

Sentenced To Roads For Attacking Wife

Judge Sorry Could Not Give Man 15 Years In Prison

Small Children Believed To Have Been Coached To Favor Father

"I'm sorry it isn't in my power to sentence you to prison for fifteen years," Judge R. T. Johnson on the Martin County Recorder's Court bench, said to the defendant when he sent James Perkins, self-styled Negro preacher, to the roads for two years for the brutal beating of his wife, Ada Perkins, at their home near Williamston last January 5. On account of the victim's critical condition, the trial had been continued until Monday of this week when more than two hundred of her friends and relatives and his religious followers crowded into the courtroom to hear the trial.

The victim, taking the stand, told the same story she had related to officers when they found her almost in a dying condition on January 17, twelve days after she had been brutally beaten by her preacher husband with a piece of stove wood.

She told how her husband had knocked a hole in her head and how she was bruised on her arms and legs. She told how she was denied medical attention until friends reported the attack to the sheriff and doctors were called to her aid. Neighbors were afraid to visit the home.

The victim, threatened by blood poison, hovered between life and death for days in a hospital, after being held almost captive in her home for twelve days, her head fractured and the skin actually rotting around sores on her legs.

The victim who mothered eight children in the first fifteen years of her married life, denied when cross examined, that she had hit her husband with a hair-straightening comb. She declared that she had never fought back, that she just had to take the beatings, admittedly administered by Perkins on previous occasions. Other attacks had been smoothed over for the sake of peace in the family and the sake of the children, she said.

Perkins, adjudged guilty of assaulting his wife back in 1949, was sentenced to the roads, the court suspending the road term on condition that he refrain from attacking his wife for two years. In July, 1950, he was back in court for allegedly attacking his wife, but was adjudged not guilty when his children went to his aid.

Sheriff M. W. Holloman told what he had found when he visited the home on January 17, and how arrangements were made to get the victim into the hospital. The officer said that Perkins, when first arrested, denied the attack, but before entering jail the man admitted it, declaring he did not take her to a doctor "because she was not hurt much".

Taking the stand in his own behalf, Perkins talked about his trips to various churches. He says he went home on the afternoon of January 5 and told his folks that he had to visit a friend and

Fee System Nets \$4,450 In County

The fee system netted Martin County \$4,450.26 during the month of January, according to reports filed by the various departments a few days ago.

Fines and forfeitures in the county court accounted for almost three-fourths of the income. Of the \$2,957.35 coming from the court, \$1,960 was in fines. The clerk of court also reported \$455.81 in miscellaneous fees. The register of deeds reported \$828.35 in fees, coming mostly from the filing of an unusually large number of deeds, mortgages and other papers. The sheriff's office reported \$208.75, most of which came from serving various papers during the month.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is recognized by Christians everywhere that the many problems confronting us today can be solved only with the help of Almighty God; NOW THEREFORE, I, Robert Cowen, Mayor of the City of Williamston, do hereby declare Friday, February 29th, as a day of prayer, and that we pray in our homes, or as we gather together in public, we remember the needs of our country, before God, the Ruler of the universe.

(Signed) Robert Cowen, Mayor.

Escaped Convicts Booked In County

Charged with speeding across Highway No. 11 at Council's Store near Hassell last week, Wayne Currie Cannady, 17, and H. C. Bradford, 22, have been booked tentatively for trial in this county next Monday, according to Patrolman B. W. Parker who helped chase the two men down.

Breaking out of a State Highway prison camp at Gatesville, the two young men, one from Fayetteville and the other from Beelog, near Asheville, stole a 1950 Pontiac near Edenton and were spotted in this county. Robersonville police set up a road block and the two escapees ran through it. They continued to Gold Point and turned there on the Hassell Road where Patrolman D. E. Perry was pressed into action by radio. He followed them across No. 11 and called for a road block at Fountain's Cross Roads. Patrolmen Parker and Narron maneuvered in position and the boys were stopped with less than half a gallon of gas left in the tank of the stolen car.

The car was returned to its owner and the boys were turned over to prison authorities.

Time To Topdress Ladino Pastures

It is time to topdress those old Ladino Pastures. In order that they may return maximum grazing for those cattle and hogs, they must be topdressed and February is a good time to do it.

