



Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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Briefs

Homecoming

Kenansville Baptist Church will hold its annual Homecoming Day Sunday September 21, 1969. All friends and neighbors are invited to this happy and bounteous occasion.

Bake Sale

The Mt. Olive Pickle Kickers are sponsoring a bake sale Saturday a.m. to raise money for the Jim Glenn Youth Center. The folks in the community are urged to donate cakes, pies or candy for this sale.

Sales will be held at Leder Brothers and the IGA Foodliner on Breeseale Avenue. Please have donations at Teenage building by 9:00 a.m. Saturday.

Dr. Boyette Appointed

RALEIGH, September 12--The appointment of a Duplin County physician to membership on an important public service committee of the State Medical Society was announced today by Society President, Dr. Edgar T. Beddingfield, Jr., of Wilson and Stantonsburg.

He is Dr. Edward L. Boyette of Chinoquia who was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Community Health, Rural and Urban. The committee's general practitioners serve as chairmen of the committee which, in addition to several other programs, encourages cooperative effort among local medical societies, farm organizations, Extension Services, and other health groups in promoting rural health programs.

Film - Flamer In Magnolia

Deputy Sheriff Irvin Outlaw said investigation is continuing into a film-flamer operation in Magnolia.

A report reached the sheriff's office that someone visited Mrs. Effie Register of Magnolia and stated that he was from the Health Department in Kenansville and that the Register's septic tank required cleaning.

Under this pretense, the man extracted \$120 from Mrs. Register.

Joe Lee Costin, sanitarian with the local health department contacted Mrs. Register about the fraud. She said the film-flamer was driving a red or maroon pick-up truck, was neatly dressed in a light shirt and dark pants, was medium height and size and had dark hair. Neighbors said he appeared to "know what he was doing."

Costin and the Duplin County Health Department warn that they do NOT have anyone in any such capacity and before parting with money, persons should investigate who they are dealing with.

"Unless you personally know the person," said Costin, "ask for identification. Get the license number of the vehicle they are driving and tell the party to come back later. In the mean time, contact officials elsewhere. YOU MAY WIN YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY."

Costin said the money has been paid out and is to be recovered, so play it smart. Don't pay till you know.

Correction

In last week's story, "The Good Old Days," reference was made to "The New Black Teaching System." The word should have been "teaching." The phrase should have been "The phrase should have been 'The New Black Teaching System.'" The reference to a "new" teaching system is a misstatement. The N.C. teaching system has been in existence since the late 19th century.

Miller Gets Death Penalty

Roger Vernon Miller was sentenced to death in the Gas Chamber Friday for the March 25th kidnap-murder of Jackie Stone of Wallace.

Judge George M. Fountain imposed the death sentence and set execution date for October 3, 1969. Following a two-hour deliberation the jury returned a verdict of guilty on both counts--kidnapping a n d first degree murder. The death penalty was automatic since the jury did not recommend mercy.

Miller displayed no emotion while receiving the death sentence or the second sentence of life imprisonment for kidnap. A silence cloaked the packed courtroom and was broken by t h e heartbreaking sobs of Miller's mother. His wife, who had been at Miller's side during the entire trial, wept silently.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Stone of Wallace, Jackie's parents, showed no emotion as they observed from the front row of the courtroom.

Defense Attorney Hubert E. Phillips requested that each jury be polled. After sentence was passed, the court appointed attorney gave notice of appeal to the State Supreme Court. Phillips was allowed 70 days to prepare the appeal.

The state began its testimony at noon Wednesday and presented Chief Earl W. Whitaker of the Wallace Police Department who confirmed blackboard of names of all local elementary school areas.

Robbin Stone, 9 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stone, testified that she and her younger sister Lisa were with Jackie at the time she was abducted.

She testified that she and her sisters met at a designated place on the school ground each day to walk home together. She said that on March 25 as t h e three walked passed a parked car, the driver of the c a r asked Jackie what her father's name was.

In further testimony Robbin said Jackie gave her father's name and was told that her mother was in Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville and her father had sent the man to take her to her mother.

When the two younger girls started to get in the car, Robbin testified, they were told to go home where someone w a s to take care of them.

Robbin described the car and when asked if she knew who was driving the car and if he were in the courtroom she replied yes and pointed toward Miller. She stated she did not know if the driver of the car had been drinking.

Jan Rich, 14 and Linda Faye Rivenbark, 12 of Wallace both testified that Jackie got in a white car with black top and identified the defendant as the driver of the car.

Jan said she had seen the same person in the white and black car driving around town several times in the previous two weeks.

An employee of the school cafeteria, Mrs. Effie Mobley, testified that as she sat in her car waiting to enter a line of buses that she saw the car in which Jackie Stone was riding. Attempting to leave by a street that was temporary blocked, the car turned into a driveway, rapidly backed around and sped off down Rail-

road Street toward the Test Farm (Willard). She reported the incident to the police and also reported seeing the same car and same driver later that day going down Main Street in Wallace toward Highway 41. She said s h e could identify the driver.

