

Father Found Guilty Of His Son's Murder

Dave Brooks Gets Three-Five Years In State's Prison

Plea To Save 75-Year-Old Man From Term In The Prison Fails

Dave Brooks, 75-year-old colored man who fatally stabbed his son, George Brooks, 28, to death in their humble home in the Piney Woods section of Jamesville Township following a drunken quarrel the night before Thanksgiving, was sentenced to serve not less than three and not more than five years in State's Prison by Judge Walter J. Bone in the Martin County Superior Court here yesterday afternoon.

A plea by the defense attorney, R. L. Coburn, to save the old man from prison was rejected, and the defendant received the verdict and heard the sentence a bit stoically.

Solicitor George Fountain announced at the beginning of the trial that the State would not ask for a verdict of murder in the first degree but would work for a verdict of murder in the second degree or manslaughter.

The last of the defense evidence was offered shortly before noon, and the jury, taking the case at 12:45 o'clock deliberated only a few minutes following the recess for lunch before returning a verdict charging the aged man with manslaughter.

Not too much trouble was experienced in selecting a jury, and the first evidence was offered by the State at 3:30 Tuesday afternoon.

Iona James, the first witness, said that Dave Brooks went to her home about 9:30 o'clock on the evening of November 24, a short time after the son was stabbed. "Somebody has stabbed George and he'll be dead in a few minutes," the witness quoted the 75-year-old father as saying. She said that she had heard the father threaten his son's life, but gave no reason for making the threats, the witness adding that she had heard him make threats several times in the course of a year or more. The witness also said that Dave was drinking when he went to his home about 11 or 11:30 o'clock that night, that the old man called out and said, "It's sad news in hell tonight." The old man said that two men went home with George and followed him into the bed room. According to the story told by Dave and as related by the witness, George told the men "not to do that," and then grunted. Whitehurst said he refused the old man admittance, that Brooks then asked him to accompany him home.

Naomi James, the next witness for the State, said she saw George that afternoon, that he left her home about 5:30 o'clock, that he was not drinking at that time. The father came to her home about midnight. He was drunk but she did not say that.

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PRE-INDUCTION

Although the prospects point to a marked reduction in the size of draft calls, Martin County's draft board is being directed to send more men to pre-induction centers, Miss Mildred Everett, board clerk, said this week. Three men are to report for pre-induction on the 29th of this month, and fifteen men are to report on the 30th. They are to report to the army at Fayetteville.

So far only four county men have passed the pre-induction tests, two out of eleven examined in Durham on October 13, and two out of sixteen examined on November 18. Only one has been taken into the army, and there's only one in the power pool now, the other two having married since they were examined.

SCHEDULE

Following a custom of long standing, The Enterprise plans to alter its publication schedule for next week and the week after Christmas to squeeze in the only holiday of the year for the entire force. The first edition next week will go to press early Monday morning, followed by a second edition the following day. Operations in the plant will be suspended Wednesday until the following week.

The publishers are asking ministers and others to submit religious notices and Christmas program announcements by Saturday of this week and earlier if possible.

Grand Jury Files A Routine Report In Superior Court

Body Handles Work In Single Day and Takes Recess Until March

With one of its members absent, the Martin County Grand Jury completed its work in a single day and recessed last Monday until March after filing the following routine report in superior court over the signature of Foreman Jessup Harrison:

We have passed on all bills of indictment presented to us. We visited the Clerk of Court office and found it to be in excellent condition with all Guardian Accounts filed.

We found the Register of Deeds office in excellent shape and all bonds in order. The Sheriff's office and Tax Collector's office were visited and found in good condition with all records up to date.

We visited the office of the Superintendent of Schools and found it in excellent condition. We checked all Justice of Peace reports and found them all filed with the Clerk of the Court and fines submitted to the Treasurer.

We visited the county jail and found it clean and well kept. We visited the County Home and found it in good condition.

The State Highway Patrol gave us a report of all the school buses and informed us that all repairs needed are now being made as fast as possible.