A good analysis to use is 0-14-14 or 0-10-20 or 0-9-27 whichever is available. The amount to use should be 800 to 1000 pounds per acre. This material should be applied in the afternoon when the pasture is dry to prevent excessive burning. Cattle and hogs should not be on the pasture at this time. In fact, the pasture shouldn't be grazed until it is about six inches high and then should never be overgrazed.

While hogs are cheap, one of the best ways to stay in the business is to have an abundance of good pasture as this is the cheapest source of feed for livestock. So let's take care of our pasture and liberally topdress them to keep them productive.—D. W. Brady, Assistant County Agent.

MEETING TODAY

The Martin County family of the Farm Security Administration are holding their annual get-together here today.

ROUND-UP

Alleged law violators went on a rampage in this county last week-end and before Monday morning, thirteen of them had been placed in the county jail.

Five were booked for public drunkenness, two each for drunken driving and violating the liquor laws and one each for violating the health laws, assault, disorderly conduct and reckless driving. Four of the group were white and the ages from 23 to 60 years.

This Country Is Still Unprepared For A Major War

Another Three Years Needed To Get Right For An All-Out War

By Edward H. Sims
Special Correspondent

Washington.—The inside story on U. S. rearmament is an appalling story of unpreparedness. Of the services, the Navy is perhaps more nearly prepared for a major war than the Army or Air Force—mostly because of the fact that it had a number of major warships in mothballs which needed only modernization to be brought into service.

But the Air Force is sadly lacking in both quantity and quality equipment now available and the Army still is not receiving deliveries of some tank models, and only very few deliveries of modern medium tanks at all! Yet it has been twenty months since war broke out suddenly in Korea.

What are rearmament prospects? The Army will not be getting any heavy tanks, probably until 1953. Top-notch mediums may not get into mass production until next year. The Air Force will not be getting any large-scale deliveries of improved fighters until next year, probably won't get any heavy bombers until 1954! All these delays even after twenty months—sound discouraging, don't they?

Pentagon chiefs say rearmament takes time. They can say that again. They say we need another three years to be prepared for a major war. That surprises some, since they thought by now—after fighting the Communists in Asia for 20 months—we would be a world power. But only in naval circles is the U. S. supreme.

Reliable figures show the Russians are outbuilding us in fighter production six to one. And they are building planes equal to what we are building. Right now they are turning out an improvement over the MIG-15, which met our best fighter, the F-86, on equal terms over Korea. The Russians are also building medium jet bombers at a more rapid rate than we are in the U. S. Experts think it will be two or three years before we can catch up with them in production figures.

Therefore those who brag about U. S. industrial power, about our supremacy in production methods, might well hold their tongues. We

Jury To Make Investigation

The United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, has announced that a special grand jury will be called to convene in the Federal Court Building in Raleigh, North Carolina, on February 21, 1952 and will remain in session for at least thirty days.

The purpose of this Grand Jury is to inquire into the activities of racketeers, gangsters, organized crime, and other violations of the Federal laws within the Eastern District of North Carolina.

There is a further purpose of great importance and that is to give to any citizen in North Carolina the opportunity to be heard before this Grand Jury and report any information relating to violations of Federal laws in North Carolina. Without the aid, assistance and cooperation of the general public, law enforcement cannot be successful. However, law enforcement can succeed with the support of the people, and the United States Attorney, Post Office Drawer 2597, Raleigh, North Carolina, is soliciting information from the citizens of the Eastern District of North Carolina and they are urged to report such Federal law violations or any information concerning same that they might have. All communications received on this basis will be handled in a confidential manner and be used to the best advantage possible.

The United States Attorney reiterates that he is most anxious to have any citizen appear before the Grand Jury and give information pertaining to any violations of Federal laws.

Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen For The Draft

Many are being called but few are being chosen from this county for the armed forces, according to unofficial information received here a few days ago.

On January 28, thirty-nine Martin County young men reported to an induction center for pre-induction examinations. It was reported that twelve out of thirty-three were found acceptable, that six other cases are pending. One was accepted out of the eleven who were making their second trip to the pre-induction center.

As far as it could be learned on Friday four were rejected on account of physical defects, the others

failing to measure up to minimum education standards. The rate of rejections is about as high as it has ever been from World War I right on through World War II up to the present time.

