

Woman Sentenced In County Murder Case

Few Other Cases Heard This Week In Superior Court

Castannie Sutton Goes To Prison 7 to 8 Years for Sheppard Murder

Castannie Sutton, young colored woman, was sentenced to woman's prison, Raleigh, for not less than five and not more than seven years by Judge J. Paul Frizzelle in the Martin County Superior Court Tuesday afternoon for the murder of Alton Lee Sheppard, colored man, at her home near Parmele last October 28.

The State asked for no first-degree verdict, and the jury, after deliberating less than twenty minutes, found the woman guilty of manslaughter.

Asked if the defense had anything to say, counsel made a motion that the verdict be set aside. "In my twenty-two years on the bench I have never set aside but one verdict, and I have regretted that for twenty years," Judge Frizzelle said. That answered the plea, and the defense prayed for mercy.

Judge Frizzelle said the jury could not have accepted the defendant's theory of self-defense, that a case of self-defense was not an actuality. The jurist then added that no one except the parties there will ever know the details surrounding the tragedy.

Judge Frizzelle said there was some inference that the defendant's home was not one of good reputation, that there were too many men and too many women there that night. He pointed out that Sheppard was not a trespasser, that the defendant had ample opportunity to get out of the house, and that Sheppard may have been a brute around women.

But even that did not give the woman a right to kill him. Before announcing the five-to-seven-year sentence, Judge Frizzelle commented briefly on the parole system, referring to two cases where defendants had been given their freedom after serving short sentences.

Even after the defendant herself had taken the stand, the details surrounding the killing were still mired down in confusion. The defense offered conflicting testimony, making it fairly evident that the group at the home was so drunk it knew nothing, or that those there had short memories. It was hard to tell who were witnesses for the State and who were witnesses for the defense.

Justus Andrews, declared under the influence of liquor by one witness, said he had had nothing to drink. The witness, called by the defense Tuesday, said he heard the fight, that he got up and went out on the front porch. He saw Sheppard stretched out on the floor, and heard Castannie say she was sorry she hit Sheppard. Andrews said he spent several hours in the home just playing a guitar. The witness, while subtracting nothing from it, added little to the case.

The evidence became more confused in the case when Windy Best said Jack Palmer gave her the icepick Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock, following the killing the night before, saying that he took it from Castannie before she stabbed actually took place. She said she asked Palmer no questions, that she merely stuck the pick in the wall. Marjorie Best said she was present when the pick was delivered to her sister and that she heard Palmer say he took the weapon away from the Sutton woman before the stabbing.

The defendant took the stand at 10:15 o'clock Tuesday morning and started out by telling that she, Sheppard, Justus Andrews, Jesse Lee Best and Marjorie Andrews were at her home, that she went to Tom Clay's with a man from Washington, and that Sheppard followed her there. She returned home about 10:30 o'clock, and Sheppard followed her there about twenty minutes later. "I was in the kitchen when Luke

"HERE I IS"

Phillip Worsley, Negro mechanic, was to have appeared at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning as a witness in the drunken driving case that was being tried in the superior court against William Alfred Peele. He failed to answer when called, and Solicitor Geo. Fountain, addressing the jury, asked "Where is Phillip Worsley?"

"Here I is," Worsley cried out in the crowded courtroom. The State wanted to stop and place him on the stand, but the defense attorney was out and Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, presiding, would not permit it.

Worsley was quoted as saying that he overhauled Peele's engine but did nothing to the steering wheel. It was later claimed that Worsley, who accompanied the defendant to town that morning, said he was referring to another car. Anyway, his evidence was not heard, but his presence was well established.

Fifteen Answered Preliminary Draft Call Last Monday

One Youngster Is Turned Back On Account Of His Tender Age

Fifteen Martin County young men answered a preliminary draft call this week, but no report on the pre-induction examinations held in Raleigh could be had immediately.

Three other youths were transferred to other boards, Justus Tice and Kenneth Lindsley to Hillsboro, and Robert Whitaker, colored, to Baltimore.

One youth, failing to gain entrance by the volunteer route, registered for the draft, but he was turned back when it was learned he was only sixteen years of age. The youngster, whose name was not revealed, was advised to return next year and his case would be given serious consideration.

No men are to report from this county for final induction this month, but ten are being called on July 28. On July 17, thirty-five men are to report for pre-induction examinations, it was learned. Eight men reported last month for final induction and that was the first call of that type to be answered in this county since last January.

