

Defendant Fined \$50 For Assault By Judge Smith

Attorneys Plead Before Jurist At Monday's Session Of County Court

In the case before Judge J. C. Smith last Monday charging Grace W. Maynard with assaulting Mildred C. Ray with a deadly weapon, the prosecution, led by private attorneys, Critcher and Gurganus, called quite a few witnesses, but the defendant was the only one to take the stand in her behalf.

The main prosecuting witness, taking the stand first, said that she went to Roberson's cafe between 9:00 and 9:30 o'clock on the evening of July 5 with her sister, Mrs. Frances Harrell of Norfolk, Mrs. Minnie Crabtree and Mrs. Crabtree's son, Russell Bullock. "The defendant asked me my name as we entered the door, and told me to get the hell out of there," the prosecuting witness said. "I asked her if she had anything to settle and if she did we would go outside," she continued, explaining that the defendant said "No." "You'll get out or I'll get you out," the witness quoted the defendant as saying.

Continuing, Mrs. Ray said, "Grace left and returned a short time later swinging a pistol, and asked me if I was going to get out. She then pointed the pistol at my foot and fired," the witness declared, explaining that she and her sister, sitting in a booth, felt powder burns. The witness stated that she got up and grabbed the defendant's wrist and others took the pistol away from her (Mrs. Maynard).

Cross examined by Attorney Hugh G. Horton for the defense, Mrs. Ray said that she had gotten to the door when the defendant asked her not to go in. Continuing, she said that she asked Mrs. Effie Sparrow who ran the cafe. Assured that Mrs. Sparrow ran the business, Mrs. Ray said that she and her party took a booth and ordered soft drinks and did not order a meal at the time, but waited to see what the defendant was going to do.

It was pointed out that the defendant bent over slightly and was holding the gun about a foot from the floor when she fired it, the witness testifying that the bullet missed her foot by about three inches. "I believe she would have shot me if I had not grabbed her wrist," the witness told the court, concluding her evidence on cross examination.

The witness told the judge that she and the defendant had had trouble about three years ago, that she did not go there as long as the defendant operated the cafe, but that she had been there several times since Mrs. Sparrow took over the management.

Other state's witnesses, including Mrs. Crabtree, Mrs. Harrell and Mrs. Effie Sparrow corroborated the testimony offered by the main prosecuting witness, Mrs. Sparrow stating when asked if she ran the cafe, "I told her I thought I did." Mrs. Sparrow said that a brick pillar blocked her view, that while she did not see the shooting she heard the report of the pistol. She also said that she saw the prosecuting witness and the defendant scuffling and explained that she was frightened and did not know if the gun was taken from the defendant by force. It was also testified that Mrs. Sparrow did not know if the defendant said anything after the shooting.

Howard Williams, the last witness called by the state, said that he was standing outside the cafe and saw the defendant go in with a pistol, that he went in after he heard the shot and someone called to him to get the gun away from the defendant. "When I went in I saw the two scuffling across the room. I grabbed the barrel of the gun and I asked her to give it to me. She told me to get that woman out of there and she would give up the gun." The prosecution rested its case there.

Taking the stand in her own behalf, Mrs. Maynard explained that she operated the cafe in cooperation with J. B. Roberson and Mrs. Sparrow, and went on to say that Mrs. Ray had been ordered

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Jaycees Extend Welcome



Shown above is the group of Jaycees who welcomed their state president, Ed. T. Ellis of Charlotte at the city limits and presented him the key to the city. Included in the picture are, left to right, kneeling, Mayor Robert H. Cowen, State President Ed. T. Ellis, T. F. Harrison and Ernest Mears. Standing, left to right, are J. Paul Simpson, J. O. "Blue" Manning, Jr., President Wheeler M. Manning of the local Jaycees, John Miller, Jr., James Bullock, Edgar Gurganus and R. Edwin Peele. (Photo by J-C Lawrence Lindsay.)

Abbutt And Gurganus Are Building Feed-Seed Mill

Construction work is progressing fairly rapidly on a \$25,000 feed and seed mill in West End near here, the owners-operators, Messrs. Bill Abbutt and William Gurganus, stating this week that they planned to have the mill in operation within eight or ten weeks.

The plant, located just off U. S. Highway 64 on a lot 150 by 210 feet, is to be 40 by 100 feet. Built of concrete blocks and concrete brick, the structure will have a second story 40 by 40 feet for storage, Mr. Gurganus said.

Designed for a capacity of fifty tons daily, the plant will be equipped with the latest types of machinery and hammer mills. "We'll be able to unload a farmer's grain, carry it through the mill and return it to him on short notice," Mr. Gurganus said.

