

Gambling Bad As Stealing, Jurist Tells Grand Jury

Judge Leo Carr Opens Regular Term of Superior Court Monday

Declaring that gambling is as bad as stealing, Judge Leo Carr, presiding over the current term of Martin County Superior Court, pointed out in his address to the grand jury that they could not be too careful in supporting the gambling and traffic laws. The Burlington jurist did not go into detail about the slaughter on our highways, but he did say that he could see little difference in one who is a professional gambler and one who steals, that both are trying to make a living without working. "If there is gambling in your county and nothing is being done to stop it, you should act to curb it," the jurist told the jurymen. Judge Carr also explained to the jurymen that it was also their duty to investigate and if laws were being violated with impunity, something should be done about it. He told the jurymen how to present law violators to the court.

Duties of grand jurymen were classified, bills of indictment, presentment, and inspections. He explained each classification, dwelling at length on the method of making presentments and handling inspections. He stressed the importance of making certain that law violations are not overlooked, explaining that grand jury presentments are not now as numerous as they were in years past when there were few enforcement officers and not many courts were held.

He directed the jury, headed by Marion Cobb as foreman, to inspect all public offices, schools, buses and other public properties, and see that the public property is being well preserved. He suggested that when the jury is asked to recommend certain public expenditures that members of the county board of commissioners be called in for a discussion before any action is taken.

Nine new members were added to the grand jury to succeed the nine who recently completed a year of service. The new members are, J. B. Bailey, Ernest Epps, Phelus Bailey, H. A. Sexton, A. C. Harrison, Dewey Hardin, Lawrence G. Lindsley, Lester Bryant and John Leggett. Old members of the jury who have

Escapes Injury In Train Wreck

Mrs. John A. Ward, en route to an executive meeting of the State American Legion Auxiliary executive committee in Asheville, was not injured in a train accident on the outskirts of Newton early yesterday morning. She was a passenger in one of the several Pullman cars that held to the tracks, she advised relatives here by telephone. Mrs. Ward is president of the auxiliary.

Reports reaching here stated that about 15 persons were injured, some of them seriously. The injured were treated in Catawba Hospital.

The train locomotive and six coaches toppled down a 12-foot embankment on a curve, the engine making a complete turn. Several persons were trapped in the cars and had to be cut out with torches.

UP FOR CONTEMPT

A reported 79 workers in the Hart Cotton mills, Tarboro, are scheduled to appear before Judge Leo Carr in the superior court here tomorrow afternoon and show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court.

Going before Judge Walter Bone a short time ago, the mill got a court order preventing picketing at the Tarboro plant. The 79 workers are alleged to have crowded around the mill gates last week in defiance of the order.

Clear Lone Case From The Docket In Superior Court

Opening a two-week term Monday morning for the trial of criminal and civil cases, the Martin County Superior Court cleared only one case from the docket the first day, reports stating that the tribunal would hardly complete the trial of criminal cases before the latter part of the week.

One case was cleared, more or less indefinitely, when Solicitor George Fountain took a nol pro in the action charging James Wesley Ormond with carnal knowledge. It was said that the defendant is in the service and stationed overseas.

Considerable delay was experienced at the beginning of the session when additional jurors were drawn for service.

Calling the case in which Lester R. Meeks was charged with

drunken driving, the court did not get but four jurors before lunch time. Completing the jury early in the afternoon, the court listened to evidence in the case until a recess was ordered shortly after 5:00 o'clock. The defense and prosecution are arguing before the jury this morning.

In the case of L. L. Britt, the court invoked a two-year sentence when it was brought out in open court that the defendant had violated the conditions set up in a suspended judgment handed down by Judge Chester Morris at the June term.

The case charging O. K. Harrison with abandoning a crop was continued by consent, but a plea to continue the drunken driving case against Raymond Phelps for the term was denied.

