

Brothers Get Ten To Twenty Years For Bank Robbery

Third Brother Released In Federal Court At Washington Monday

Pleading guilty of robbing the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company here last August 28, two brothers, Adrill Strickland, 24, and Quitman Strickland, 21, were sentenced to prison by Judge Don Gilliam in federal court at Washington yesterday morning. A third brother, James Earl Strickland, 19, who was detained in connection with the robbery, gained his freedom when the two older brothers declared he had nothing to do with planning or executing the robbery.

Adrill Strickland was sentenced to federal prison for twenty years, including five years for the theft of a car from Charleston, South Carolina. Quitman Strickland was given ten years in prison. The 15 year sentence given the older brother for bank robbery and the five-year sentence for transporting a stolen car across state lines, are to run concurrently.

The trial setting was described as pathetic. The wives of the two older boys were in court along with the boys' mother. Two small children hovered around one of the wives, and the other carried a baby in her arms with another due in a few months. The babies cried and the wives and mother wept, attendants having to help some of them from the courtroom.

Only two bank employees, Cashier D. V. Clayton and Assistant Cashier Jos. Griffin, were called to the stand. They told how they were held at gun point and how the robbers bagged in excess of \$17,000 and hurried from the bank.

Cashier D. V. Clayton, Assistant Cashier Jos. Griffin and Miss Marie Griffin, another bank employee, were called to Washington, but only Cashier Clayton took the stand. He gave a detailed report on the stickup, and identified the brothers as the two men who walked into the bank brandishing .32 calibre pistols, holding the bank employees and a few customers at bay, and walking out with more than \$17,000 stuffed in a laundry bag.

He testified that following the capture, all of the stolen money was returned.

William H. Gibson, special agent with the FBI, the only other witness called by the state, told the court the details of the investigation following the stickup and of

Commission To Hold Hearing

The newly created North Carolina Milk Commission will hold a public hearing in the Municipal Building, Rocky Mount, on Friday of this week at 10:30 o'clock.

Reports on the production, distribution and sale of milk will be received by the commission representatives, it was announced.

Producers delivering milk to plants located in this area and distributors of milk serving this area and the general public are invited to attend. Information obtained at the hearing will be considered by the Commission in determining whether or not it will be in the public interest for this area, or any part thereof, to be established as a Milk Marketing Area under the authority vested in Milk Commission by the 1953 Session laws of the General Assembly.

ROUND-UP

Ten persons were rounded up and jailed by local, county and state officers last week-end for varied violations of the public laws. Four were booked for drunkenness, and one each for drunken driving, disturbing the peace, larceny, carrying a concealed weapon, abandonment and trespassing. A tenth person was held for Virginia authorities.

Two of the ten were white. Two of the eight colored were women, one being charged with abandoning her children. The ages of the group ranged from 19 to 46 years.

New Peanut Crop Begins To Move To Local Market

The first of the new peanut crop is beginning to move to the local market in fairly sizable volume. However, the deliveries have not been of sufficient size to support a general average both as to yield and price.

Approximately 2,000 bags of the new crop had been handled by the local market up until late yesterday, the price ranging from a low of about nine cents a pound to \$12.99 per hundred pounds. According to unofficial reports, support price are about ninety cents higher than they were last year. Peanuts, grading 57 percent large and fifteen per cent extra large, are supported at \$10.01 per hundred pounds. Peanuts, grading 72 percent large and 45 percent extra large, are supported at \$14.585.

CROWDED OUT

The Halloween carnival, sponsored each year by the Williamston Woman's Club, has been crowded out of the picture by other events this week, it was announced today.

Extensive plans had been advanced for the event this year, but it was ruled out by conflicts, a representative of the club said, adding that the organization was appreciative of the cooperation extended in the past and that continued support is solicited for the annual event next year.

Special Exhibits At The Fair Here

Corey Plumbing Company, owned and operated by Mr. Geo. Corey, is featuring several specific demonstrations at the Martin County Fair this week. Factory representatives are explaining and presenting their products to the public.

Mr. Carlton Davis of Norfolk, representative from the Minneapolis-Honeywell Regular Company in Minnesota is on hand to demonstrate the electronic nod-flow complete heating system all thermostatically controlled.