JET PLANES

Jet-propelled planes, just about if not the fastest thing in the air, made their first appearance over this immediate section last Tuesday noon. Apparently traveling several hundred miles per hour, the planes circled the town two or three times and were away in short order. Hearing the unusual sound, quite a few persons ran out to see just what was tearing through the heavens. They failed to see them on the first lap, but they were out just in time to see the "bullets" tear overhead on the second lap. A couple of the planes traveled over here Wednesday morning.

Lions Club Opens Hut Fund Drive

Local people were given an opportunity to aid in the construction of a hut for the use of local boy and girl scouts when members of the Lions Club here began accepting donations this week. For each donation of one dollar, the donor is given a chance on a fully-equipped 1947 Buick four door sedan that is to be given away here the night of September 20th.

The holder of the lucky numbers at the time of the drawing will receive the three prizes that the Lions are giving away, and it makes no difference as to whom the ticket holder might be. The persons holding the three winning numbers will be given the prizes regardless of their ages, color or where they live.

Recognizing the need for a seed-feed mill in this immediate section, the promoters of the project made their plans to provide the service months ago. Part of the material was placed on the lot early in the year, but construction has been delayed by shortages of certain equipment and machinery. "We are fairly certain that all equipment can be made available now, and we are rushing construction on the plant as rapidly as possible," one of the partners said yesterday.

Instead of selling their grain to dealers who have to ship it to other plants for processing, the new plant will be prepared to crush the farmer's grain and return him a mixed feed at custom rates. The plant will also offer an expanded market for grains of

Jamesville Has A Cash Surplus

Reporting its operations during the last fiscal year, the Town of Jamesville this week reported a cash balance of \$3,079.33 at the end of the period.

According to an auditor's report, the town started the 1946-47 fiscal year on July 1, 1946, with a cash balance of \$2,861.72. During the past twelve months the town collected \$5 in license fees and \$166.22 in general taxes. The town's share in the ABC store profits amounted to \$2,564.00 and \$34.60 was received in the form of court costs. The federal government advanced to town \$700 for a survey for a tentative water and sewer program.

Disbursements were listed as follows: Street lights, \$270; law enforcement, \$850; street maintenance, \$1,352.14; tax collection costs, \$18.67; miscellaneous supplies, \$10.70; election expenses, \$8.55; ballots, \$4.25; map of town, \$20, and account due for plan preparation water and sewer system, \$700.

Teacher Reconsiders And To Continue Here

Tendering her resignation a few days ago after having taught in the local schools for several terms, Miss Lamina Baker reconsidered the action and will continue her work here, it was learned this week. School officials and patrons welcome Miss Baker's latest decision. Miss Baker's decision leaves only three vacancies in the faculty. No meeting of the committee has been called to consider application for those jobs as far as it could be learned today.

SPEEDSTERS

Conducting a drive against speeding within the town, Chief of Police W. T. Simpson and his force carried three violators into the county court this week. It was charged that the speedsters, all from other places, were traveling about fifty miles or more per hour when detained.

Each of the defendants was fined \$20 and taxed with the costs amounting to about \$23 in each case.

No arrests have been made for crashing the stop lights, but officers are watching traffic moving through the two lights recently installed on the main street.

Firemen Are Called To Home On Main Street

Very little damage was done other than caused by smoke when the pipe to a laundry stove fell down in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Gurganus on West Main Street Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The call was the second sounded here this week.

Martin County Tax Values

Although there was no revaluation, real estate values in Martin County this year exceeded those of 1946 by \$505,796, the increase reflecting new construction handled since the 1946 listings. Real property exclusive of that owned and listed by corporations with the State Commission, carried a tax value as of last January 1 of \$9,150,245 as compared with a value of \$8,644,449 on January 1, 1946.

The increase in real property values, averaging about five percent, ranged from a fraction of one percent in Poplar Point to sixteen percent in Jamesville Township. According to Tax Supervisor M. L. Peel, the following townships reported increases, the figures showing the gains by districts and races:

| WHITE | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------|
| | 1946 | 1947 | Gain | Pct. |
| Jamesville | \$ 846,340 | \$ 982,864 | \$ 136,524 | 16.1 |
| Williams | 269,394 | 286,042 | 16,648 | 6.1 |
| Griffins | 449,215 | 465,536 | 16,321 | 3.6 |
| Bear Grass | 455,789 | 480,303 | 24,514 | 5.3 |
| Williamston | 2,029,087 | 2,213,033 | 183,946 | 9.0 |
| Cross Roads | 452,000 | 444,802 | 7,198 | 1.5 |
| Robersonville | 1,491,506 | 1,525,485 | 33,979 | 2.3 |
| Poplar Point | 272,217 | 272,537 | 320 | .1 |
| Hamilton | 689,782 | 701,392 | 11,610 | 1.6 |
| Goose Nest | 876,502 | 882,210 | 5,708 | 0.7 |
| Totals | \$7,831,832 | \$8,254,201 | \$ 422,369 | 5.3 |
| COLORED | | | | |
| | 1946 | 1947 | Gain | Pct. |
| Jamesville | \$ 117,952 | \$ 122,344 | \$ 4,392 | 3.7 |
| Williams | 36,515 | 36,729 | 214 | 0.6 |
| Griffins | 11,765 | 12,990 | 1,225 | 10.4 |
| Bear Grass | 21,205 | 24,053 | 2,848 | 13.4 |
| Williamston | 192,269 | 228,334 | 36,065 | 18.7 |
| Cross Roads | 26,365 | 31,410 | 5,045 | 19.0 |
| Robersonville | 149,576 | 172,549 | 23,973 | 15.5 |
| Poplar Point | 5,670 | 6,670 | 1,000 | 17.6 |
| Hamilton | 81,244 | 87,839 | 6,595 | 8.1 |
| Goose Nest | 170,276 | 173,126 | 2,850 | 1.7 |
| Totals | \$ 812,617 | \$ 896,044 | \$ 83,427 | 10.2 |

A review of combined personal and real property listings will appear later.

No Room In Hospital For The Mentally Ill

Entrance Denied One, And Appeal Goes Unanswered

Relatives And Friends Are Disgusted With Present Arrangements

Crowded conditions and an apparent indifference existing for years and years in North Carolina's State Hospital are becoming more aggravated, according to reliable reports heard here this week. Despite the occupation of Camp Sutton some time ago and the more recent removal of many patients to the Camp Butler hospital, the authorities still maintain there's no room for Martin County's mentally ill in the hospital.

For years upon years, Martin County authorities, unfortunately, had to resort to political "pull" to gain entrance in the State institution for mentally sick patients. The mainspring in that rotten system is no longer a member of the governing board, and waits, lasting for as much as a year in some cases, have been necessary before entrance could be gained for the mentally sick.

The blockade was again encountered a few days ago when relatives delivered a patient to the Raleigh institution, and when county officials pleaded with the authorities to accept another subject. During the meantime, another eligible patient was said to be waiting behind boarded windows and another was being held behind bars. The unfortunate victims have committed no crimes against society, but they have been and are still being denied admission to an institution created supposedly for the treatment of the mentally ill.

When the relatives delivered a patient to the State hospital, they reached there ten minutes after five o'clock. "We close at 5:00 o'clock and can't or won't take patients after closing time," the relatives were informed. Last Saturday morning, Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne called the hospital and advised that the sheriff of the county was returning the patient to the hospital, that it was impossible to reach there before 12:30 o'clock that afternoon. The clerk said yesterday that he was assured the patient would be received, that no papers would be necessary if the patient chose to admit himself and agreed to abide by the rules. The prescribed fee was available. The officer rushed to Raleigh with his patient and reached the institution at 12:30 o'clock, but the institution refused to accept the patient. One report stated that Dr. R. G. Blackwelder was vacationing at the time.

"There's no room in the hospital, county authorities were advised when they submitted application for the entrance of another patient. Last Thursday the patient, a young woman, tried to end her life. Fourteen stitches were necessary to close the knife wound. Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne appealed to the State Hospital by special letter, explaining the case and again appealing for her admittance. Up until Wednesday afternoon no answer had been received; in fact, receipt of the letter had not been acknowledged. In a third case, the patient, also a young woman, is being confined to a room with the windows boarded. Application to have her received in the State institution has been filed, county officials declare, but the entrance blockade still holds.

On Tuesday of this week a fourth patient, a young man who has been a hard worker and who has paid his tax weekly, was jailed for his own protection. Relatives had carried him to private clinics, exhausting their means, and now when they appeal to their State government a stubborn blockade, maintained necessarily, or unnecessarily, is encountered. County officials moved to prepare admittance papers, but they explained that the action is likely to prove meaningless. During the

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PARKING CHANGES

New parking regulations, affecting parking on several streets, will go into effect during the weekend and next Monday, Mayor Robt. Cowen announced today.

Beginning this week-end, parking will be allowed only on the west side of Watts and Smithwick Streets. Residents on those streets can help relieve the situation by parking in their driveways. Beginning next Monday parallel parking will be placed in effect on the north side of Main Street.

Education Board Meets Next Week

Tentatively scheduled to meet sometime next week, the Martin County Board of Education is expected to fix the opening dates for the coming term and fix a time schedule for holidays.

It was learned that plans are going forward rapidly for the opening of the term possibly the latter part of August, that while the new building program will not be completed in time, alterations will have been made in most cases.