BOOSTER DAYS

Retail merchant members of the Williamston Boosters, Inc., are sponsoring a joint trade promotion for the fall season, three days of special sales on September 29, 30 and October 1.

Most everyone will recall the highly successful Booster Days held in June of this year. The promotion proved so very popular with both merchants and customers that it was decided at a recent meeting of the Williamston Boosters to hold Booster Days again this fall.

Chairman Ernest Mears of the Boosters' Retail Trade Promotion Committee announced yesterday that approximately thirty-five members of the Boosters are planning to participate, thus assuring the public of another three days of bargains for both home and individual.

Lewis W. Mizelle Died at His Home Last Friday Noon

Funeral for Well-Known Business Man in Jamesville Sunday at 2:30

Lewis W. Mizelle, well-known county citizen and retired business man, died at his home in Jamesville shortly before noon last Friday after a long period of declining health. A victim of rheumatism, he was forced to retire from active business about twenty years ago. His condition was aggravated some time later by a light stroke, but his condition was not considered critical until about two weeks ago.

The son of the late William T. and Julia Davis Mizelle, he was born in Jamesville Township seventy years ago on April 1, 1879. After spending his early life on the farm he entered the mercantile business in Jamesville with his late brother, W. H. Mizelle, who taught school and edited the Weekly Herald in Robersonville.

Following his retirement from active business, he was able to handle limited duties in and around his home and despite his infirmities participated in the religious affairs of his community almost to the last. He was a respected citizen and a thoughtful neighbor. He was a member of the Jamesville Christian Church for a long number of

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Kicked By Mule, Child Recovers

Johnny Hayes, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hayes, was painfully but not critically injured Sunday morning around eight o'clock when he was kicked by a mule at his home in Dardens.

The blow from the mule struck the child on the face causing severe bruises and a slight cut. Treated at Plymouth immediately following the accident, he is now at home and reported to be improving.

Jos. B. Barnhill Died At Home In Everetts Friday

Funeral Service Held For Prominent Business Man Monday

Joseph Berry Barnhill, prominent county business man and farm operator, died at his home in Everetts last Friday evening at 6:10 o'clock after a long period of declining health. He had received medical treatment the greater part of two years and his condition had been serious following an operation in a Washington hospital last July. His condition was critical for about a week.

Mr. Barnhill was born in Cross Roads Township 67 years ago on December 23, 1881, the son of the late Abram Peel Barnhill and Lucrета James Barnhill. After spending his early life on the farm he moved to Everetts, spending the remainder of his life there except for about two years spent in Robersonville where he engaged in farming operations with the late Mr. Bob Bailey. Upon his return to Everetts he successfully engaged in the mercantile business and was interested in lumber manufacturing for several years in addition to his other activities, including farming.

Well known throughout the county as a business man, Mr. Barnhill was active in the affairs of his adopted town, serving it in various capacities down through the years and lending a helping hand willingly to his fellowman. Him in need always found in him a valuable friend and an enjoyable companion.

He was married in January, 1910, to Miss Lucy Riddick who died four years ago. Funeral services were held at the home in Everetts Monday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock, the fourth anniversary to the minute of the service held for his wife. Rev. James M. Perry of Robersonville and Rev. John L. Goff of Williamston conducted the last rites, and interment was in the family plot in Williamston's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Surviving are a daughter, Miss Edna Barnhill of the home; a son, Joseph B. Barnhill, Jr., of Williamston; a sister, Mrs. Nathan Rogers of Bear Grass; one grandchild, and several nieces and nephews.

Report Sellers' Market On Cattle

By D. W. Brady Assistant County Agent

A feeder calf sale was held in Rocky Mount at Worsley's Stock Yard last Thursday. Very few calves were bought by 4-H Club boys and girls from this county. Those buying were: Minga Roger's market, as the calves sold Stevenson, two; and L. C. Bennett, one. The sale seemed to be a seller's market as the calves sold very high. Very few feeder calves were bought by farmers from Martin County, the price being too high. The sale was well attended by potential buyers from this county, however.