The names of those reporting for the pre-induction tests on Monday of this week include: White: George Marvin Roebuck of RFD 1, Oak City; David Garland Perry of RFD 2, Williamston; Golden Horton Barber, RFD 1, Jamesville; Clifton Ward Gurganus, RFD 2, Williamston; (Continued on Page Five)

Holding Funeral For Jack Bullock

Jack Bullock, 76, died at his home near Stokes at 10:40 p. m. Monday after a day's illness. Funeral services are being held at Rehebeith Holiness Church near Bear Grass at 3 p. m. Wednesday. The Rev. L. D. Terry, Holiness minister of near Bear Grass, will officiate. Burial will be in the Bullock family cemetery near Stokes. He spent all his life in the Stokes community where he farmed. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Maggie Bullock; four sons, Jack, Sammy, James Earl and Jimmy Bullock, all of the home; seven daughters, Mrs. Thurman Terry and Christine, Sarah, Janie, Sadie, Marie, all of the home, and Mrs. Lonnie Buck of House Station; a son and daughter by a former marriage, George R. Bullock of Stokes and Miss Irene Bullock of California; a brother, Bill Bullock of Ayden; and a sister, Mrs. Sarah Roberson of Stokes.

(Continued on page eight)

Volunteers Give Blood At Center Here Last Week

Red Cross Chapter Maintains Record While The Others Lose Ground

Asked to give 150 pints of blood, volunteers in the Martin County Red Cross Chapter, including a few from other towns and communities outside the district, met the quota at the center last Thursday. Recruiters Hildreth P. Mobley and Edgar Gurganus lined up 220 volunteers, but exactly 100 of those found it necessary to cancel their appointments while a few others forgot to report to the center in the American Legion Hut on Watts Street.

The names of the drop-ins who saved the day include: Mrs. Noah Peel, John R. McMurphy, Jr., G. Jerkins Underhill, Jr., Fletcher Thomas, H. J. Hardison, Cecil Bullock, Vervin Peaks, Hezekiah Bell, William DeCato, Velma Bailey, Aubrey Dean Ange, Mrs. Carlyle Langley, Jane King, Lillian Johnson, Edwin Peele, W. M. Ward, Dillon Leggett, Mrs. Lela Jones Johnson, Mrs. Rufus Taylor, Rachel Stencil, Ruth Ward, Ned Everett, Simon C. Griffin, Jr., Ruth Manning, Caroline Stalls, Mary D. Roberts, Randolph Moore, Russell Mizelle and Theron Gurganus.

Among the regular list of volunteers were: Paul VanLandingham, Carlton R. Warren, Dick Bender, Mrs. Jesse Rogerson, J. C. Coltrain, Joel Muse, Clyde Manning, H. B. Holloman, R. H. Cowen, William L. Williams, William M. Tetterton, Willie Gray Lee, Emily Wagner, Grier Woody, Kelly Gay, Stanley White, William H. Griffin, Ronald White, Cecil Lilley, John W. Wier, A. J. Manning, W. E. Dunn, Jr., Lawrence Coltrain, James Oscar Daniel, Joe Hollis, Howard Coltrain, W. D. Jones, Roger Roberts, Mamie T. Slade, John B. Godwin.

Cecil Brown, Lela Chambers, William H. Brown, H. M. Ayers, Margaret Sawyer, Darrell Taylor, R. W. Newell, Haywood Peaks, Clifton Hollis, Ernest V. Jones, W. L. Manning, Jr., Julian Jackson, R. J. Hardison, Mrs. Rossell Rogers, Rossell Rogers, R. C. Malone, K. O. Rogers, Woodrow Holliday, Mrs. Calvin Warren, Clabon Summerlin, Calvin Warren, Jesse D. Hardison, Roger A. Critcher, Jr., Alvin Peele, James T. Whitley, Thomas W. Crockett, Lazarus Williams, Vernon Roebuck, John Chance, Jr., Louis E. Ruffin, Jesse Beech, James Smithwick, LeRoy Leggett, Evan Griffin, W. C. Faulkner, H. D. Andrews, Joseph M. Manning, John D. Leggett, Murry Wallace, W. I. Skinner, Daisy Manning, Daniel Hardison, Dennis Mizelle, Paul Griffin, Levi Harris, William Smallwood, Phillip Band, James Midgett, Rudolph Everett, Cornelius Jones.

