

Stresses Service And Secrecy In Address To Jury

Judge Chester Morris Appeals To Jurymen To Help Check Crime

Presiding over his first term of superior court in this county, Judge Chester Morris of Elizabeth City Monday in a 45-minute address to the grand jury stressed duty as members of both the grand and petit juries as a moral obligation and went on to declare that all deliberations in the jury room should be kept secret.

Declaring he was pleased with this county's more or less permanent grand jury system, Judge Morris said that some people say the grand jury is outmoded, "but I can't conform to that theory," adding that it had been tried, and again, that people should not shun duty on the jury, that service there is a position of honor and trust. "The jury is the guardian of the people, upholding their welfare and the peace and dignity of your county," he said.

Continuing, the jurist said, "You have been designated as men of good moral character and of mental ability, and you should recognize the confidence placed in you."

The jurist, explaining that they came from every section of the county, pleaded with the jurors to aid the sheriff and other officers in cracking down on criminals, and help maintain law and order and decency. "You are obligated to report to the sheriff any violations of the law that escape the attention of officers, and it is expected of you," he declared.

The oath a jurymen subscribes to was listed among the most solemn, "and if you remember that oath, Martin County will benefit when you have completed your work," Judge Morris said.

Stressing secrecy in the grand jury room, the jurist said he had known instances where good men hesitated to bring out facts about law violations because they were afraid their action would be revealed. "I hope you will report any law violations that have escaped the attention of your of-

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Native Of Town Dies In Hospital

Funeral services were held in St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Washington last Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Charles Urquhart Hill, native of Williamston, who died in a Charlotte hospital last Thursday morning after an illness of three months. Rev. Stephen Gardner conducted the service.

A son of the late Whitmel John Hill and Josephine Bryan Nicholls Hill, he was born in Williamston on January 31, 1891, in the home of his aunt, the late Mrs. Walter Hassell, but made his home here for only a short time.

He spent his early life in Rocky Mount and Washington and attended Trinity College, Durham. He served as a lieutenant in World War I after completing his education at the Murchison Hardware Company in Wilmington. After the war he went with the C. A. Nash Company in Norfolk and while there he was married to Miss Helen Tait. In 1938 they moved to Greensboro and in 1942 he was made manager of the Rogers Paint Store in Charlotte.

Surviving are his widow, a son, Chas. U. Hill, Jr., of Belton, S. C.; two sisters, Mrs. W. A. Blount, Jr., and Mrs. J. E. Mathews, and an aunt, Miss Bettie Hill of Washington.

SPECIAL WEEKS-DAYS

According to the U. S. Department of Commerce Reference Service:

We are now in the middle of Hobby Week and National Wildlife Restoration Week. Marylanders have declared a holiday for observance of Maryland Day Friday.

Arraign John R. Coltraine In Murder Case Yesterday

John R. Coltraine, charged with the murder of W. Thomas Roberson last January 26, was arraigned in the Martin County Superior Court Monday at noon a few minutes after the grand jury, headed by Foreman I. Jessup Harrison, returned a true bill charging the defendant with murder in the first degree. Simon Roberson, brother of the murder victim and a member of the grand jury, was dismissed, but seventeen members returned the bill of indictment in open court after questioning two defendants, H. G. Roberson and Henry Roberson, a matter of ten or twelve minutes.

Judge Chester Morris, presiding over the term, directed the prisoner to stand and raise his right hand while Clerk L. B. Wynne read the indictment. Asked how he pleaded, Coltraine, through his counsel, pleaded not guilty and

said he would be tried by "God and country." Coltraine did not quiver and stood upright as he heard the indictment read. He appeared normally interested as the names of a two-hundred man-woman venire were drawn and read in open court.

The court will start examining members of the venire this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, or slightly ahead of the predicted schedule. Where the trial will go from there is anybody's guess. Some think the venire will be exhausted today without getting a jury and that a call will be issued for a venire from another county. Others think a jury can be had from the group by some time tomorrow and that the trial will be well under way by noon Wednesday, with the possibility that it will continue until the latter part of the week, probably Saturday.

Call 76 Witnesses In Capital Offense Case

SALARIES

The fifteen vocational teachers in the Martin schools who are paid entirely from county funds will share along with the state-paid teachers an increase in salaries, the county board of education members decided in a special meeting held Monday night. The increase, approximating about 15 percent of the annual salary, will call for an additional \$3,000. It was learned.