Arrange Special Carols Program

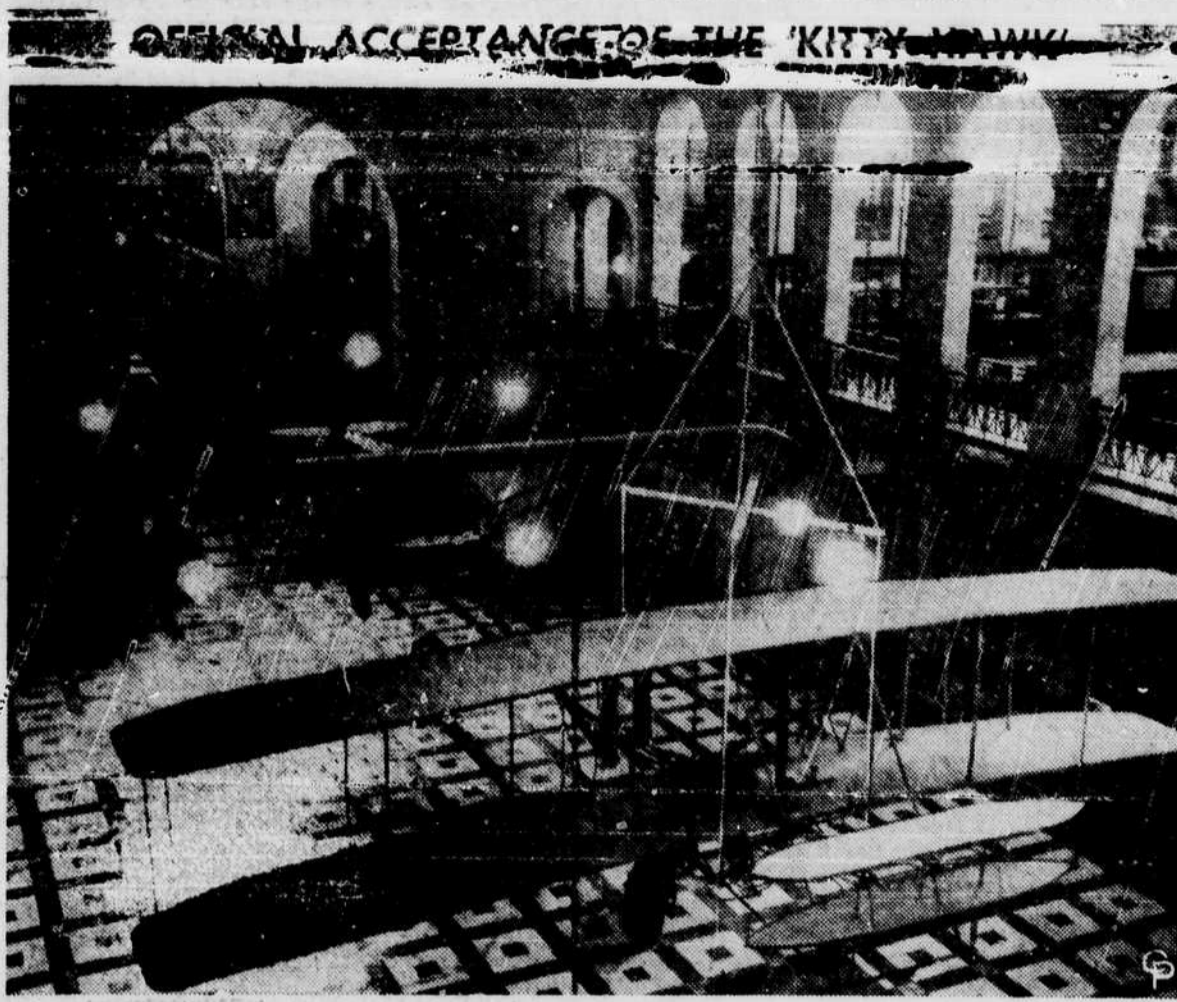
A special concert of Christmas Carols has been arranged by Rev. Stewart B. Simms, pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church, to be played over the Church's amplifying system on Sunday, December 19 at 5:00 p. m. This special program has been arranged in response to a number of requests from people in town and from some living outside of the town, who live at such distance as to make it impossible for them to hear the music at the regular hours. This special program, which will be of a little greater length than usual, will enable them to drive into Williamston and hear these carols of Christmas.

The chimes are being played every evening at 6:00 p. m. throughout this week and next, and on Sunday morning at 9:00 a. m.

Former Resident Reports On Hot Springs Retreat

Writing to his old friend, Warren H. Biggs, a few days ago, Judge Clayton Moore, Williamston native who is now associated with the R. J. Reynolds legal department in Winston-Salem, reported on the retreat, as follows: "Came here—for Change and Rest. Took the baths—they took the change; the hotels—they took the rest."

Mr. Moore ended, greetings and best wishes.



HERE IS A GENERAL VIEW in North Hall of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, as last minute preparations were being made for the official acceptance ceremonies on the Wright Brothers "Kitty Hawk" airplane (foreground). It marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the plane's flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. In the background is Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis." Through the arch may be seen the plaster casting of the statue of Freedom which tops the United States Capitol Building. (International Soundphoto)

All-Out Drive To Harvest Peanut Crop In the County

With fairly favorable weather prevailing, farmers in this county went all out during the past few days in trying to harvest the peanut crop, a task already delayed by about six weeks.

