

Alleged Perjury Thrives Despite Judge's Warning

Witness Said To Have Changed His Story, But Gets By With Change

Addressing the Martin County Grand Jury in superior court this week, Judge Q. K. Nimocks, presiding, urged the jurors to be alert to perjury in their room, the jurist assuring the members of the august body that he would keep a careful eye on lying in the courtroom.

It was not brought out in open court, but lying on a wholesale or unlimited basis was alleged to have taken place on the witness stand right at the judge's elbow Tuesday when a defendant was before the court on a drunken driving charge.

Just before the trial was opened, a witness for the State told the prosecution that the defendant was driving drunk. The witness explained that the defendant was so drunk that when he started to get into the car with him, he (the witness) insisted that he be allowed to drive, that the defendant was too drunk to drive, that before the defendant stopped, he (the witness) saw him driving as a drunken man.

Taking the stand, the witness said he saw the defendant in Robersonville, that while the defendant was "under the influence" of liquor, he was driving all right. Asked why he took over the wheel, the witness said that the defendant insisted on the witness taking over the wheel. "I told him I did not like to drive another man's car, but he finally persuaded me to do so, and I took over," the witness declared.

Several hours and a number of drinks later, Patrolman Parker, answering a call, found the defendant at the wheel of the car stalled along a county highway. The defendant was quoted as telling the patrolman at the time that he (the defendant) was driving the car, but the witness went on to explain that when the car stalled he could not start it, that another passenger pulled the defendant out of the back seat and placed the man under the wheel with instructions to start the car. The patrolman came up at that time, the witness said.

The witness' statement to the prosecution prior to the trial, of course, was not heard by the jury, and when the witness got through doctoring the facts there wasn't sufficient evidence in the minds of the jury to support a conviction.

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Magistrates File Quarterly Report

Seven justices of the peace, in compliance with the law, filed their quarterly reports in the Martin County Superior Court this week. Judge Q. K. Nimocks, presiding over the term, directed the jurors to inspect the reports and see that every case was listed and that fines and forfeitures were accounted for.

Reports were filed by J. B. Whitfield of Oak City, T. F. Respass of Hamilton, Chas. R. Mobley, J. L. Hassell and R. T. Johnson, and J. S. Ayers, Jr., of Williamston, and H. S. Everett of Robersonville.

MEETING

Meeting in the clerk of court's office Saturday morning at 11:00 o'clock, the newly appointed members of the Martin County Board of Elections will perfect their organization, and discuss plans for copying the names of electors into one registration book. No new registration is likely to be called, but the books will be opened the latter part of April for the registration of new electors.

Precinct election officials will not be appointed at the meeting this week, but their appointments are expected on April 8.

Check Is A Check And Not Merely Evidence Of Debt

A check when properly drawn on a bank and signed is a check and not merely an evidence of debt, Judge Q. K. Nimocks, presiding over the current term of Martin County Superior Court, ruled this week.

John E. Walker was charged with issuing two worthless checks on a bank in Bethel, the defendant maintaining in court that he gave the checks to E. W. Briley merely as an evidence of a debt. The defendant further maintained that it was agreed by both parties that the checks would not be tendered for payment, that they were to be held merely as evidence of a debt which the defendant admitted he owed.

Judge Nimocks, quoting the law, said that when a check is issued it becomes a negotiable instrument, and that when a person

signs a check, properly drawn, knowing he has insufficient funds in the bank and when no provisions have been made to meet the demand, that person has violated the law.

The jurist, declaring he almost wished it were not so, explained that he did not believe the criminal courts should be made a collection agency for civil debts.

It was brought out during the trial that the checks were written in 1948, and that warrants to force collections were not drawn until about a year later.

There is a possibility that the case will be carried to the Supreme Court. During the meantime, anyone signing a check as admitted evidence of debt and knowing he has insufficient funds in the bank, is violating the law, in the eyes of the court.

SERIOUS

Numerous reports coming from farmers in nearly every township declare that the tobacco plant shortage in this county is serious. The reports say that the supply ranges from less than half a stand on some farms to no stand at all on others.

Almost desperate and acting in an effort to relieve the condition, farmers have reseeded their plant beds several times, some handling the work as late as this week.

No sign of blue mold has been seen in the county, the farmers declaring there aren't enough plants for the mold to light on.

William Council, Oak City Citizen, Died Early Today

Funeral Will Be Held At The Home Tomorrow Afternoon at 3:30

William O. Council, well known young man of Oak City, died in a Richmond hospital about 3:00 o'clock this morning. He had been in declining health for several months, but his condition became critical only last Monday and he was removed to the hospital the following morning. Death was attributable to a heart condition.