Several insurance agents appeared before the meeting and discussed the state-proposed plan to insure school properties. The board took no action.

Time For Trick Legislation In State Assembly

Big Payday For Some State Employees This Week; Later for Teachers

It now looks as if the Legislature will be here until well into April.

During the next few weeks, a lot of trick legislation will be introduced. When the bills are rolling fast, the table gets those which come along last. Any measure thrown into the hopper from here on out will have to compete with heavily loaded calendars.

If you as an individual—or your county or city—are afraid some detrimental legislation is going to be introduced, now is the time to be on your guard. With the bills moving so swiftly, almost any-

Farmers visiting Raleigh say that the State now is in tractors. With Northern dealers getting their full allotment, but more of the small tractors than need, N. C. sharpshooters are having a fine time buying them and selling them while the legitimate dealer up the street walks in circles.

Although attempts are now being made in some quarters to discredit Governor Kerr Scott in the eyes of the people who elected him, it is apparent that agriculture, labor, and the school people are still with him.

With Gov. Kerr Scott waving a big stock over the heads of all State employees, including teachers, it now seems certain that all State employees, including teachers, will receive outsized pay checks within the next two weeks. The big day for employees other than teachers will fall Friday, March 25. All these people will receive their regular pay, plus a 20 percent increase for each month beginning last October 1. The increase for this month has been due a long time—now is the time to see them.

Fifty-two Called By Defendant and 24 by Prosecution

Several Witnesses Hesitate To Answer Calls And Ask To Be Excused

That the trial of John R. Coltraine, Griffins Township man who shot and killed his neighbor farmer, W. Thomas Roberson last January 26, will be hard fought in the Martin County Superior Court this week was given further emphasis last week-end when the defense called thirty-one additional witnesses, boosting its total to fifty-two. Twenty-four have been summoned by the prosecution.

Reliable reports heard over the week-end indicated that quite a few witnesses hesitated in recognizing the summons served upon them in person by the sheriff and his deputies. Others pleaded with defense counsel to be allowed an excuse to have no part in the trial.

Although seventy-six witnesses are being called, the case has only two principal ones. Several of the others can offer material evidence, but it is apparent that most of those summoned can only play the role of character witnesses.

Witnesses called by the State include: Rufus, Ben Ira, W. G. and Charlie Hardison, Tommie Bland, Dr. V. E. Brown, Archie Coltraine, Otis Coltraine, Carlyle Manning, Lee Griffin, Sam Brooks, William Henry (Bill) Peel, N. R. Daniel, C. C. Coltraine, Mat Bissell, Oscar Roberson, Arthur C. Roberson, Nathan E. Roberson, Whit Saunders, Henry Roberson, Gabe Roberson, James M. Peel.

Names of witnesses called by the defense: Herman Bowen, L. P. Anderson, J. W. Anderson, Annis Perry, Ira Jones, Arthur Modlin, Lummy James, Bill Abbott, Elbert N. Manning, Fred Chesson, A. E. Manning, Noah T. Daniel, Coy Roberson, John Edwin Manning, Bill Manning, of Jamesville, Geo. Barber, Clarence Barber, Simon Barber, Luther Taylor, Kager Perry, Grady Godard, J. Lawrence Coltraine, Willie Mayo Gardner, Mrs. Marvin H. Leggett, George Martin, Frosty Martin, B. S. Courtney, P. E. Getsinger, W. D. Harrington, Asa J. Hardison, C. B. Carstarphen, Sam Godard, Oscar Jones, R. J. Hardison, Calvin Ayers, Gilbert Rogerson, Adrian Hardison, Mrs. Adrian Hardison, Howard Hopkins, J. T. Heath.

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Taken Critically Ill At Home Last Friday

Taken critically ill last Friday morning, Mr. Claudius Roberson was treated in the local hospital and removed an hour or two later to the State hospital. Doctors reported this morning that Roberson was planning to amputate his right leg. His left leg was removed several years ago.

County Officials Meet As A Board Of Equalization

Hear Few Complaints And Plan Dog Vaccinations For April In County

Meeting as a board of equalization and review, the Martin County Commissioners Monday received very few complaints and moved on to handle other business. Crowded out of their quarters by the grand jury, the commissioners met in the clerk of court's vault and did very well in their cramped quarters. The construction of an addition to the courthouse will be completed shortly and the board will not find it necessary to scamper into a hole to carry on its business.