All kinds of stories telling about the desperate efforts to harvest the crop, have been heard. A few pickers went back into operation last Saturday, but the move was almost futile, reports stating that the goobers were too wet to rate the regular market and commanded a low price when offered for sale. Then there were reports, stating that a few pickers were operated last Sunday, several in adjoining counties, and possibly one or two in the lower part of this county.

Night operations were maintained on several farms, the bright moon shining down on the farmers' noble efforts to overcome one of the most adverse harvest seasons ever experienced by peanut farmers in this county.

Then there was the farmer who picked about fifteen bags and decided to delay the harvest when he found that the goobers were weighing nearly 200 pounds to the bag.

Those farmers who stacked the crop properly in the fall were able to pick dry peanuts suitable for the market at top prices. The market is still holding firm but only when the peanuts offered are dry and in good condition. Despite the promise of more bad weather, farmers declare that the crop has not been ruined, that where the peanuts were properly stacked, the damage is almost negligible.

Drove Of Turkeys Thinned By Thief

Operating under the cover of darkness sometime during last Monday night, thieves snatched twenty nice turkeys from their roost on Farmer Dewey Edmondson's farm near Hassell. Mr. Edmondson did not discover the loss until he went to feed the birds the next afternoon. The turkeys were roosting in an old persimmon tree about 150 yards across the road from the house.

Investigating the theft, officers found where the thieves had sacked the birds and dragged them across the field to a car or truck. Twenty turkeys were left.

In addition to the theft of twenty turkeys, the thieves raided Farmer Dells V. Brown's place and carried away five choice hams and six shoulers.

Baptist Choir To Present Special Christmas Service

The choir of the Memorial Baptist Church will present a special Christmas program this coming Sunday evening at 7:30 p. m. The entire evening worship service will be devoted to the presentation of the music which will include a number of the familiar Christmas carols and will feature Christmas anthems from several other nations.

The group is under the direction of Miss Ida Privette, and will be accompanied at the organ by Mrs. J. M. Ward and at the piano by Mrs. Wheeler Martin.

The choir is to be commended, said the pastor, Rev. Stewart B. Simms, for having undertaken to present an unusually fine and different type of program.

Another feature of the service will be a Nativity scene which will be arranged by the members of the Business Woman's Circle of the Woman's Missionary Society.

Few Cases Heard In Local Court

Justice of the Peace R. T. Johnson handled ten cases in his court during the past few days.

Charged with public drunkenness, Thomas W. Stanley was taxed with \$6.85 costs.

Henry Lee Parker, charged with seduction, was bound over to the superior court under bond in the sum of \$200.

Charged with hunting without a license, Sutton Bazemore was fined \$10 and required to pay \$5.85 costs.

Thomas Joyner was taxed with \$5.85 costs for disorderly conduct. Noah F. Cotanch, publicly drunk, was fined \$5 plus \$5.85 costs.

James J. Neal, Herman Stancill and William E. Buffalo, drunk, were each taxed with \$5.85 costs. J. W. Bryant was fined \$10 and taxed with \$5.85 costs for hunting without a license.

Charged with public drunkenness, Alton H. Smith was fined \$10 and taxed with \$5.85 costs.

Native Of County Dies In Enfield

Dr. W. L. Fleming, a native of this county, died at his home in Enfield late last Sunday night. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon and burial was in the Enfield Cemetery.

Dr. Fleming was born near Hassell 63 years ago, the son of the late W. Alphonsa and Elizabeth Best Fleming. Completing his medical courses, he located in Enfield for the practice of medicine.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Edith Duke; one daughter, Laverne; three sons, LeRoy, John and Edward Fleming, all of the home; three sisters, Mrs. D. A. Hunt, Mrs. Myra Mann and Miss Selma Fleming, all of Enfield, and three nephews, T. C. and W. A. Fleming of Hassell, and C. H. Fleming of Raleigh.

Dr. Coltrane To Address Kiwanis

Dr. Eugene J. Coltrane, governor of the Carolinas District of Kiwanis International, will address the regular meeting of the local Kiwanis Club in the Woman's Club hall here this evening at 7:00 o'clock. Club President Eugene Kimball announced that Dr. Coltrane is president of Brevard College, having served the institution in that capacity since it was founded in 1934. Prior to that time he was in the part of the Roanoke Rapids Schools.