Clyde Griffin, Simon A. Perry. (Continued on Page Five)

Announce Beauty Contest Winners

Miss Jackie Harris, sponsored by Belk-Tyler's, won the Jaycees' annual beauty contest held in the high school auditorium here last evening. Miss Jean Carol Griffin, sponsored by Dixie Motors, was second, and Miss Darnette Bailey, sponsored by B. S. Coatsworth Furniture Company, took third place. Each was awarded a loving cup. Attorney William Cook of Windsor, N. C. Probation Officer Harry Douglas of Greenville, and Ed Bonds of Windsor, all Jaycee members, judged the contest, selecting the winners from fourteen entries. Miss Harris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Harris, will represent the local Jaycees at the State meeting to be held in Winston-Salem July 24, 25 and 26. Other contestants were, Misses Hilda Frizzelle, Cherry Edmondson, Peggy Roberson, Betty Lou Rogers, Hazel Bailey, Ann Buntling, Irma Faye Bryant, Mary Ann Anderson, Rhoda Faye Peele, Janie Perry and Patsy Roberson. The event attracted a large attendance, and a dance was held following the contest.

Dry Weather In County Tobacco Crop Damaged By

Continued dry weather is damaging the crops in this section, some farmers declaring that more than 200 pounds have been lopped off their per-acre yields with the possibility of a near failure unless rain falls soon.

As a result of the extremely dry weather the harvest is getting under way on a fairly large scale. Farmer Buddy Rogers harvested the first from his crop a few days ago, following Farmers Jay Lilley and Toba Bowen who barned their first tobacco last Friday. The Warrens harvested about 200 sticks per acre on a ten-acre crop near Parmele Tuesday, and other farmers over the county are starting the task.

Other crops are suffering, farmers declaring that corn is twisting in the fields, little relieved by a light rain that fell Tuesday evening.

Up until today, less than one-half inch of rain has fallen in this immediate section since the first of this month. About one-third of an inch of rain fell here Tuesday evening, but in nearby sections there was enough rain to stop the flows the next day. Other sections had even less rain than was reported here. Last Sunday morning one one-hundredth of an inch of rain fell here, but in several neighboring counties the rainfall was said to have been heavy.

In June, 1951, more than nine inches of rain fell at this point.

ENLARGING PLANT

The Standard Oil Company is enlarging its docks at the plant on Roanoke River here and increasing its storage facilities, preparatory to the handling of oil by barge, according to unofficial information gained here this week.

It was reported that two additional tanks will be added to the storage system, and that deliveries will be switched from highway tankers to river craft as soon as possible.

Robert L. Hodges Passes Wednesday In Hospital Here

Robert Lafayette Hodges, well-known farmer of Griffins Township, died in a local hospital yesterday afternoon at 2:35 o'clock. He had been in declining health for some time, but was getting along very well until last Saturday when he suffered a stroke of paralysis. His condition had been critical since that time. He was removed to the hospital shortly after he was stricken, but little hope was held for his recovery.

The son of the late John and Alberta Leggett Hodges, he was born in Griffins Township 68 years ago on May 24, 1884, and lived and farmed there all his life. He was a devoted member of the Macedonia church for many years. He was married about 44 years ago to Mary Whitley who died January 14, 1949.

Surviving are a son, Archie Hodges of the community; two daughters, Mrs. J. L. Stalls, also of the community, and Mrs. Frank Holliday of the home; three brothers, Thomas, George and Marion Hodges, all of Griffins Township; three sisters, Miss Hattie Hodges of the home, Mrs. W. H. Hardison and Mrs. T. L. Lilley, all of Griffins Township, and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home Friday afternoon. (Continued on Page Five)

Bear Stops Crop Survey On Jamesville Township Farm

Final surveys, carried on in connection with the crop control program, have encountered quite a few difficulties in this county from time to time, but a few days ago one survey was completely blocked by a mama bear on the W. C. Ange farm way back in Jamesville Township. There was no argument about it—the surveyors, A. Corey, Stat. House of Representatives nominee, and his 14-year-old helper, Charlie Lassiter, simply withdrew, leaving the field to the old bear and her two small cubs.