Appearing before the board, W. B. Cannon of Goose Nest asked about the valuation increase. He was advised that there was a horizontal increase throughout the county, and the explanation was acceptable.

Suggesting that his store on Washington Street was listed higher in proportion to other buildings, John Wier was allowed a \$1,000 reduction from \$6,000 to \$5,000.

A small reduction was allowed Frank Garstapen on his home on Williams Street, the board reasoning that the assessment was somewhat out of line.

Final arrangements for the vaccination of all dogs in the county were completed. The task was assigned to Dr. W. F. Coppage and he is to furnish complete records of all vaccinations, and the county is to withhold \$100 instead of \$500 until all records are entered on the county tax books. The vaccinations will be handled without direct cost to the dog owners.

The board received several insurance agents who discussed the proposal to have the State insure school buildings in the face of a 25 percent increase in rates on such properties. W. H. Carstarphen, John Pope, Hildreth Mobley, Nat Johnson and E. B. Whichard discussed the proposal and later carried their appeal in opposition to the plan before a special meeting of the county board of education last evening. The county board took no action, the spokesman explaining that his body would cooperate with the board of education.

Commissioners C. C. Martin, W. M. Harrison, John H. Edwards, C. Abram Roberson and Henry S. Johnson were present for the board of equalization meeting.

Attack Follows Money Argument

Said to have argued over a dollar, Henry Davis launched a telling knife attack against James Holley, both colored, in an old shanty car near the North Carolina Pulp Company plant in this county late Sunday night.

The dollar argument turned into about a \$30 slicing, reports stating that Davis, who was armed with a knife, slashed his back and around the neck.

One blow reached the neck and moved downward to the man's belt, parting the man's clothes and opening a straight furrow in the skin.

Davis was arrested about 1:00 o'clock Monday morning by Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and placed in the county jail.

Man Beats Wife Along Highway

Fussing and a feudin' over little or nothing, Ed Pilgreen, while drinking, badly beat his wife along the highway turning off U. S. 17 at the old Mill Inn last Sunday afternoon.

The husband tore his wife's clothes partly off, stabbed her in the back and beat her with an abandoned car exhaust pipe and an iron hoop. She was treated in a local doctor's office and he was placed in jail in default of a \$100 bond, Patrolman M. F. Powers said.

Call Two Hundred for Possible Duty On Jury In First Degree Murder Case Against Coltraine

Veteran Of World War One Passes In Hospital Saturday

Funeral Wednesday Afternoon At Graveside In Roberson Cemetery

Charles T. Stubbs, World War I veteran, died in Veterans' Hospital at Oteen last Saturday morning at 9:05 o'clock after a long period of declining health. His condition had been serious for some time. He entered the hospital near Asheville in 1940 and continued a patient there until his death.

The son of the late William Asa and Lenorah Mills Stubbs, he was born near Jamesville on November 4, 1892 and spent his early life there. During World War I he served with Company B, 306 Engineers. After two months training he went overseas on July 31, 1918, and continued there until June 11, 1919. Following his discharge on June 20, 1919, he went with a construction force of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, moving from place to place throughout the district.

He was a member of the Jamesville Christian Church.

The body is scheduled to reach Williamston this afternoon at 5:00 o'clock and will remain at the Biggs Funeral Home until 3:00 o'clock Wednesday when it will be carried to the Roberson Cemetery near Jamesville for graveside services at 3:30 o'clock. Rev. John L. Goff, pastor of the local Christian Church, and Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, will conduct the last rites.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Elma Jernigan, who is now employed by the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company in its Williamston office; a

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Up For Violating The Liquor Laws

Two colored men, Columbus Ward and Henry Howell, of near Hassell, were arrested by ABC Officer J. H. Roebuck and Deputy Roy Peel early Sunday morning for allegedly possessing a quantity of low-grade illicit liquor. About four gallons of the white liquid was found in the Ward home, and Howell allegedly carried one-half pint on his person, the officers explaining that they found a still worn and other manufacturing equipment in Howell's barn.

Given a hearing before Justice R. T. Johnson, the two men were bound over to the county court for trial on April 4. Bond was required of each in the sum of \$300.

Last Saturday, the officers raided in a woods about two miles west of Robersonville and captured a 100-gallon capacity copper kettle and poured out 300 gallons of beer.

Monday morning they wrecked a cheaply equipped plant in Jamesville Township, destroying the still drum still and pouring out fifty gallons of beer of filthy and mediocre quality.