The son of Mrs. Charlotte Casper Council and the late W. O. Council, he was born near Oak City thirty-five years ago on October 11, 1914, and spent his early life on the farm. More recently he had been employed by the Gannis Construction Company, working in several states.

Surviving besides his mother are his widow, the former Miss Edna Auman of Asheboro, a small daughter, Brenda Carol; three sisters, Mrs. M. E. Hyman of Oak City, Mrs. John Perry of Clymer, Pa., and Mrs. Dick Mallory of Plymouth; and two brothers, Thomas W. Council of Dodge City.

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Power Officials In Meeting Here

Meeting with employees in this district in the local office here yesterday afternoon, top officials of the Virginia Electric and Power Company discussed employee relations and outlined the various phases of the company's program. The meeting, lasting several hours, touched on any number of topics and offered a better understanding on the part of employees and officials of the company's problems as well as those of the workers.

Addressing the session were, W. E. Wood, executive vice president; M. C. Smith, vice president; E. H. Will, manager of operations, and Walter Matthews, representing the personnel department.

The meeting was one of several being held in the V. E. P. Co. system in two states.

Leading Farmer Pledges Support To Frank Graham

J. E. Winslow Says Graham Had Been Fighting For Farmers For Years

Pointing out that Frank Graham, candidate to succeed himself in the United States Senate, had been fighting for the good of the farmer for years, J. E. Winslow, former president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, this week declared his support for the former University of North Carolina president.

"I feel from experience gained in my work and associations of past years that it is my duty to support Frank Graham," Winslow said. "I think he will continue to help carry on our farm program, which has been made effective by nearly 100 percent of the farmers cooperating and supporting it, thereby making better conditions for all our citizens as well as farmers."

Jeff D. Johnson, Jr., Graham's campaign manager, said that Winslow's statement is typical of many being received at the Graham headquarters from farmers. "All of them," he said, "seem to appreciate what Senator Graham has done over a long period of years to improve North Carolina agriculture and the standard of living on our farms. We are humbly grateful for the splendid support of our farmers."

In his statement, Winslow said: "During the 10-year period, 1930-1940, which started with bankruptcy and depression for farmers and business men of Eastern North Carolina, in our floundering around and efforts to find some solution for our deplorable condition, four men other than the actual farmers working to develop a program that would help solve our problems stand out in my mind today. They are Dr. J. Y. Joyner, Josephus Daniels, Franklin Roosevelt and Frank Graham."

"... At my personal request, Franklin Roosevelt in his address at Chapel Hill talked for and stressed the farm program that we were working for at that time. He and the other three were vitally interested in the improvement of the welfare of those we were working for."

"During that time, Frank Graham, in his masterful presentation of farm subjects at experiment stations, seed improvement meetings and meetings that had to do with better income for farmers, better farm living conditions and better farming methods, and improvement of natural resources, was making speeches that covered objectives that we farmers were working for in our rough way that were to the point, logical and convincing to the public, also assuring us that we were on the right track for a better country in which we could work and live, with the expectation of better conditions for our children."

"From my experience with men and conditions, I am fully convinced that Frank Graham, if

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THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

A year ago, the first fatal highway accident for 1949 was reported. In the corresponding eleventh week this year no one was killed but five persons were hurt, one critically in an automobile accident. Except for the fatal accident last year, the record so far in 1950 is far worse than in 1949, and the wrecking business can't continue at its present pace without the cost of life, sooner or later.

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.

11th Week			
Accidents Inj'd	Killed	Damage	\$
1950	2	5	0
1949	1	0	1
1949	30	20	0
1949	24	11	1

Comparisons To Date			
1950	1949	1948	1947
30	20	0	6,965
24	11	1	5,400

Grand Jury Files Quarterly Report In Superior Court

Body Suggests Additional Fire Prevention and Control In The Schools

Filed in the Martin County Superior Court this week over the signature of Lawrence G. Lindsey, foreman, the quarterly grand jury report offered a few suggestions and reflected "good" conditions, as a whole, in the ole home county.

Other than suggesting the purchase of a suitable table for the court reporter and additional fire prevention and control methods in the schools, the report was of a routine nature.

The school buses were reported in good condition, the report, submitted by Cpl. T. Fearing of the Highway Patrol, showing that only one bus had defects, and in that instance a switch was loose.

The report read, in detail, as follows:

All bills of indictment presented were passed on by us.

We examined the office of the Clerk of Court and found it to be in excellent condition with guardians' reports and accounts filed as required.

The Sheriff's office and Tax Collector's office were visited and records examined and found in good condition.

We found the Register of Deeds' office in very good condition.

The reports of the Justices of Peace were checked and found filed with the Clerk of Court and all fines paid to the County Treasurer.