A purebred Hereford cattle auction sale will be held Friday, Sept. 23, 1:30 p. m. at Green Meadow Stock Farm owned by S. A. Lanier, Maple Hill, N. C. He is offering 42 purebred Herefords (not registered); 2 heifers, 18 months old; 17 heifers, 6 months old; 16 feeder steers (400-500 lbs), 8 months old; 7 bulls, 6 months old.

This farm is located near Maple Hill, N. C., on highway 53 between Jacksonville and Burgaw. These cattle are mixed polled and horned.

For further information contact D. W. Brady, assistant County Agent, at the Agricultural Building.

V. G. Taylor Much Better In Hospital

Taken suddenly ill while at his farm last Thursday evening, Mr. Van G. Taylor, prominent county man, was reported much improved in a Washington hospital this morning. However, he is not able to have company at present, and it is expected that he'll continue in the hospital for some days.

Pounds And Prices Establish New Record On Local Market

Sales Push Near The Seven-Million Mark Here Today

Three-Quarters of Million Pounds More Sold This Year Than Last

All pound and price records established by the local tobacco market toppled before an avalanche of deliveries and buying here during the past few days when the average jumped to nearly \$5 per hundred and the sales took a lead of more than three-quarters of a million pounds over the poundage reported in the first twenty-one selling days of last season.

Tobacco prices went to eighty (80) cents a pound on the market and individual averages pushed right up to 70 cents a pound.

Sales through yesterday, when 363,226 pounds were sold for \$200,408, amounted to 6,415,322 pounds and it is estimated that the offerings today will push the total for the season well toward the seven-million mark. The average for the season to date is \$47.32, a figure nearly two cents a pound above the average for the belt, and about \$1.65 higher than the average reported for the first twenty-one selling days last season.

The 6,415,322 pounds sold through yesterday for \$3,035,905 as compared with 5,670,518 pounds sold for \$2,592,337 last year, a difference of 744,804 in pounds and \$443,568 in dollars.

While it is estimated that 75 percent of the crop has been sold in this area, it is conservatively estimated that the local market will equal and pass the 9,185,020-pound figure recorded for the 1948 season.

A report, covering sales and prices in the entire belt, follows: Eastern North Carolina flue-cured tobacco marketing activities during the fourth week of sales were marked by steady to higher average prices by grades, heavy volume of offerings, and better quality.

According to the Federal-State Market News Service demand continued to improve, especially on leaf offerings. The majority of these grades were \$1.00 to \$4.50 per hundred above the previous week. Other grades were steady to \$3.00 higher generally although a few increased as much as \$5.00 and \$6.00. Most increases ranged from \$1.00 to \$3.00. With steady improving prices since the markets opened, most grades are now selling at average prices \$1.00 to \$15.00 higher than opening week. The largest percentage gains from a monetary standpoint have been in the lower qualities.

The highest weekly average of the season was established as gross sales totaled 51,639,357 pounds for \$48.85 per hundred. This was \$3.12 above week before last because of gains in grade averages and improved quality.

There were more cutters, lugs and better leaf grades sold last week and less nondescript and common leaf. Most baskets were graded in common to good quality with leaf predominating.

Deliveries to the Stabilization Corporation for the week, under the Government loan program, were only about three percent of gross sales. This brought season receipts to slightly over six percent.

Interesting Bits Of Business In The U.S.

Rail fatalities in 1948 lowest in 61 years. . . Housewives can expect to pay more for their fresh grapefruit this winter. Hurricane and freeze decimated Texas crop. . . Federal employment experts say jobless problem is over for 1949. . . Anthracite coal shortage of three million tons seen for next winter.