Pulling the chain down a row in a peanut field, the lad stopped quickly. "What's the matter?" the surveyor called out. The lad merely pointed down the row toward the woods. "Oh, go ahead. The bear won't hurt you, and he'll go away when you get closer," Surveyor Corey advised. The helper moved the distance of another chain, and began to question the advice of his elder, for the bear had not moved, just merely stood there on its hind legs doing a bit of surveying on its own. Certain he knew the way of bears, Surveyor Corey suggested that they move a bit closer, assuring the lad that the bear would clear away. Sure enough, the old bear moved away a bit and then took a definite stand between the surveyors and the two cubs. With all measurements completed except a short distance, Surveyor Corey did some rapid calculations, stopped the chain measurements right at that point, and with his helper withdrew. "In all my years in" and out of woods, that's the first time I left a bear in charge of the situation," the surveyor said yesterday.

Jas. H. Robertson Died In Hospital In Rocky Mount

Funeral In Washington Today For Williamston Native

James Henry Robertson, native of Williamston and a resident of Washington for the past eighteen years, died in a Rocky Mount hospital Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock following a three-week critical illness. He had been in declining health for several months, after recovering from a heart condition with which he was troubled for a period four years ago. He underwent an operation in the Rocky Mount hospital about three weeks ago and no hope was held for his recovery since that time.

A son of the late Joseph L. and Susan Ellison Robertson, he was born in Williamston 67 years ago last November. He spent his early life here and after learning telegraphy under his uncle, the late William A. Ellison, he was employed by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, holding agencies in several centers of eastern North Carolina. He was in Ahoskie for a number of years, before locating in Washington.

Mr. Robertson was first married to Hattie Davis of Whitakers who died about 1913. His second marriage was to Janie Bell Baker of Ahoskie. Surviving are his widow; two sons, Lt. Haywood L. Robertson, stationed in Japan but who flew home from his foreign post last Saturday, and Richard Robertson of Baltimore; one daughter, Mrs. Sallie E. Walters of Washington who taught in the Williamston schools last term; a grandson; three brothers, Messrs. Charles A. Robertson of Greenville, Roland H. Robertson of Suffolk and Fitzhugh Lee Robertson of Norfolk; four sisters, Mrs. J. O. Bowen of Washington, D. C., Mrs. J. C. Anderson of Williamston, Mrs. W. H. Booker of Plymouth and Mrs. Jesse W. Harrell of Roanoke Rapids.

Mr. Robertson was active in civic circles in his adopted communities for years, holding membership in the Washington Rotary Club at the time of his death. He was a great churchman during more than fifty years he was affiliated with the Methodist Church. He was a steward in the First Methodist Church of Washington for a long time, and was held in high esteem in his home and adopted communities.

Funeral services were held in the chapel of the Oden funeral home here Tuesday afternoon. (Continued on Page Five)

Farm Life Club Holds Meeting

Seventy-four members were present at the regular third Tuesday night meeting of the Farm Life Ruritan Club. Guests included Mr. Dempsey Williams of Beaufort County, Representative A. Corey of Jamesville, and Mr. Raleigh Carver of Elizabeth City, present governor of this Ruritan District.

In introducing Mr. Carver, Mr. Corey commented on the outstanding impression that the delegation of more than a 100 Griffins Township citizens made during their appearance in Raleigh on behalf of the retention of the Farm Life High School. Professor Carlyle Cox of Farm Life School also briefed the club on the latest known developments regarding the status of decision.

The subject of Mr. Carver's speech dealt with service. He stated that the real attributes of greatness were in serving one's fellow man in an unselfish manner. The Ruritan Club is a great service organization for rural areas. No organization has higher ideals. Its aim is to make the community a better place in which to live. The club has brought together in fellowship citizens of the communities in which anomosities exist. It has broken down the barriers of vocations, aided in neutralizing religious differences, stressed the right of better roads, better schools and other utilities, the speaker declared.—Reported.

Husband-Father On Spot In Court Here

INSURANCE MAN



Ernest Carraway, who has been associated with Leder Brothers as manager here for the last two years, recently resigned to become affiliated with the Paul Revere Life Insurance Company and the Massachusetts Protective Association. Popular with the patrons of the Leder Brothers firm and the citizenship of the town, Mr. Carraway has made many friends since he and Mrs. Carraway moved to Williamston. Mr. Carraway will maintain his office at his home for the present. He was succeeded here by Tom Davis of Goldsboro.

Court Throws Out \$1,000 Theft Case

The case in which Naomi James charged her sister, Mary James Price, with the theft of \$1,000 in cash from her home in Jamesville Township last March 25, was literally thrown out of court when at the close of the evidence, Judge J. Paul Frizzelle, presiding, granted a motion for non-suit early Tuesday afternoon.