We hereby recommend that a suitable desk and chair be purchased for the use of the court reporter in the courtroom.

We found the County Jail clean and in good condition. There is one white inmate and nine colored inmates. The jail at Robersonville and the jail at Oak City were inspected and found to be clean, with no inmates at present.

We found the County Home in good condition. There were four colored men, five white women, one white man and one prisoner used as a helper.

We found the T. B. Sanatorium in good condition except for cracked plaster in the living quarters of one of the nurses.

There are three colored men, six colored women, three white women and one white man as patients.

The Prison Camp was found to be in very good condition. There are 71 prisoners now in camp.

The office of the Superintendent of County Schools was visited and found to be in very good condition.

We visited the schools of the county and found the following: Parmele School needs general repairing, however, if it is used in the future present plans are for a complete repair this summer.

Williams Lower School needs additional room.

Everetts Colored School has flue leaks that need repairing.

J. C. Manning, Superintendent of Schools, met with the Grand Jury and discussed improvements needed at several of the schools and assured us that they were either being taken care of or would be taken care of at once.

Half Of Red Cross Fund Raised So Far

Williams District First In Chapter To Pass Its Goal

Total of \$1,485.15 Raised And Reported, Chair- man Woolard Says

After dragging along for more than two weeks, the Red Cross Fund Drive is gaining momentum in this chapter, the chairman, Garland G. Woolard, stating yesterday that the outlook is more promising now than it was even last week-end. More than half the quota of \$2,872 has been raised, and hardly more than half of the canvassers have reported so far, the chairman said.

To date, \$1,485.15 has been raised and reported, the chairman explaining that late canvasses will materially boost the total.

Williams Township where the drive was headed by Mrs. Irving Roberson was the first district in the chapter to go over the top. The people there raised \$7.25 in excess of their \$50 quota, it was pointed out. Mrs. Roberson was assisted by Mrs. Henry Williams and Mrs. Grady Godard in that district.

While it is outside this chapter, Poplar Point was reported to have exceeded its quota over in the Robersonville Chapter to hold distinction honors along with Williams, the two being the smallest townships in the county.

Reviewing the reports received to date, the chairman said that Jamesville had submitted \$165.75; Bear Grass, \$129, and Williams, \$57.25.

A total of \$1,104.08 has been raised in Williamston and reported to date by the following canvassers: American Legion, \$5; Gene Kimball, \$33.75; John H. Gurganus, \$33; Mrs. Vella Wynne, \$15; Mr. Bob Newell, \$78; Mrs. Bob Newell, \$6.50; Mrs. Kelly Davenport, \$18.55; Miss Elizabeth Manning, \$11.79; Mrs. W. O. Abbott, \$20; Mrs. W. O. Griffin, \$15.25; Mrs. John A. Manning, \$21; Mrs. Lucy Mobley, \$12.50; Mrs. Joe G. Corey, \$25; Mrs. Jessie Mae Riley, \$9.50; Mrs. Helen Roane, \$12; Mrs. Frank Margolis, \$7; Mrs. Lee Reynolds, \$58.50; Mrs. D. R. Davis, \$18; Mrs. Leman Barnhill, \$55.75; Chas. Manning, \$37; Mrs. Vernon Bunting, \$44.00; Mrs. John Roebuck, \$13.81; Mrs. Bill Spivey, \$20.50; Mrs. J. L. Harris, \$26; Stuart Davis, \$13.75; Mrs. Neil Ripley, \$7.22; Mrs. David Keel, \$13.21; Leman Barnhill, \$29; Mrs. Ben Courtney, \$1; J. Sam Getsinger, \$47; Mrs. Alec Jones, \$3.50. Special gifts inside Williamston amounted to \$390.

Outside the town, Mrs. John Gurkin solicited \$10.35, and William Williams turned in \$5.47 collected in Poplar Point.

Several of the divorce cases have been pending for some time. The number of cases on the calendar is among the smallest in recent years, dropping from a peak of about 24 listed four years ago.

A. J. Stark, in his divorce case against Ouida Stark, says they were married on January 12, 1946, and separated in July, 1946, that no children were born to the union.

In his case against Annie E. Moore, Wallace C. Moore says they were married in 1940, separated in August, 1947, that no children were born to the union and that the defendant is now a resident of Philadelphia.

Married on December 1, 1945, and separating about a month later on January 4, 1946, Effie Edmondson Edwards is asking an absolute divorce from George Thomas Edwards, the plaintiff stating in her complaint that no children were born to the union.

Declaring she was abused by the defendant following their marriage on February 16, 1940, the plaintiff, Mildred Norman, says she was forced to leave Alphonsa Norman on August 31, 1941, and she is now asking a divorce.