URGENT APPEAL

Reporting some over \$2,000 in hand and about \$700 needed to reach the goal, Chairman G. G. Woolard today issued an appeal cordially urging all canvassers who have not yet completed their work not to let up in the current Red Cross Fund Drive.

Several districts have not yet met their quotas, "but if the drive can maintain its momentum we'll not fall down on the job," Mr. Woolard said. Fairly complete reports are expected from all districts this week.

SERVICE

Ultra superior service in summoning a venireman for the trial of John Coltraine in the superior court was reported yesterday. The slow task of calling names out in open court had been going on for some time when the name of Walter Slade, colored, of Robersonville Township came up. Spotting the man in the audience, Sheriff Roebuck called out and instructed him to be present Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Reports this morning stated that the county had been combed in rounding-up the veniremen, but the success of the search could not be learned immediately. One report did state that quite a few persons whose names were on the list had left the county.

Mary Lou Lee Is Top Twirler At Greenville Event

Green Wave Band And Junior Glee Club Rated Excellent; Seniors Good

Representatives of the Williamston High School drew one Superior, two Excellent and one Good ratings at the district music festival at Greenville last Saturday. The Superior rating was won by Mary Lou Lee, majorette of the Green Wave Band in a twirling exhibition that thrilled judges and spectators alike. She was one of three instrumentalists to get a superior rating, the other two being pianists.

The Green Wave Band itself got a rating of excellent in its rendition of three numbers in Grade I. In its program on the stage and in the big parade that followed the local band maintained its reputation for discipline and orderliness and Director Jack Butler received many compliments from the other band directors present. The judges, offering written criticisms of all performances noted that the Green Wave Band did very well for such a young organization and for its first entry in such an event.

The Junior Girls' Glee club under the direction of Mrs. Beecher Patterson also drew an excellent rating despite the fact that the group has been organized but a few months and has only been doing serious work for two months. The group sang two numbers.

The Senior Glee Club of mixed voices drew a rating of good. Also

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Officers Elected By Woman's Club

The regular monthly meeting of the Williamston Woman's Club was held March 13, in the club building.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Joanna Martin, the collect was repeated and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The nominating committee reported newly elected officers as follows: Mrs. H. L. Swain, president; Miss Marjorie Brady, recording secretary, Mrs. W. H. Carstarphen, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Ross Froneberger, 2nd vice president. An acceptance speech was made by Mrs. Swain. The State Convention of the Federation of Woman's Clubs which will be held this year at Goldsboro was discussed and Mrs. H. L. Swain, Mrs. P. B. Cone and Mrs. Urbin Rogers were elected to attend as delegates. Alternates elected were Mrs. Ray Goodman and Mrs. Irvin Margolis. Miss Elizabeth Patker, program chairman, gave an interesting talk on "Better Citizenship."

Some Expressing Doubt If Jury Can Be Had from List

Officers Search Late Into The Night For Special Venire Members

Judge Chester Morris, presiding over the current term of the Martin County Superior Court, Monday morning ordered a special venire of Martin citizens be called for possible duty as members of the jury to hear the first degree murder charge against John R. Coltraine, Griffins Township man who fatally shot his neighbor farmer, W. Thomas Roberson, in the Farm Life section on last January 26. The order directs members of the venire to be in the courthouse this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock when the court will start selecting a jury to hear the case.

Doubt was expressed if a jury could be had even from the 200-member venire, but the defense said that a selection was possible. Solicitor Geo. Fountain, suggesting that a venire called from outside the county would expedite the trial, said that if it should be called in the county that between 200 and 300 persons likely would be needed. The defense suggested that 200 would be enough. Judge Morris compromised and directed that 250 be called.

After Little Miss Carolina Martin had pulled approximately 200 names from the box, Judge Morris said stop right there, if a jury could not be had from that number it wouldn't be likely that an additional fifty would help relieve the situation, that if no jury can be had from the 200 a venire would be called from another county.

The case has been widely discussed and since the drawing was not sectionalized, relatives, friends, acquaintances, witnesses are being called. Even the name of the defendant, and those of two of his sons and a few relatives were drawn, but the court ordered them set aside. The name of a brother of the murder victim was also drawn but it was set aside. At first names of witnesses passed, but Judge Morris ruled later in the drawing which took the greater part of an hour that names of witnesses drawn from the box be pushed aside.