The case was called at 11:30 o'clock and weak circumstantial evidence was offered until 3:30 o'clock with time out for lunch. The prosecuting witness admitted that she did not know who got the money, but said, "I have a strong idea who did." Explaining that she checked the money at 3:00 o'clock before she went to the home of her niece, a short distance away, the witness said it was gone when she returned about two hours later, but that \$500 was left in the pocket-book along with a smaller amount which apparently was overlooked.

It was also stated that the defendant went to the sister's home, talked with a half-brother, Ernest Boston, and went to the kitchen and staying out of the living room for four minutes, passed through the bedroom where the money was hidden under a mattress. "After I missed the money I went straight to Mary's home and she denied taking it, but her mouth turned white when I mentioned 'money,'" the witness said. It was brought out that the half-brother and the sister had been the only ones in the home while the prosecuting witness was away.

The prosecution attempted to show that Mary planned to steal the money, but a defense witness testified to the contrary. (Continued on Page Six)

Legion Installs Its New Officers

The American Legion held its monthly meeting and installation service last Monday night, June 16. Division Commander W. L. McMillan of Rocky Mount attended and installed the following officers for the coming year: Commander, Garland Tice; Vice-Commander, W. B. Gaylord, Jr.; A. D. Bailey, Jim Wiggins; Adjutant, Theron Gurganus; Finance Officer, Julian Jackson; Service Officer, Edgar Gurganus; Sergeant at Arms, Joe J. Johnson, Jr.; Historian, J. Sam Getsinger. Joe Johnson won the attendance and flag contest.

Pitiful Stories Heard In Family Case Wednesday

Jas. L. Price Charged With Breaking and Entering And Attacking Wife

A six-year-old daughter broke down and wept and could not testify, but a 12-year-old step-son, Raleigh Beacham, told a story in the Martin County Superior Court yesterday afternoon that belonged to the barbarians.

The case in which James Lloyd Price was charged with breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony, was called at 3:40 o'clock. It dates back to May 11 when the defendant allegedly broke into his estranged wife's home, beat her and hurt his six-year-old daughter, Judy Gray Price.

The first to take the stand, Raleigh Beacham said he was the son of Mrs. Lucy Price, that on the night of May 11, Price went to their home in Jamesville and knocked on the door between 12:00 o'clock midnight and 1:00 o'clock a. m. He said no one would open the door and that Price went to a window, banged out an adjustable screen and crawled into the living room. He said his mother took a chair and swung it at her husband, that Price grabbed it, and she got another chair. He took that one away from her, and then beat her with his hands and choked her. He said that his mother had a crowbar or fire poker, but that he was not there when Price snatched it out of her hands and hit little Judy Gray in the forehead, cutting a one-inch gash. The little fellow said he ran about one-half mile for help, that when he was returning home he saw neighbors carrying his mother and the little victim to the hospital.

The little fellow said that Price had been there several times on previous occasions and had been through the window twice. He said the defendant was drinking. When he concluded his evidence at 4:02 o'clock, the wall clock fell from its mooring and crashed to pieces in the floor. The crash brought a mixed reaction. Some said "Doc" Simmons had conjured the thing. Others said it was jarred by the pathetic story told by the witness.

Little Judy Gray could not check her tears and sobs, and Solicitor George Fountain did not have the heart to place her on the stand. Deputy Raymond Rawls, the next witness for the State, said he investigated the case, that he saw bruises on Mrs. Price's neck and arms. At 2:00 o'clock, following the alleged crime the night before, the officer said the defendant was drunk. "Price told me then that he was drunk and did not hardly know what he was doing," the witness said, adding that he found bruises on Price's arms and legs.

On cross examination, the officer quoted Price as saying that he (Price) did not know the little girl was in the room until she was hit by the fire poker. The officer added that Mrs. Price told him her husband had beat and choked her.

The State rested at that point, and Shirley Price, the first witness of the defendant, was ruled out when she started to tell what Mrs. Price had told her. Solicitor Fountain explained he would withdraw objections of the defense would allow the mother to take the stand. The defense was willing to settle the issue by agreeing with the court that the purported evidence of the witness was incompetent.

John Price, father of the defendant, was the next to take the stand, but he could throw little or no light on the details. He said that the small boy went to his home shortly before 11:00 o'clock telling him that his mother and Lloyd were quarreling. The witness said he started to go, but saw his son coming his way. He (Continued on Page Five)