

### R. Vivian Wells Tar Heel Of Week



Mr. R. Vivian Wells was honored last week by the News and Observer as The Tar Heel of the Week. He is serving his 49th consecutive year as Clerk of Court.

This dean of Court Clerk has been judge of the juvenile court since 1919 and clerk of the county court since its beginning in 1928. During his tenure as clerk he has seen many attorneys become solicitors and Superior Court judges. Among these are the late Judge Henry Grady, Henry L. Stevens, Jr., now retired, Leo J. Carr of Wilmington and Rudolph I. Mintz. Unopposed in most of the

thirteen terms he has held, Mr. Wells probably put in more hours than any other county official, ignoring holidays, and the forty hour work week.

Mr. Wells was born on a farm near Magnolia. His father, Robert John Wells served Duplin County as treasurer for eight years. This office was consolidated with the sheriff's office.

The former clerk of the court, Mr. D. H. Wallace passed away in the spring of 1918 and his son was appointed to fill the unexpired term. Some of Mr. Wells' friends, urged him to leave his bookkeeping position at a general store and horse

trading establishment, and run for office. He did and received almost a majority over his two opponents. The executive committee declared him the winner. He said his father's popularity helped him win. "I love the whole thing," he says, "the only thing I'd snit out if I could is the non-support cases. I'd like to pass that back to somebody else."

As juvenile court judge he has seen many boys and girls in trouble, but he notes that the majority are one time offenders. He thinks that the home is the cause of delinquency among the juveniles. A good example is priceless.

He has seen many criminals receive the death sentence, mostly in the electric chair or gas chamber. He remembers when the last man was hung in Duplin. It was in 1906. The man was convicted of rape.

Mr. Wells limits his membership to the Presbyterian Church and the Democratic party. He has served as president of the Clerk of Superior Court Association, but he insists that he is not a "Joiner."

He is clerk of the session of Grove Presbyterian where he has served as an elder since 1923. He taught Sunday School for many years.

He resides in a beautiful pre-civil war home in Kenansville. His daughter Mrs. Louise Mitchell lives with him. He also has a son Lt. Col. Robert Carroll Wells, now stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina. He has three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

With a twinkle in his eye he tells you that he is the same age as Jack Benny. He would deny having a hobby, but at heart his love is people and he is an avid genealogist.



Topsall Island N. C. - Charlie Bradt of Topsall Beach shows off a fine 3 pound Speckled Trout he had just caught on Topsall Sound Pier Saturday evening. This is one of many such trout Charlie has caught within the last two months on this Pier which is noted for its trout fishing. Adding to the variety Saturday was a 5 pound 3 oz. Flounder caught by Jesse Terrell of Reidsville on this pier. Two large Black Drum were also reported caught there Saturday. Ocean piers boasted of the first Virginia Mullet of the season to be caught also on Saturday. Louis Bracher of Goldsboro caught one on McKee's Pier and C. E. Coats of Dudley caught one on Barnacle Bill's Pier. The Virginia Mullet means spring fishing is here so much excitement is shown over the first ones caught each year.

### Forum On Desegregation

Dave Coltrane, Chairman of the state Good Neighbor Council

now adopted this new program at Gaston College which will serve as its chief source of trained manpower.

Mr. Herring states that, "many young people overlook real opportunity such as offered by this program due to unwarranted emphasis on a four year college program."

Prospective students interested in further information on this program may correspond directly with Mr. John M. Jenkins, Dean of Vocational Education, Gaston College, P. O. Box 1379, Gastonia, N. C.

and E. B. Palmer, Executive secretary of the North Carolina Teacher's Association will highlight a forum on school desegregation in Duplin County April 27, according to Dr. J. S. Blair, Jr., County Good Neighbor Council Chairman. Invitations will be mailed soon to County School officials, Ministers organization heads, County and Town officials, and County leaders's. Open discussion of school desegregation guidelines is planned. The dinner meeting is to be held at the Country Squire three miles west of Kenansville on highway 50. Dr. Mett Ausley, Council Secretary is in charge of arrangements.

### Glenn Miller Orchestra To Be Featured At Blueberry Ball

WHITE LAKE - The world-famed Glenn Miller Orchestra will be the feature attraction of the first annual Blueberry Ball scheduled here Saturday, May 27, as the climax to the initial three-day North Carolina Blueberry Festival.

Led by Buddy DeFranco, the orchestra has an established reputation of being the biggest record selling popular orchestra in the nation and has the largest audience for popular music during the past 25 years.

The present orchestra, under the supervision of the Glenn Miller estate, has been playing during the past 10 years with great success and DeFranco's leadership and the orchestra's reputation have one thing in common; the clarinet.

This woodwind instrument, more than any other, has supplied the distinctive reed section sound that has given the Miller music much of its distinction.

Considered by his fellow musicians as the No. 1 man with the clarinet, DeFranco will be backed up by 16 other musicians and featured vocalist Joan Shepherd for their dance engagement to be held at the White Lake Beach Casino, center of the festival's activities.

Before the major dance begins, DeFranco and the Miller orchestra, with Miss Shepherd assisting, will present an hour-long concert, the program to



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begin approximately one hour following a gigantic fireworks display over the crystal clear waters of Whit Lake.

### Herring Supply Company Announces New Program

R. E. Herring, owner of Herring Supply Company, announced today a new training program, Building Materials Management and Sales, has been adopted by the Carolina Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association to train more young people to enter the building materials industry. The Carolina Lumber and Building Materials

Dealers Association is comprised of more than 300 retail dealers in North and South Carolina. Mr. Herring, who is a member of the association, says, "this is an excellent opportunity for a young person to receive training and qualify for a good paying job in the building materials industry."

The program consists of one full year's study at Gaston College, Gastonia, N. C. Formerly the association had supported training programs at N. C. State University; however, the graduates of this program would usually seek employment with larger chain firms and would not accept employment with a local building materials dealer. The Association has

The purpose of such meeting is to explore methods by which the community may take the lead in bringing about a solution to the school desegregation problem, and not wait for federal solutions to our local problems, stated R. E. Wilkins, Vice Chairman of the Council. The courts have already decreed that "Freedom of Choice" or any other plan is acceptable only if it serves to desegregate the school systems. The council feels that this problem can and should be solved "good faith" by local "discussing and effective planning toward that goal, Wilkins stated.



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