Mr. Beverley Johnson of Raleigh comes as representative of the Stahl-Rider Distributing Company, Carrier air conditioning distributors for eastern Carolina. He will have an ice maker in operation and a combination heating and air conditioning unit open to the public for inspection.

The famous Youngstown Kitchens have sent Mr. J. P. Gully of Norfolk to remain in the main Corey booth with the display of kitchen appliances.

All three of the factory men arrived yesterday to stay for most or all of the Martin County Fair. They seemed surprised and pleased at the great enthusiasm being shown even yesterday by visitors at the fair.

Fire Destroyed Home Near Here

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the five-room tenant house and all its contents on the Griffin Brothers' farm on the McCaskey Road near here last Friday morning.

The tenant, Jack Williams, and his wife and son left home earlier that morning and were in Williamston when the fire started. Passerby saw the fire and called for help. Answering the call, local volunteer firemen reached there just about the time the roof was falling in, but they kept the fire from spreading to outbuildings, including a tobacco barn.

The Williamses lost all their earthly goods except what they wore on their backs. Included in their losses were three \$100 bills hidden under a rug. A small amount of insurance was carried on the building, but none was carried on the contents.

Continues Critically Ill In Hospital Here

Sihmon Lilley, well-known Griffins Township farmer, continues gravely ill in a local hospital. Taken sick about two weeks ago he has been in the hospital about ten days, and lapsed into unconsciousness last week-end, it was stated.

There are deductions for damaged kernels and foreign material, and peanuts containing over 10 percent moisture are not eligible for support, it was explained.

Early deliveries show a fair low meat content, but the quality varies from section to section and almost from field to field.

Yields as low as two bags have been reported while Mrs. Bessie Mitchell of Powellsville harvested ninety-three bags on a little less than three acres. The bags, the first of the new crop to be delivered to the local market this year, sold for \$11.73 per hundred pounds. Yields in other fields on the Mitchell farms were not so large, it was reported. The highest yield reported in this county so far is 20 bags per acre.

Ask Decrease In Tobacco Acreage

Directors of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, meeting in Raleigh a few days ago, urged the Secretary of Agriculture to effect a five percent reduction in the 1954 tobacco acreage. The Bureau directors pointed out that tobacco prices had declined in recent days and that cigarette consumption in the nation was falling.

At the same time, Fred S. Royster of Henderson, president of the Bright Belt Warehouse Association, criticized certain types of cigarette advertising.

Royster said "medical claims" by cigarette makers are "wholly unjustified." There is no evidence to show that tobacco is "either good or bad" for a person, said Royster, and "A great deal of this advertising is plain silly and ridiculous."

Royster declared general economic conditions are working against the tobacco farmer and "We are in a decline whether we realize it or not."

He asserted that if the decline in tobacco consumption for the past four months were averaged out "for the rest of the year a decrease of 75 million pounds will occur."

Jerry Ball's Son Still Unconscious

When Jerry Ball, Charlotte man, was in Williamston last January playing a piano for the March of Dimes, he received a message stating that his son, Bobby Ball, had been injured that day in a midjet auto racing accident out in Phoenix, Arizona. Playing the role of a regular trouper, Mr. Ball, offering his services free, held to the piano on the porch of Attorney Horton's porch all that day, keeping in touch throughout the day with the hospital where his son was being treated. That night the father caught a plane in Norfolk and flew to Arizona.

This week, 326 days after the accident, young Ball continues in a coma. A report received here stating that there is no perceptible improvement in his condition.

Ball, one of the nation's outstanding young drivers, stirs occasionally and opens his eyes but does not rouse from the coma into which a brain injury plunged him.

His father, after doing what he could for his son, returned East and continued to play for the March of Dimes.

Local Men Buy Equipment Firm

Organized only a few days ago by Messrs. Pete Rogers, Hershel Miller, W. O. Peele, Jr., and Laurence Eason Lilley, the Martin Tractor and Truck Company has purchased the Jenkins Equipment Company on South Pearl Street here and will assume active management as of November 1, according to an announcement made this week by the new firm.

Mr. Harvey Baggett, formerly with Roanoke Chevrolet, and the Woodard Furniture Company, is to manage the new firm.