A program of musical entertainment has been planned for the meeting this evening by Kiwanian N. C. Green. The meeting is the last scheduled for the calendar year and the officers are expecting a large attendance.

Motor Fire At Local Laundry

Very little damage resulted when an electric motor caught fire at the laundry on Warren Street here Tuesday morning at 11:25 o'clock.

A general alarm was sounded but workers at the plant brought the fire under control just before the town's fire-fighting equipment was carried to the scene. The call was one of very few handled by the fire department here in recent weeks.

Court Working On Last Case Of The Term Here Today

Several Divorces Granted And Few Civil Cases Are Handled

Convened last Monday for the trial of both criminal and civil cases, the Martin County Superior Court with Judge Walter J. Bone of Nashville presiding, was moving momentarily today toward adjournment. At 9:30 this morning, the court called the case of Arthur Williams against Victoria Hassell, the plaintiff claiming ownership of a farm in Hamilton Township.

The trial of the criminal docket was completed Wednesday afternoon when Dave Brooks was found guilty and sentenced to prison for killing his son, and Solicitor George Fountain announced that the rape case against Clarence Earl Stevenson would be continued until the March term.

Charged with larceny, Junie Wynne was sentenced to prison for not less than two and not more than three years. After studying the case, Judge Bone said in open court that while the crime was a serious one, the facts would indicate that the punishment was too severe, and he sentenced the defendant to prison for twelve months.

Charlie Paige, charged with issuing a worthless check, was found not guilty.

Harvey Lee Parker, pleading guilty of seduction under the promise of marriage, was sentenced to prison for not less than two and not more than three years. The prospects for a reconciliation by the marriage route were abandoned when the prosecuting witness was said to have withdrawn.

Dr. Wm. F. Coppage, going into the court on a speeding charge, was found guilty and fined \$50 and taxed with the costs. The jury recommended that his driver's license not be revoked.

Charged with failing to comply with a judgment of the court, Fred Lawton was held in contempt and called to answer for not paying \$30 a month for the support of his daughter. The court directed him to pay \$30 within ten days and \$30 a month thereafter.

With the criminal docket out of the way, the court called several divorce actions, and later started the trial of a few civil cases.

In the divorce action brought by Bettie Mae Council against Wm. J. Council, the plaintiff alleged adultery and the claim was recognized by the jury, giving the plaintiff an absolute divorce.

In the case of H. C. Norville, Jr., against Dola Lowe Norville, the plaintiff was given a divorce on the grounds of two years of separation. It was stated in the complaint that the two were married in Hertford County on October 6, 1946, and that they separated twenty days later on October 26, 1946.

In her action for divorce from Larry T. Ruffin, the plaintiff, Lillie B. Ruffin, stated that they were married in July, 1941, and separated in June, 1942.

A mistrial was ordered in the divorce case brought by Julia Goff Purvis against Marshall Purvis, the court explaining that there wasn't sufficient evidence to support the claim that diligent search had been made to serving papers on the defendant. It was explained that the defendant, charged with impersonating an OPA officer, had been in the federal courts, but it was admitted

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Hamilton Plans Community Tree

On December 20 there will be a Community Christmas tree and program given at the Hamilton School building at 7:00 p. m.

Hamilton Baptist, Methodist and Episcopal Sunday schools cooperating, are completing arrangements. The program will begin at 7:00 p. m. After the program given by the churches, Rev. C. W. Bazemore, Associational Missionary of Scotland Neck, will show the pictures of Christ from birth right through the crucifixion. It is free. Also treats and gifts will be distributed to the pupils as well as gifts from friend to friend.

The public invited.

Minor Car Wreck On County Road

About \$100 damage resulted but no one was hurt when the cars of Jos. L. Codard and Alexander Manning crashed on the Griffins Township road near the Howard Coltrane home yesterday morning at 9:10 o'clock.

Godard, driving a 1934 Ford, started to make a left turn just as Manning, driving a 1941 Ford, started to pass. Fenders were battered and bent on both cars. Godard accepted the damages, Patrolman M. F. Powers making

Friendship Train Is Being Loaded Here

HOLIDAY

Williamston merchants and other business houses and plants will observe Monday, December 27, as a holiday, making possible a three-day respite from work for clerks and other employees. The day is being observed as a general holiday by most towns and cities in the State and nation.

The post office will be open and mail deliveries will be effected, but county and town offices will close along with the business houses and there'll be no county court that day.

