.

William Taylor, the co-defendant in the case, was also sentenced to the roads for 12 months, the sentence to be suspended for three years upon the payment of a \$200 fine and the trial costs. There was some doubt if Taylor who had spent two months in jail awaiting trial, would meet the financial requirement immediately.

The bewhiskered case of John E. Williams which got that way with nearly two years of age, was continued until the September term after bumping along through one court after another. Williams is charged with obtaining money from the prosecuting witness, R. S. Critcher, the solicitor explaining that some kind of civil action is pending and that for that reason one continuance after another is being granted it. It was admitted, however, that the case came very near being thrown out

WORKING Following welcomed rains last week-end, Martin County farmers this week have handled an extensive work. Many of them cultivated their tobacco for the first time, hardly finding it possible to give needed attention to other crops. However, the dry weather retarded the grass and the crops are clean for the most part.

At the present time the crop outlook is bright, having improved nearly 100 percent during the past few days.

WEAPON REPORTED EQUAL TO A-BOMB The Canadian press said recently that development of a secret weapon, "with capabilities approaching the atomic bomb in effectiveness," lay behind the naming of an Auckland University Engineering Professor T. D. J. Leech, to the birthday honors list of King George VI.

A dispatch from Auckland to the London Evening News described the new weapon as an effective alternative to the atom bomb. It quoted Prof. Leech as saying "by comparison the atom bomb is a clumsy method of making an attack."

Prof. Leech received a Commandership of the Order of the British Empire. He was identified as director of research for the weapon project.

The weapon did not "reach the stage of practical application during the war, but work still is being pursued in the strictest secrecy by scientists in the United States, Britain and New Zealand," the Canadian Press said.

"No hint of the details of the weapon has been revealed, but it is stated that one means of application would have some similarity to one method of using the atomic bomb.

"The secret weapon project originated with the idea of a Wellington, N. Z., man who communicated the plan to Britain and the United States. Both countries immediately made development plans. The project was to have been carried out in Florida, but was moved to New Zealand and Pacific areas owing to the fears of espionage.

"Leech was selected to lead the research because he had previously done work distantly related. He had a team of 170 Americans and New Zealand experts, most of whom were given no idea of the ultimate objective, for security reasons."

## Opium Traffic Now On Increase

The traffic in prepared opium has been rising since 1944, after reaching an all-time low in 1940, Harry Anslinger, Federal Narcotics Commissioner, said recently in his 1946 report.

Seizures last year amounted to 4498 ounces, compared with 1024 in 1940.

There was not much change in morphine traffic, compared with the previous year, but traffic in marihuana "continued to be an increasingly serious problem."

Bulk marihuana seizures totaled 10,361 ounces against only 4533 ounces in 1945. Marihuana cigarette seizures were about two-thirds of the total of the previous year, but seizures at the borders, especially facing Mexico, were up sharply.

CONSTRUCTION Construction work is progressing very rapidly on a storage plant for the Howell-Holding Oil Company on the property between the old prisoner of war camp and the Williamston Package Manufacturing Company plant near the river.

## Names Of Honor Students Listed In Local School

### Few In High School Meet Last Period Scholastic Requirements

The names of 121 pupils appear on the last period honor roll in the local schools, Principal B. G. Stewart announced a few days ago. However, very few—nine—of the honor pupils were in the high school. The list follows, by grades:

First Grade: Francis Johnson, Eleanor Sue Eubanks, Eugenia Hoyt Glover, Betty Modlin, Sally Grey Griffin, Kenneth Gurganus, Samuel Rogerson, Danny Manning, Lee Roy Rogerson, Billy Ray Bowen, Billy Carstarphen, Jimmy Cooke, Constance Chesson, Dianne Cherry, Mary Claudia Cherry, Leona Coltraine, Betsy Davis, Ray Pate, Guy Thomas, Jr., Gerald Stalls, and Beth Spivey.

Second Grade: Billy Thornton, Ann Darden, Emma Jean Godard, Henry Handy, Jr., Ann Harrison, Allan Modlin, Joe Murphy, Tommy Phelps, Jimmy Hardison, Clayton Weston, Carolyn Beauchemin, Nancy Britton, Peggy Godard, Blanche Manning, Jane Peele, Mary Lee White, Virginia Holloman.

Third Grade: Joseph Clayton, John House, Iverson Skinner, Vivian Pate, Faye White, Jon Clark, Billy Dudley, James H. Ward, Jr., Sandra Gardner, Jane Manning, Eliene Smithwick, Sandra Margolin, Annette Rogers, Billy Par-tin, Rodney Pittman, Faye Peele, Joyce Baker, Jeannette Raynor, Phyllis Jones, Jean Nicholson, Billy Simpson, and Jane Barnhill.

Fourth Grade: Melva Lee Wynn, Joyce Manning, John Dunn, Robert Weston, Janice Rogers, Doris Rogers, James Pittman, Jean Coltraine, Patricia Harrison, Frankie Everett, Mary E. Britton, and Edward Rogerson.

Fifth Grade: Betty Sue Clark, Lee Handy, Janice Manning, Betty Helen Mobley, Janet Ross, Patricia Wynn, Dorothy Mobley, Wilber Stewart, David Davis, Jr., Ralph Parker, Jr., Virginia Price, Martha Dunn Kimball, Judith Ayers, Ann Crawford Gresham.

Sixth Grade: Jesse Cowan, Harrell Everett, Fitzhugh Fussell, Jean Ward Mobley, Sally Roberson, Wade Gardner, Mary Ann Manning, and Gloria Taylor.

Seventh Grade: Joyce Andrews, Corrona Bryant, Bobby Goff, Jackie Harris, Bary Gladys Long, Doris Peele, Norma Jean Pittman, Shirley Rogers and Ernest Taylor.

Eighth Grade: Betsy Horton, Elizabeth Griffin, Sarah Manning, Ruby Savage, Jean McLawhorn, Louise Corey, Mary Carolyn Leggett, Rhoda Faye Peel, and Harriet Ward.

Ninth Grade: Lilybet Muse, Rachel Chesson, Ronny Levin and Frank Wynn.

Tenth Grade: Edna Hadley, Louise Hines, Elizabeth Manning and Elizabeth Parker.

## Milk Cows Die of Soda Poisoning

Two milk cows belonging to Falmor John N. Hopkins died of soda poisoning in his lot near Williamston last Thursday, according to reports reaching here.

One of the farmer's sons left a load of soda in the lot the night before and the two cows tore into a bag and ate only a small portion of the nitrates. The animals were found dead, lying hardly more than two yards from each other the following morning. Both cows were liberal producers.

## County Youth Serving With Forces In China

Except for that yearning to be home, Pfc. Robert Stancil Hardison, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Claudius Hardison of Griffins Township, says in a recent letter to his parents, he is getting along O. K. "I'm playing baseball and reading the good ole Enterprise which is coming pretty regular now," the young army man said.

Entering the service in November, 1945, Pfc. Hardison received his basic training at Paris Island and then moved into Japan, later going to China to serve as an MP with the Fourth Marine Division.