Details have not been made public but it is understood that the new firm will carry on operations at the Pearl Street location for the present, with the possibility that the business will be housed in a new plant on or near the U. S. Highway 17 by-pass Skewarkey.

Three Accidents On Highways And Streets Recently

Only One Person Reported Injured; Property Loss Estimated At \$1000

One person was painfully but not seriously injured in a series of three automobile accidents on the streets and highways in this county during the past week-end. One or two other minor accidents were reported, but the damage was negligible and no record was made, it was learned.

The first in the series was reported on Williamston's Washington Street Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock when a car and a truck crashed near the Jamesville Road intersection. John Henry Wiggins, of RF 2, Williamston, pulled out from a parking place near the Roanoke Chevrolet Company and crashed into the side of a Merita bread truck driven by John Cornell, Jr., or RFD 3, Williamston. Damage to Wiggins' 1949 Ford was estimated at \$100. Damage to the truck hardly exceeded \$10, local officers said following their investigation.

Driving toward Hassell on the Hassell-Tarboro road at 11:30 o'clock that morning, Henry Harrell, of RFD 1, Bethel, ran off the road and lost control of his 1953 Chevrolet. The machine turned over, resulting in a property damage estimated at \$700 by the investigating patrolman. Harrell received a four-stitch cut in his head, but he was able to continue to his home following treatment in the Bethel Clinic. Harrell's companion was not injured.

Driving east on Highway 64 between Robertsonville and Everetts, William Clarence Jones of Plymouth started to pass a black Ford just as the Ford driver started to make a left turn. The vehicles crashed and the Ford continued without stopping. Damage to Jones' 1952 Oldsmobile was estimated at \$100 by the investigating patrolman. The driver of the Ford was not immediately apprehended, but hit-and-run charges are pending in the case, it was learned.

Windsor closed Monday, October 19. Ahoskie will hold final sales Friday, October 30.

Marketing Cards Mailed In County

All those Martin County peanut farmers whose plantings were not in excess of their allotments are receiving their 1953 marketing cards this week.

Nearly 700 of the 1,700 peanuts farmers planted in excess of their allotments last spring, but all approximately 250 destroyed the surplus. It is believed that most of those who planted in excess of their allotments and who have not destroyed the surplus, will "hog them down", leaving only a few to get excess marketing cards. Marketings in excess of the allotments carry a penalty of about six cents a pound.

UNANIMOUS

Under a new ruling announced by the United States Department of Agriculture a few days ago, farmers, participating in the 1954 agricultural program, will have to comply with all crop quota regulations to qualify for any price supports. In other words, a farmer who plants within his tobacco quota and exceeds his peanut allotment, will not qualify for tobacco support prices.

Local Boy Leads ROTC Drill Team

Bobby Clayton will lead the Naval ROTC Drill Team when Duke meets Virginia in the Oyster Bowl game in Norfolk Saturday.

The former local band major and the Duke ROTC Drill Team are planning a great show.

At the Duke-Navy game last year in Durham, the drill team first did its stuff before an amazed student body and visiting dignitaries from the Naval Academy.

The Duke population had no idea beforehand that it had such a razzle-dazzle outfit in its midst and the spectators from outlying areas were equally surprised. One reportedly turned to Naval Academy Commandant Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy and said, "Your drill team is marvelous, Admiral."

The admiral is reported to have replied, "Ours? We haven't got anything like this."

So impressed was the admiral that he dispatched a special commendation to the Duke unit, upon his return to Annapolis.

Leaf Marketing Nears End Here

No definite date has been mentioned, but it is quite certain that the tobacco marketing season is nearing an end here and in other centers in this part of the State. It is possible that sales will be suspended later in the week, but market operators said yesterday that they are not certain of the day.

Yesterday, the market sold only 13,152 pounds, but the price held right close to the 59-cent figure.

Up until today, the market had sold 11,313,178 pounds for \$6,726,195, an average of \$59.46.

A report on the activities in the entire belt follows:

Steady to slightly higher average prices were paid for most grades of Eastern North Carolina flue-cured tobacco last week. The Federal-State Market News Service reports volume of sales was light. Quality of marketings was inferior to that of the week before.