No report has been received on the examinations the thirty-two young men from this county underwent last Thursday, and none is expected within the next ten days or two weeks.

There is a call pending for thirty-seven more men to report for pre-induction tests on February 27, but no final induction call has been received for March. The February final induction call was cancelled.

CANDIDATE

The first candidate in the 1952 State political line-up to make a personal appearance here was Mr. Luther Hodges of Leaksville. One of three announced candidates for lieutenant governor, Mr. Hodges stopped here a short while yesterday afternoon en route to Plymouth where he was to appear in the interest of the Crippled Children's fund.

The candidate, possessed of a pleasing personality, said he was impressed by this section and was pleased with the reception he was receiving from town to town.

There has been one or two faint murmurs on the local political front, but there have been no public developments as yet.

Recover Stolen Car Near School

A 1947 Chevrolet, stolen from Mrs. Annie B. Mizelle some time during last Saturday night or early Sunday, was recovered near the Burroughs-Spring Hill School in Williamston Township about 10:00 o'clock Sunday morning by Patrolman B. W. Parker and officer Chas. R. Moore. The machine running hot on account of defective wiring done by the thief, had been abandoned on the dirt road.

Mrs. Mizelle, a nurse in the Martin General Hospital, parked the car when she went to work at 11:00 o'clock Saturday night, removing the key. She missed it the next morning at 7:00 o'clock. Other than damage done to the wiring system, the car was not hurt.

A warrant, charging Luther Respass with the theft was issued, but his arrest was not effected immediately. Respass was tried for stealing a cargo truck from Tilmon Coltrane here some months ago and is believed to be on probation.

Farms Fewer But Larger

The 1950 census showed that we have 713,000 fewer farms than in 1940, but the acreage is larger.

Here are some of the findings: 1950, about 5,300,000 farms compared with about 6,000,000 in 1940; average size, 210.5 acres in 1950, 174 acres in 1940. 3,500,000 farm tractors in 1950 compared with 1,500,000 in 1940; 80 per cent of the farms electrified in 1950 compared with 30 per cent in 1940.

Jamesville's Town Books Handled As Hot Potatoes

While Jamesville's newly elected mayor and town board of commissioners have perfected a working organization for handling the county town's government, the officials so far have been unable to gain possession of the town books and credentials.

The books, passed around like hot potatoes, are now back in the hands of one of the old board members—or they were there late yesterday. The books were turned over to the clerk of the superior court last Friday, and he turned them over to a representative of the old board, and the representative turned them over to Luther Hugh Hardison,

Native Of County Died Last Week In Virginia City

Funeral Held In Norfolk Last Thursday For Jack Hurst, 47

Norfolk, February 5.—Jack Hurst, 47 year-old owner of the Granby Cue Club, scene of the 1952 City Billiards Tournament, died at a local hospital today at 12:30 a. m.

Jack was admitted to the hospital Saturday morning for an operation on his stomach.

Funeral services for Mr. Hurst will be conducted at the Hollomon - Brown Funeral Home Thursday at 3 p. m. Interment will be in Forest Lawn Cemetery. He was the son of Mrs. Margaret Brown Hurst and the late William K. Hurst.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Brady Hurst; a son, William Kenneth Hurst of Norfolk; five sisters, Mrs. George Cox of Winterville, N. C., Mrs. Earl Brown, Miss Donna Mae Hurst, Mrs. Mary Dell Seymour and Mrs. Curtis Clark all of Greenville, N. C.; one half-sister, Mrs. J. F. Crisp of Oak City, N. C.; and two half-brothers, Dallas Hurst of Washington, D. C., and Willie Hurst of Robersonville, N. C.

Mr. Hurst was a native of Oak City, N. C. and a resident of Norfolk for 30 years, residing at 1820 LaSalle Avenue. He was a member of Oak City Baptist Church and attended Willowood Presbyterian Church.

Jack began a movement in recent years to popularize billiards for women in Tidewater. He completely renovated his upstairs establishment at 448 Granby Street with modern equipment and began to sponsor tournaments for both men and women.

His emporium has been tabbed as one of the finest in the South by billiard notables, including World Champion Willie Mosconi. Under Hurst's free instruction, female participation in Norfolk has steadily increased in the past two years. His was the only establishment catering to women in Norfolk and the only one selected to represent Virginia in the World Tournament, now in progress.