Circus Is Coming To Town On Friday, September 23

Hundreds of Martin County boys and girls and old boys, too, including Joe David Thrower, Sr., and Dick Smith, are sure to leap out of bed bright and early Friday morning when the learn the big Daily Brothers five-ring circus is due to arrive in the city between 7 and 8 a. m. on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

The big show, including hundreds of wild animals, polar bears from the arctic, and a herd of 25 elephants and more than 100 fine horses, will be unloaded immediately upon arrival, to be ready for the first performance at 3 p. m. at the Williamston Lumber Company show grounds on Washington Street.

At the unloading site, small fry and older alike, will be able to get a preview of what they will see later on at the circus performances.

The circus remains here for just one day with performances scheduled for 3 and 8 p. m.

The Dailey Brothers Circus is the world's only five-ring circus and the circus presents its main show in the world's longest big top. Second in size to the big top is the huge wild animal menagerie tent in which is presented the world's greatest collection of rare and unusual wild animal oddities.

The huge colossus is complete in every detail, with all the pretty girls and funny clowns, the horses, the elephants, daredevil aerialists, whirlwind acrobats, lions, tigers and everything. The Dailey show is claimed by many to be the last of the real old-time American circuses. It definitely is the last circus on the road today that still uses horses to pull wagons from the train to the showgrounds and return.

County Court In Record Session Thursday-Friday

More Than One Day Devoted To Trial of Lone Case Before a Jury

In session until after six o'clock last Wednesday evening, the Martin County Recorder's Court continued its work the next morning, working until after 5:00 o'clock before clearing a jury case from the docket. The long, drawn-out jury trial aggravated the disfavor in which the county court jury system is held by many when it went into the second day. The county had jury trials eliminated from the recorder's court in the name of economy, realizing that the alleged law violator could appeal from the decisions of the recorder directly to the superior court. The jury found its way back into the county court through special legislation.

Nine men were called for jury duty last week and after finding a defendant guilty in a drunken driving case, it heard some of the evidence in the case in which Ben Biggs, Poplar Point colored man, was charged with receiving stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen. Taking an over-night recess, the jury returned Thursday morning and took the case about 5:00 o'clock, returning a verdict of not guilty ten minutes later.

The main witnesses in the case for the State stand charged with stealing several cases of gun shells from Slade-Rhodes Company in Hamilton. The witnesses maintained they found the shells and declared they sold them to Biggs. Possibly the jury reasoned that the shells were found and not stolen, and that condition along with circumstantial evidence apparently got Biggs out of a tight spot.

Most of the shells have been recovered with the exception of about \$12 worth, the amount Biggs allegedly paid for the "hot" goods.

James Roosevelt Peel, charged with drunken driving, was adjudged guilty at the session Thursday morning and was fined (Continued on page seven)

U. S. Death Rate Tops Rest of World

The United States may have the highest standard of living in the world, but it also has one of the world's highest accidental death rates.

The U. S. rate in 1948 was 67.1 deaths per 100,000 population, as compared with a world-wide post-war average death rate of 48.9, according to the National Safety Council.

Only three countries topped the accidental death rate of the United States—Iceland, Egypt and Austria.

PEANUTS

Farmer Mallory, as far as it could be learned, was the first to start digging peanuts in the county this year. He launched the task last week on his Goose Nest farm, but no report on quality or quantity could be had.

Farmer J. E. Copeland, starting the task Monday in Goose Nest, said that quantity was slightly off, but that quality was good. He estimated the yield at about 15 bags per acre, and said that a few of the older nuts were shedding. He planted in late April and early May. Quite a few farmers are planning to dig their crops this week, but others who were late in getting a stand will delay the task for another week or ten days, possibly longer.

Cotton Outlook Poor In County

Planting more cotton than usual but not the acreage once planted to the crop, Martin farmers are reporting poor prospects for the crop this year.

Cotton producers must exercise the utmost care in harvesting and handling their crop this year, if they are to avoid heavy losses, Fred P. Johnson, marketing specialist with the State Department of Agriculture, warned recently.