Sales for the week ending October 23 totaled 26,048,712 gross pounds and averaged \$56.23 per hundred. This average dropped \$1.80 from the previous five-day period and was the lowest since the fourth week of sales. Season sales stand at 444,695,509 pounds for an average of \$57.60.

Over three-fourths of the grade averages were unchanged to higher. Increases amounted to around \$1.00 per hundred pounds in most cases and were more frequent for lower quality grades of leaf, lugs and nondescript. Offerings of cutters and smoking leaf remained generally steady. Small losses noted for several grades.

The percentage of cutters and smoking leaf decreased slightly. Lower quality offerings showed a small increase in proportion. Bulk of sales consisted of poor to good leaf, low to good lugs, low and fair cutters, and nondescript.

Around 5.5 per cent of weekly gross went under Government loan to the Stabilization Corporation. Season receipts of the Corporation are slightly under 3 per cent.

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Open Fair - Festival Here Last Evening

Exhibits Come To Expectations, Officials Declare

Thousands Expected For Big Parade Here Tomorrow At 3:00

The Martin County Fair and Harvest Festival were opened with a bang here last night when a big square dance was held in the Planters Warehouse and after the finishing touches were made to the record number of commercial booths and farm exhibits at the fair quarters in the Carolina Warehouse.

Although threatening weather is being promised for tomorrow, the festival officials have as of now planned one of the biggest parades ever seen in this section of the State. Approximately 100 units, including fifteen brass bands, seventeen princesses and special floats by clubs and business concerns, have been booked for the parade which is scheduled to get under way promptly at 3:00 o'clock. And with Master Starter "Blue" Manning in charge, the parade is scheduled to move on time.

In listing the parade units last week the Owl Scouts and the Farm Life Rhythm Band were omitted from the list through an error.

With favorable weather prevailing, it is believed that one of the largest crowds ever assembled in this section, will witness the parade. Local auto owners are being asked to leave their vehicles at home to help relieve the parking problem.

The festival will be climaxed tomorrow evening, rain or shine, when Tommy Tucker and his orchestra play for the coronation ball in the Planters Warehouse.

A large crowd was present at the square dance held in the Planters Warehouse last night. Dick Carter and his Circle "C"

(Continued on Page Eight)

Robbers Steal Safe In County

Prizing open the front door, robbers entered the office of the Robertsonville Shelling Company on the Stokes Highway a short distance out of Robertsonville sometime during Sunday night and carried away an iron safe.

The iron box, weighing between 350 and 400 pounds was found in a roadside ditch 100 yards or more down the highway, its door hammered off. H. E. (Jake) Mobley was quoted as saying that between \$100 and \$150 in cash and about \$400 in checks were missing from the safe.

A number of checks and the empty money bag were found a short distance east of Robertsonville on Highway 64 Monday afternoon, it was learned.

Officers are working on the case, but up until early today no lead had been established.

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Poultry Industry Growing Rapidly In Martin County

Assistant County Agent Larry Hodges Talks About Industry

By Larry Hodges, Assistant Farm Agent

Our poultry industry surely is growing. Only a few years ago farmers in one county wouldn't keep a hen. Now more than half these farmers have large flocks laying hatching eggs and North Carolina is one of the largest producers of hatching eggs for broiler use. When I was a boy, fried chicken was a summer delicacy. Now with our broiler industry, we can have fresh chicken anytime. Consumers have responded by eating three times more broilers.

"An egg a day" used to be the cry to get more eggs eaten. But with improved quality and lower relative price, that idea is out of date. Now consumers eat more than 400 eggs per person each year!

Turkey used to be only for Thanksgiving dinner. Now with improved breeding and modern refrigeration, we can have turkey all year long. Consumers buy more than 1,000,000 North Carolina turkeys each year.

Where are we going from here? Commercial egg production would boost the income of many small tobacco farmers. High efficiency of feed use lets broiler producers operate on narrow margins. Demand is strong for our poultry products. Many farmers would find it profitable to produce more poultry. Would you?

Poultry and poultry products furnish a BIG slice of our North Carolina farm income. In 1952 eggs, broilers, chickens and turkeys brought in \$105,033,000. Only tobacco with \$462,824,000 and cotton with \$120,072,000 provided more income. After poultry in third place came dairy production in fourth spot with \$193,522,000 income.