Midway 1951 Hurst inaugurated a free membership system for the Granby Cue Club, including military personnel. Tournaments for women in downtown department stores were popularized by Hurst with tables and trophies donated free of charge.

Former Resident Died Early Last Saturday Evening

Funeral Held In Washington For Mrs. J. M. Saunders Sunday Afternoon

Mrs. J. McKimmon Saunders, a Williamston resident for several years, died suddenly at her home on Riverside Drive in Washington Park early last Saturday evening. Suffering with a heart condition, she was taken gavelly ill suddenly and died a few minutes later.

The former Miss Olive Tayloe Gallagher, she was born in Washington September 24, 1881, the daughter of the late Charles and Olivia Tayloe Gallagher, and spent most of her life there. When Mr. Saunders purchased extensive timber holdings in this area and constructed a large mill here, the family located in Williamston, returning to Washington several years ago.

During her stay here she was active in various fields of endeavor, finding peace and contentment among her flowers and the many friends she made. She was a lifelong member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Washington and the funeral service was conducted there at 4:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon by the rector, the Rev. W. T. Waterhouse. Interment was in Washington's Oakdale Cemetery.

Surviving are Mr. Saunders and a son, 1st Lt. J. McKimmon Saunders, Jr., stationed with the United States Army in Korea.

Among those from here who attended the funeral were, Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Martin, Mrs. Frances Parker, Miss Mary Smith, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Davis, Mrs. J. G. Staton, Mrs. J. W. Andrews, Mrs. P. B. Cone, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Handy, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Glover, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weston, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wynne, Mr. and Mrs. F. U. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Carrow, Mrs. Janie Knox, Mrs. J. H. Saunders, and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Saunders, Jr.

Kiwanians Hold Regular Meeting

The Kiwanis Club of Williamston held its regular dinner meeting on Thursday night at the Woman's Club.

During the business session, the secretary announced that in November, 1951 the Club made the district attendance honor roll for the first time in over three years. It was further pointed out that attendance thus far this year is running above the average for the same period in the past several years.

Program chairman L. B. Wynn then introduced Mayor Bob Cowen, who spoke briefly on plans to form a Little League baseball organization in Williamston. The teams in the proposed league would be sponsored by the various civic clubs of the community. A committee of three was appointed by President Reg Simpson to meet with Mayor Cowen and similar groups from the other clubs. This committee is to report its findings to the club at a later meeting.

The next scheduled meeting date for the Club is February 21, 1952.

Represent County At Party Meeting

Martin County's part, uncertain right up until the last minute, was ably played by volunteer representatives at the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner in Raleigh last Saturday evening. The county's quota of \$300 was also met, according to unofficial information reaching here. There was no fund canvass conducted throughout the county, but contributions were made by a number of party followers in and around Robersonville, it was learned.

Among those representing the county at the meeting were Messrs. E. G. Anderson, Paul D. Roberson, Joe R. Winslow and Hugh G. Horton.

Most of the political maneuvering was said to have been centered around two of the gubernatorial candidates, Hubert Olive and W. B. Umstead.

Ten Vehicle Wrecks In County Recently

MEETING

A very important meeting, one that has a topic vital to everyone in this section, is to be held in the Martin County courthouse on Thursday of this week at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

Business men, farmers and leaders in other fields are being urged to attend the meeting and discuss ways and means of improving the county's agricultural possibilities for the present and future.

Several timely and important topics are to be discussed, it was announced.

Several Fires In Section Yesterday

Fanned by strong winds, grass fires destroyed two tobacco barns and other property and threatened a number of farm buildings in the rural sections of the county yesterday.

Williamston's fire department received three calls for help and forest fire wardens were on the move from one section to another. Farmers were battling other fires without help, it was reported.

The local fire department was first called at 3:30 o'clock to W. G. Peele's Mary Cherry farm near Williamston when a grass fire, sweeping across a broom straw field, threatened to catch a tenant house and barn. The fire was stopped a few feet from the barn.

The second call came in at 4:00 o'clock when sparks from burning grass fired a quantity of peanut hay under a tobacco barn shelter on the Clayton Revels farm in Bear Grass Township. Two connecting tobacco barns, a wagon, hay and other property were burned on the Revels farm. No estimate on the loss could be had immediately.