Not only will North Carolina's cotton yields be much lower than last year because of excessive boll weevil damage and adverse weather conditions, he said, but the cotton harvested will be below average in value. Excess moisture has resulted in heavy growth of foliage and prevented the normal opening of bolls, so that some have begun to rot when only half open.

"In the area where ginning has already begun," he continued, "much of the cotton is being brought direct from the field in a very wet and green condition. Some of the cotton graded low middling due to excessive moisture, would, if allowed to dry out a few days, have been graded middling or better, thereby increasing the payments to the farmer by \$15 to \$20 a bale."

Johnson suggested that producers not be in too much haste to gin their cotton. "Placing it in a cotton house, on a porch, or some other storage space for just a few days without packing it down," he explained, "will make a surprising difference in the grade."

"In many cases cotton is brought to the gin while still so green that the seeds are soft and mushy. No gin, regardless of its equipment can process such cotton and assure the farmer maximum value for it. Even with rather extensive drying equipment (Continued from page seven)

Youth Bound Over To Superior Court For Manslaughter

Probable Cause of Guilt Is Found by Just Johnson Monday Evening

Finding probable cause of guilt, Justice R. T. Johnson at a preliminary hearing held in the county courthouse Monday evening, bound Ernest Wilson Bunting, Jr., Oak City young man, over to the superior court where he will face a manslaughter charge next December. Bond in the sum of \$500 was required Young Bunting was the driver of a car in which Gus Bryant, colored man, was fatally injured when the machine tore into a parked pick-up truck in Hamilton early last Wednesday evening.

Bunting is represented by Attorneys Peel and Peel and Attorneys Fountain and Bridges of Tarboro are with the private prosecution. Conflicting evidence was offered, but Justice Johnson ruled that there was probable cause of guilt and counsel agreed to have the case scheduled for consideration in the superior court at the next December term.

Patrolman R. P. Narron, investigating the accident with Patrolman B. W. Parker, said the Ford car driven by Bunting from Oak City to Hamilton last Wednesday evening left the hardsurface and traveled 63 yards before striking Ben Roberson's pick-up truck parked beside the road. He added that after striking the truck and knocking that vehicle around and eleven yards down the road, the Bunting car came to a stop 34 yards away. The officer said the car skidded around the curve, that the middle of the car body tore into the truck, but that he could not determine if Bunting applied the brakes. Narron added that Bunting told him another car was meeting him, and that he (Bunting) was driving 45 miles an hour. On cross examination, the officer quoted Bunting as saying that the lights of a car driven by R. A. Haislip, Jr., blinded him, that the next thing he (Bunting) saw was the pick-up truck. The patrolman said that another car was parked on the highway, headed toward Oak City and a short distance from the scene of the crash. The car was identified as that of Ora Staton. The rear wheel of the truck was twisted off, the officer added.

Patrolman Parker verified the measurements offered by the first witness and added that the truck was parked about four or four and one-half feet off the highway. Bryant was riding in the back seat on the right side about where the vehicle struck the pick-up truck deserted at the time, the officer adding that Bunting and a companion, R. S. Edmondson, Jr., were on their way to a dance and Bryant and another colored man, Russell Sherrod, were on their way to the picture show in Hamilton. The officer, intimating that more than one version of speed had been offered, said that upon his return from the hospital or doctor, Sherrod said that the car was moving 45 miles an hour.

Sam Short, the next State witness who lives about ten feet from the spot where the truck was parked, said he heard the brakes on the Bunting car squeal, that he stood up in his porch and saw the car swerving around the curve. He was not certain about the (Continued on Page Five)

ROUND-UP

Seven persons were rounded up and temporarily detained in the county jail over the week-end, two for assault, two for drunkenness, and one each for larceny and disorderly conduct, and a seventh under an old charge.

Three of the seven were white and the ages of the group ranged from 25 to 63 years. One of the defendants, passing Clerk L. B. Wynne in the courthouse hall, was quoted as saying, "I'm half drunk, I believe."