Here's where our 1952 poultry income came from: Eggs, \$50,682,000. Broilers \$34,485,000. Chickens \$13,746,000 and Turkeys \$6,120,000.

Eggs—since 1925, North Carolina farmers have increased the number of hens kept for layers from about 6 million to slightly over 8 million birds. During these 27 years they have doubled egg production. Rate of lay, which has increased from 85 eggs per hen in 1925 to 131 eggs in 1952, has been responsible for much of this increased production.

Several factors have helped to increase the rate of lay per hen. (Continued on Page Seven)

Students Tell PTA Of Extra Activity

Representatives of the various grades and organizations in the Williamston schools outlined to a large audience at the Parents-Teachers meeting here last night the extra-curricula activities that help them build a healthy personality as they grow and acquire an education.

The association appears to have found a solution to the age-old problem of getting people to occupy the front seats. Last night the middle section's front rows were filled and one of those in that section, Mrs. Tpm. Letchworth walked out with a \$1.00 prize for occupying a lucky seat. The door prize was won by Mrs. D. W. Manning and the attendance prize went to Mrs. Lorna Garrett Adkins' 9th grade.

It was the second meeting of current school year and attendance and interest were reported as excellent.

DANGER

Despite extra efforts to control the situation, there is still a definite traffic hazard Washington Street, and police today appealed to parents to caution their children and urge them to exercise due care when walking in the area of the warehouse where the fair is being held.

Police are to keep watches there, but with traffic at a saturation point, it is impossible to guarantee perfect safety.

WISE COON

A wise old coon took over the role of a cunning fox down in Jamesville last Saturday night. Hunters Ernie Gardner and P. C. Blount, Jr., have established quite a business, catching live coons for distribution in western Carolina. The two men had caught fifteen coons during the first days of the season and penned them in Mr. Gardner's back yard.

During Saturday night, one old coon climbed to the top of the cage, unfastened the latch and turned the coons out. The old coon left the area, but most of the other remained around and were captured a second time, it was learned.

No Bus Station Made Available

Busses operating in and out of Williamston are still using an open-air station on South Elm Street, just off Main, late reports stating that a representative of one of the operating companies plans to come here Thursday.

There is a remote possibility that something will be done at that time to relieve the problem temporarily, at least.

During the meantime, bus operations here are bogged down in shame and disgrace, not to mention curtailed services and in conveniences experienced by the patrons.

It was reported that the Norfolk representative was a witness in court this week and that he would not be able to discuss facilities, temporary or permanent, for a terminal here. It could not be learned what is behind the delaying action, but unless something is done soon an appeal could be made to the Utilities Commission.

It has been pointed out that the bus operators have experienced some difficulty in providing station facilities, but that those difficulties do not offset the terrible treatment patrons have and are still receiving.

Prizes Feature Fair This Year

Special prizes are featuring the program at the Martin County Fair in the Carolina Warehouse here this week.

Williamston Furniture Company, beginning tomorrow, will give away eight or ten cooked meals each evening through Friday. The meals are to be prepared by Miss Dowdy, nationally known economist. The meals are to go to holders of lucky numbers. On Saturday the company will give away a Caloric range.

Worrell Appliance Company is giving away four cooked turkeys prepared by Miss Faulconer, another nationally known home economist who is spending much time at the fair this week.

Other prizes to go to holders of lucky numbers include: suit of clothes, hay, livestock, etc., by Bulluck's; furniture by Courtney's 100 chicks by Lindsley's Feed Store; cedar chest by Heilig and Meyers; Silent Flame space heater by Farmers Supply; special favors by Western Auto. Other prizes will be announced later.

Engineers Plan Meet Tomorrow

The East Carolina Engineers' Club will meet in Roanoke Rapids, tomorrow at 7:00 P. M. The meeting place will be the VEPCO club house which is located near the northern edge of the city on Roanoke Avenue.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Mr. Donald McCord, Resident Manager, Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation. The subject of the talk will be the engineering aspects of the Roanoke Rapids Power Dam for the Virginia Electric and Power Company.