A third call was received from the owners of a farm on Highway 125 in Poplar Point Township, but the firemen had not returned from the second call and the forest fire wardens were called.

Firemen were called out again shortly before 6:00 o'clock last evening when a grass-bush fire between Watts and Biggs Street and back of the legion hut and courthouse threatened to spread. After letting the fire burn away much of the undergrowth, firemen checked it near the railroad and at a little path. No damage was done, but residents on the south side were almost smoked out at one time.

Other grass and woods fires were seen burning near Abbitt's Mill and on the Whitley farm near Williamston, but no damage was reported.

Robbers Entered Office Thursday

Forcing a side door, robbers entered the Farmers Warehouse here and then tore through a window to get into the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company's office there late last Thursday night or early Friday morning. Between \$290 and \$300 was missed from the office, according to Manager Bernard Harrison, who explained that the money belonged to him personally.

Local officers and SBI Agent Gibbs are working on the case, but no developments have been reported.

OLD PLATES

Those few owners who are sporting old license tags on their vehicles are conscientiously or unconsciously violating the law. In addition to the law violation, the old tags can cause confusion, it was explained. Vehicle owners should remove the old tags and dispose of the old registration cards.

Patrolmen Report No One Is Badly Hurt In Accidents

Property Damage Approximately \$4,000, According To First Estimates

Personnel of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol worked overtime, night and day, clearing the highways in this county of vehicle accidents during the past few days. There were ten accidents and three persons slightly hurt.

Preliminary reports listed no serious injuries but the property damage approximate \$4,000, according to preliminary estimates. Several arrests were made and the charges are being aired in the county courts.

The first in the series was reported the early part of last week when three cars figured in an accident near the Old Mill Inn on Highway 17, about six miles south of Williamston. Leon King Thomas, game warden of Edenton, was driving his 1951 Ford north about 5:15 o'clock. Tommie Roberson, driving south, was forced off the highway when Hasco William Carver, Jr., of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, drifted across the center line with his 1950 DeSoto. Roberson, driving a Henry J., went to the right shoulder, lost control of his machine and swerved back into the path of the Thomas car. Roberson's 14-year-old sister, Lollie, and Rose Clark, 10, were thrown out of the car. Examined in a hospital, they were found not to be injured. Damage to the Thomas Ford was estimated at \$500 and that the Henry J. at \$200 by Patrolman B. W. Parker who made the investigation.

All was quiet on the highways in this county until last Friday evening when three mules broke out of their pen on the James farm and ran into Highway 903, about three miles South of Robersonville. J. S. Crandall, driving a 1952 Buick with hardly 300 miles on the speedometer, managed to dodge two of the animals, but a third one ran into the car, knocking out the windshield and causing damage to the car estimated at \$450 or more. The mule suffered a broken neck and died almost instantly, according to patrolman Parker who made the investigation.

On Saturday the accidents started piling up fast and early. That morning at 1:30 o'clock Vernon Dal Whitfield was driving his 1938 Buick west on Highway 64 toward Everetts from Williamston and started to make a left turn when a 1947 Packard, driven by William Alec Cherry struck the Buick, causing about \$150 damage to the Buick and about \$300 damage to the Packard, according to Corporal M. C. Byrum who made the investigation.

Saturday afternoon a 1949 Chevrolet pick-up truck driven by

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Pave 383 Feet Of 'Mile Of Pennies'

Mrs. Sylvia Margolis, finance chairman of the Williamston Parents-Teachers Association, reported early today that the first day of the drive to pave a "Mile of Pennies" for the P. T. A. had seen 383 feet of the work done.

Grades 1 through 4 paved 141 feet, grades 5 through 8, 172 1-2 feet, and the high school 69 1-2 feet.

A number of posters on the project were submitted and prizes were awarded for two which were tied for first place. One was by Edna Taylor in Mrs. Joyner's 7th grade and it will be placed in the window at E. & W. Grocery while three boys in Mrs. Byrum's 7th grade drew the other. They are Frankie Edwards, Billie Thornton and Clayton Weston. Their poster probably will be placed in the VEPCO window on Main Street. The drive will continue through Friday of this week.