Lois Donaldson Mobley is suing George Mobley for a divorce, stating in the complaint that they were married in November, 1944, and separated on May 15, 1947, that no children were born to the union.

In the case of Leneve S. Bunting against John Thomas Bunting, the plaintiff says they were married on September 23, 1944 and separated on July 8, 1947, that no children were born to the union.

Suing Joseph Pipkin for an absolute divorce, Doris Griffin Pipkin says they were married on August 25, 1945, and separated on January 27, 1948, that the one child born to the union is in her custody and is supported entirely by her.

In the case of Desse M. Brock against R. J. Brock, the plaintiff, pointing out that they were married on August 4, 1946, and separated on January 14, 1950, is asking alimony without divorce.

ROADS

Surfacing of the road from Bear Grass to Everetts will not be included in the list of projects to be considered by the Highway Commission the latter part of this and early next month, but will come up later, according to an official report received here yesterday.

Bids have been called for on roads in the county, as follows: One from a point in Everetts northwest to a point 0.2 miles south of No. 125 (Spring Green); one from a point in Gold Point northwest to a point in Oak City; and one from a point on N. C. 125 1.5 miles north of Oak City to a point on the Hamilton-Palmyra County Road. The Bear Grass-Everetts project is expected to come up soon along with others.

Divorce Cases On The Trial Docket In Superior Court

All Based on Two-Year Sep- aration; Alimony With- out Divorce Asked

Seven divorce cases have been placed on the calendar for trial in the Martin County Superior Court during the two-week term opened on Monday. All of this week of the term is being given over to trial of criminal cases, and the divorce actions along with several civil cases are scheduled to be called on Monday, March 27. Judge Q. K. Nimocks, Jr., of Fayetteville is presiding over the two-week term.

All the divorce cases are based on two-year separation grounds. In another case the plaintiff is asking alimony without divorce.

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Superior Court Is Nearing End Of Criminal Docket

Most Of Wednesday Devoted To Trial Of Drunken Driving Case

Dogged by long, drawn-out cases of little consequence, the Martin County Superior Court has been unable to get into high gear so far this week, but despite lagging operations the tribunal is expected to complete the trial of the criminal docket tomorrow. Divorce and civil cases are scheduled for trial next Monday.

Padded with numerous jurors, the attendance upon the court has been exceptionally large so far this week, considering the minor nature of the cases placed before the tribunal.

More Negro citizens have served as jurors this week than possibly at any other term. At least four served as members of the jury in several cases.

After disposing of two minor cases yesterday morning, the court started work on the one in which Harold Chaucney was charged with drunken driving. Evidence was completed in the case about 4:00 o'clock and the defense counsel and solicitor argued to the jury until about 5:00 o'clock when Judge Q. K. Nimocks, presiding, ordered a recess until this morning. When court opened this morning, Judge Nimocks started his charge to the jury, and a verdict was not expected immediately.

The docket this week listed charges rather than real cases, and most of the defendants up until now have gained acquittals.

Charged with robbery, Roscoe Moore was found not guilty. The man was charged with robbing \$80 from Andrew Andrews.

Charged with bastardy, Floyd Melton was found not guilty. Up until about noon today, the court had not passed judgment in the cases charging the young Meeks and Price boys with breaking into the Robersonville Pool Room, and John Walker with issuing worthless checks.

About six cases were on the docket early today for trial, one report indicating that the drunken driving case against Quincy James would require considerable time.

John E. Walker, charged with issuing two worthless checks, was found guilty, but judgment was not pronounced immediately.

Irving Riddick, charged with drunken driving, was found not guilty.

Pleading guilty of the theft of several hams and shoulders from Farmer Warren Farmer, Percy Williams was sentenced to the roads for six months.

Changing his plea from one of not guilty to guilty, John T. Whitfield was sentenced to the roads for ninety days for allegedly receiving stolen meat. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the court costs.

In the case in which William Aaron Jones was charged with the temporarily larceny of an automobile, the court, at the conclusion of the evidence, directed a verdict of not guilty to be entered in the records.

In the case charging him with manslaughter, Herman Roberson, 27-year-old colored man, pleaded guilty this morning, but judgment was not pronounced immediately. Roberson was driving an automobile when it was wrecked near Hamilton last October, fatally injuring his uncle, Isaiah Roberson.

CENSUS SCHOOL

A special school for training census enumerators will be opened in the Skewarkey Masonic Lodge Hall over the Woman's Club here next Monday morning at 8:00 o'clock. Eyan Griffin, crew leader for the census, announced this morning. All enumerators who have been appointed to census jobs are being advised to attend the school which will run several days.

The enumerators are scheduled to start the actual census survey on April 1.