Bear Grass Club To Assist Needy Folks In County

Collecting Toys, Gifts and Money for Less Fortunate Families In County

The Bear Grass Chapter of Ruritan National has organized a group to assist some of the needy families of Martin County and to attempt to bring some joy and happiness at Christmas.

The Ruritans will collect food, clothing, toys, money, and other gifts suitable for these deserving and needy families. They also invite all other interested citizens of Martin County to have a part in this undertaking. The gifts will be collected and left at Rogers Supply Company in Bear Grass, and then on Christmas Eve they will be divided and presented to the families according to their needs.

A committee representing the Bear Grass Club visited some families during the week, in order to determine which were in most need and which were most deserving of help. These families are perhaps typical of many others in Martin County and are the ones the Ruritans will assist.

Perhaps the most touching and worthy family was one of six members. Three of the six are helpless invalids, unable to raise a hand to help themselves. There is a father who is sick in the bed and has been in bed for about two years. He told the members of the committee that he "was just waiting to die." He has been in poor health for about six years and has spent everything he had on hospital and doctor bills for himself and his two children.

Then, there is a son and daughter confined to wheel chairs by some ailment which doctors have been unable to help at all. The son is 21 years old and has been confined to his chair for three years. The daughter is 25 years old and has been confined to her chair for seven years. These two are unable to help themselves and should be attended at all times.

There is another son, 34 years old, who works and tries to support this family. He is a painter and, in the words of some friends of the family, "works day and night whenever possible to try to keep up enough to keep the family in food."

The mother has to tend to the three individuals and do all the cooking and washing, and in addition she gets out and tries to earn money for food and doctor bills.

At the time the committee visited this family the mother had gone over to a neighbors house to wash clothes. The son was away working and the three invalids were alone in the house, unable

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Present Cantata In Local Church

The combined choirs of the Methodist and Christian churches will present the Christmas cantata, "The Birth of Christ", in the local Christian church Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock. The public is invited.

Hamilton Offers Several Tons Of Food This Week

Deliveries To Start From The Several Community Centers Today

With almost half a carload of food and farm produce already on hand and with the community centers in the several townships starting deliveries today, a group of volunteers will start here this evening on the task of sorting and packing the produce for the Friendship Train. If the momentum of the program is maintained in all the townships in proportion to that reported in those districts where the canvass has been completed, a bulging car of food will move out of the county early next week to the port at Norfolk for shipment to the hungry in war-torn countries.

The movement is assured of success and the problem now is the handling of the excess. Volunteers have offered to haul the excess free to the port, but final arrangements will have to wait until all the produce is delivered to the main center here.

Hamilton yesterday delivered several tons of food and farm produce contributed by about thirty citizens there, "and we'll likely have some more," Chairman Craven Roebuck said. Among the early contributors there were Harper Peel, Mac Lewis, Spencer Raymond, P. E. Manning, Henry Early, E. V. Smith, E. T. Smith, J. E. Copeland and sons, Tom Winslow, J. H. Harrell, G. N. Boyd, Geo. T. Ward, R. J. Sydenstricker, Roy Beach, Slade Rhodes Co., B. B. Taylor, J. H. Lillard, Charlie Bullock, T. F. Respass, Herman Everett, W. E. Roberson, Dewey Stalls, N. C. House, W. J. Beach, H. S. Johnson, C. B. Roebuck, Bert Scott, Roscoe Downs and Alton White.

Chairman Jesse Sumner for the lower five townships said this morning that all deliveries in his district would be in today and tomorrow. Chairman Mayo Little, reporting for the other five townships in the county, said this morning that Oak City is delivering a good amount, that the collection is about complete in Hassell, that a big truck is moving in from Cross Roads, and that Robertsonville has a large quantity to be moved late today or tomorrow.

Volunteers have a big job ahead in sorting and packing the produce, but they hope to complete it tonight and tomorrow night.

The car, while it will be loaded over the week-end, is scheduled to move out of the county next Tuesday. A special service led by various ministers will be held at the car Tuesday morning at 9:00 o'clock when the food and farm produce will be dedicated to the relief of the citizens, homeless and others facing starvation in war-torn countries across the seas.

The public is invited to attend the brief dedication service next Tuesday morning.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

A close race is still being maintained in the motor vehicle wrecking business this year as compared with the record last year. Through the fiftieth week, 1948 held an advantage or disadvantage of a lone wreck, but the number of injured and the damage estimates are much greater this year.

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.

50th Week

Year	Wrecks	Injured	Damages
1948	1	0	\$ 350
1947	4	0	930

Comparisons To Date

Year	Wrecks	Injured	Damages
1948	136	78	\$32,835
1947	150	88	39,200