Names of the venire members follow, by townships: Jamesville Township: Mrs. Edgar Brown, C. N. Martin, L. C. Brown, Bruce Fagan, Royal Gurganus, A. W. Ange, Church Mobley, W. M. Davis, G. M. Anderson, P. M. Ange, L. W. Hardison, Carroll Brown, D. D. Coburn, S. L. Ellis, R. L. Waters, Thomas E. Martin, Henderson Mizelle, H. S. Hardison, G. W. Sawyer, R. L. Stallings, P. C. Blount, Jr., Edwin Hassell.

Griffins Township: E. H. Manning, Jr., Leslie E. Hardison, Robert E. Peel, W. Rufus Hardison, Leon Earl Griffin, Henry H. Corey, Geo. W. Hodges, John A. Lilley, H. L. Manning, R. H. Peel, Roy S. Hardison, Mrs. Howard Coltraine, B. R. Manning, John E. Griffin, Leslie J. Griffin, Maurice E. Roberson, Mrs. Raymond Gurkin.

Bear Grass: J. S. Holliday, Noah Gardner, A. L. Williams, Mrs. H. U. Peel, W. V. Ward, J. T. Hardison, Dee Bowen, Wm. D. Hardison, Jesse Terry, Cecil Brown, Ben Whitehurst, John A. Blend, Arthur Peaks, W. Worth Mobley, Jap Lilley, Jasper C. Griffin, J. W. Green, H. N. Bailey, Dennis L. Peel, J. B. Rogerson, Wheeler Rogerson, William LeRoy Hadley, James S. Bailey, Lance Hardy, Simon Harrison, Walter Harrison, A. L. Williams and Theodore Mendell.

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Clear Few Cases From The Docket In Superior Court

Those Who Dance Must Pay The Fiddler, Judge Chester Morris Warns

After clearing away grand jury formalities and spending some time setting up machinery for trying the Roberson murder case, the Martin County Superior Court managed to handle a few criminal cases during the first day of the two-week term. Judge Chester Morris of Elizabeth City is presiding.

The proceedings, other than the arraignment of John R. Coltraine for the murder of W. Thomas Roberson, attracted very little attention.

Lonnie Lee, charged with bastardy and non-support in two cases, pleaded guilty in one and maintained that he had been supporting the first child. Denying ownership of a second child, Lee went to the jury with his case and was adjudged guilty. Imposing sentence late Monday afternoon, Judge Morris said that he who dances must pay the fiddler, and "in this case apparently the defendant has been doing a lot of fiddling." Placed under a six-month road sentence, the defendant was directed to pay the court costs, \$15 to the midwife and \$6 a week for the support of his two children.

Pleading guilty of forgery, William Luther Knight was sentenced to the roads for not less than twelve and not more than fifteen months.

The case charging Charlie Bell with an assault with a deadly weapon, was continued until the June term.

Pleading guilty of failing to provide support for a minor child, William Robert Gaines was sentenced to the roads for two years, the court suspending the road term upon the payment of the costs and the sum of \$25 on the first of each month until the 9-year-old child attains the age of eighteen years. Bond was required in the sum of \$500.

Charged with drunken driving, Lollie Williams failed to answer when called and the court ordered his arrest and his \$200 bond forfeited.

Charged with speeding, Frank Williams was adjudged not guilty, the jury deliberating the issue for about forty minutes.

James Wesley Ormond, charged with carnal knowledge, failed to

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Young Child Died Saturday Morning

Little Miss Rebecca Van Donald died at the home of her parents on U. S. Highway 64 near Everetts at 3:00 o'clock last Saturday morning after months of declining health.

Suffering with cancer, she had received treatment in hospitals in this State and in Virginia during intervals since last October. Her condition was critical for some time before the end.

Mattie Moore Donald, she was born on May 4, 1944. Surviving besides her parents are two brothers, William O. and Whitmore Donald, and three sisters, Nancy, Elizabeth and Marguerite Donald, all of the home.

Funeral services were conducted in the Everetts Baptist Church Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Perry, pastor of the Griffinsville Christian Church, in the absence of the pastor, Rev. E. R. Stewart. Burial was in the Everetts Cemetery.

ROUND-UP

Comparatively few arrests were made by local, county and state officers last week-end, the jail record showing that only five persons were detained in the hoosegow. Three were booked for public drunkenness and two for deadly weapon assault. Two of the five were white and the ages of the group ranged from 27 to 47 years.