Materials for colored schools at Jamesville and Everetts are being placed on the lots, and construction work is to get under way within a short time. The Jamesville building is to be located about one-half mile this side of Jamesville on property near the John Bailey farm. The Everetts building is to be located on the old site. Present plans call for the occupancy of the buildings in early November.

The lunchroom project at Jamesville is almost complete, but a shortage of some materials is delaying the work there, it was pointed out.

Mrs. A. J. Jones Passes In County

Mrs. A. J. Jones died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Carroll Williams near Jamesville early Wednesday morning following a lingering illness.

The daughter of the late David and Emeline Virginia Edwards Burney, she was born in Columbus County, on May 15, 1897, and located in this county about six years ago. Following the death of her first husband she was married to Mr. Jones last January 5. She was Miss Maidie Lee Burney before her first marriage.

Surviving besides her husband are three children, Mrs. Williams and Milton Sheppard, both of Jamesville, and Marshall Sheppard of Norfolk; a sister, Mrs. Ethel Sheppard of Pungo; a half-brother, David Burney and a half-sister, Bessie Martie, both of Columbus County.

Mrs. Jones had been a member of the Free Will Baptist Church for a long number of years.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Thursday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock, and interment was in the Reid Cemetery in Washington County.

Call Firemen Out Tuesday Evening

Local firemen were called out shortly before 10:00 o'clock last Tuesday night to a trash pile fire on East Church Street. The fire, starting in a pile of shavings, was put out with a small hose directly from the truck.

The firemen got the signals mixed up when they were directed to Watts Street. They retraced their course to Main and crossed on over to East Church.

It has been pointed out that the fire-fighting apparatus has a right to "crash" the traffic signals, that traffic should pull to the curb at the sound of the sirens.

Short Session Of Recorder's Court Held On Monday

Fines Imposed In The Sum Of \$145 By Judge J. C. Smith

Attracting an unusually large number of white spectators, the regular session of the Martin County Recorder's Court handled a dozen cases last Monday. The court was in session hardly more than two and one-half hours, and it was the first time in recent weeks that the number of white spectators exceeded the colored. Fines were imposed in the sum of \$145 by Judge J. Calvin Smith.

Proceedings: Pleading not guilty in the case charging him with an assault on a female, Wilton L. Godard was adjudged guilty. Judge Smith suspended judgment upon the payment of the costs.

Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the cost in the case charging Joseph Whitaker with simple assault. He pleaded guilty.

Clarence David McCall, pleading guilty of speeding, was fined \$20 and taxed with the costs.

The case charging Joe J. Moore with disposing of mortgaged property was continued until the first Monday in next September.

Jesse Mobley, arraigned on a bad check charge, pleaded guilty and he was sentenced to the roads for thirty days. The court suspended the road term upon the payment of the \$6 check and the trial costs.

James Waddell Mitchner, charged with speeding, pleaded guilty and was fined \$20 and taxed with the costs.

Charged with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting another, George Mumford pleaded not guilty. Adjudged guilty of being drunk and disorderly, the defendant was fined \$10 and required to pay the court costs.

Pleading guilty of assaulting a female, Noah Andrews was sentenced to the roads for 60 days. The court suspended the road term upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs and on the further condition that the defendant does not commit any crime and is not intoxicated in a public place during the next two years. A violation of the judgment terms means the defendant will be committed to the roads to serve the 60-day sentence.

Lloyd Irving Bunch pleaded guilty of speeding and he was fined \$20 and taxed with the costs.

Hubert Lawrence Gardner pleaded not guilty in the case charging him with reckless and careless driving. He was adjudged guilty and judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs.

A probation judgment was revoked in the case of Lloyd Price and he was committed by the court to serve a six months sentence. Price pleaded guilty on July 1 of last year of assaulting a female. He was sentenced to the roads at that time to serve six months. Judgment was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and the costs, and on the further condition that he violate no criminal law. On the 23rd of last month he was adjudged guilty of being drunk and disorderly and assault. Reviewing the case Probation Officer Gay recommended to the court that the sentence be invoked.

Funeral Held For Mrs. Ray Bunting

Funeral services were conducted at the home in Hamilton Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock for Mrs. Myrtle Everett Bunting who died in Duke hospital at noon last Monday. Rev. E. F. Stewart, pastor of the Hamilton Baptist Church, and Rev. J. R. Stewart, a former pastor of the church there and now pastor of the Robersonville Baptist Church, conducted the last rites. Interment was in the Hamilton Cemetery.

An unusually large number of friends of Mrs. Bunting and the family gathered there from various parts of eastern Carolina and Virginia to pay a last tribute to her memory. The floral offering was an extensive one, marking the high esteem in which Mrs. Bunting was held.