A route 2, Wallace resident, Killy Watkins said he saw the dark-haired girl in the car with the defendant about 3:20 on the afternoon of March 25 and that the defendant blew the car horn and waved to him.

James T. White testified that h e was operating a tractor breaking ground in a field four miles from Stocking Head Creek when the white and black car passed by on the afternoon of March 25. He saw only one person, and w a s not close enough to identify the driver.

Mrs. Elizabeth Varker o f Route 1, Magnolia, testified that she lived one-fourth mile from Stocking Head Creek, near where the paved road which goes to Kenansville. S h e testified that she had formerly gone to school with Miller and that she had seen him in Wallace about noon March 25. He was on Main Street driving a white and black car.

Mrs. Varker said that sometime between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. as she was turning into the driveway of Mr. Charlie Brown, that as she was turning, she saw a white and black car parked on the bridge over Stocking Head, and a man standing between the car and the rail. The man, she said, was wearing a light shirt and dark pants. She said she could not positively identify the man.

Mrs. Reba Stone on the stand



Deputy Glenn Jernigan escorts Roger Vernon Miller from the courtroom just moments after Miller was sentenced to death for the kidnap-murder of Jackie Stone. Officials surrounded Miller as he was whisked into a waiting car to take him to death row in Central Prison in Raleigh where execution date was set for Friday, October 3, 1969.

corroborated testimony presented by her daughter, Robbin, when she returned home from school a n d reported the incident. Mrs. Stone wept a moment before answering the solicitor that the last time she saw her daughter alive was when Jackie left to go to school on the morning of March 25.

Mrs. Margaret Robinson testified that she found a pocket-book in front of her home about 6 miles from Kenansville, and about one half mile from the bridge. When she heard of the incident she turned the pocket-book in. She testified she did

not see any one put the pocket-book in her yard.

Sgt. Harry W. Pridgen of the State Highway Patrol testified that h e participated in the search for Jackie Stone on the night of March 25 and the following day. He also testified that he found Jackie's lifeless body in five-feet of water about six feet from the railing of Stocking Head Creek at 8:20 p.m. on March 26.

Leon Stone, testified that he went to the scene where the body was found and identified

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Legion Honors

Judge Henry L. Stevens, Jr.

A delegation of Legionaires headed by State Commander E. C. (Bud) Thompson, Jr. of Wilmington were in Warsaw today to honor Judge Henry L. Stevens, Jr. the only National Commander of the American Legion that North Carolina ever produced. He was recently chosen by the State Department of the Legion as one of the most outstanding men who has served his Community, State and Nation in the half century the Legion has been in existence.

Henry L. Stevens, III and David L. Turner of Wilmington.

After the luncheon the Legionaires returned to the home where R. C. Godwin, Past National Vice Commander, Past National Commander of the American Legion Citation of appreciation to Judge Stevens "In recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service and assistance which has contributed to the advancement of the American Legion programs and activity dedicated to God and Country." At the same time Past National Commander, Stevens, was awarded a Bronze Medallion for 50 years service to the American Legion. Judge Stevens was further cited for many of the programs now in existence for veterans that was started when he was National Commander of the Legion. One of his programs was the formation of a rehabilitation and employment program for veterans and disabled veterans.

Thad Eure presented Judge Stevens with a prayer for Legionaires and all Americans. State Commander, Thompson said "no greater North Carolinian has the American Legion had than Judge Stevens".

Before the presentation Judge Stevens entertained the following dignitaries with a luncheon at the Country Squire: R.C. Godwin, Past National Vice Commander, now serving State Legislature, Honorable Thad Eure, Secretary of State and a prominent Legionaire, General Wiley Pickens, Past State Commander, Marvin Burton, Past State Commander, and State Director of Veterans Employment Service, Ben F. Halterman, Past State Commander, Colonel Robert L. West, Commander Chas. R. Gavin Post 127 N.F. McCoolman, Past Commander, and William B. Boyette, Past Commander of the local Post of the American Legion. Also present were

County Commissioners Meet

Duplin Highway Commissioner Jim Smith met with the County Board of Commissioners Monday and informed them that \$215,000, is available for the county for stabilizing and surfacing county roads. He was accompanied by Engineers Bass and King and County maintenance Supervisor Robinson.

Walter Herring of City Service Oil Company in Warsaw was awarded contract for fuel oil #2 for all county buildings. He presented a low bid of 13.2 cents per gallon.

Warsaw's Mayor E. F. Strickland and town clerk Alfred Herring requested aid from the

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Contracts Let On New BB&T Building

At its regular monthly meeting held last Tuesday, the Board of Directors of the Branch Banking and Trust Company approved the design and authorized the letting of contracts for the construction of the new Home Office Building which is to be erected on West Nash Street in Wilson. An architectural rendering of the new building reveals a dramatic and powerful yet simple design. It incorporates contemporary concepts in both architecture and building technology with the result that the new building will be one of the most advanced in design of any structure in the State.

A vertical expression is created by white stone columns and bronze metal window frames. The building will be situated 30 feet from the Nash Street property line and the ground floor will be recessed an additional ten feet. Bronze reflective glass on the upper floors will mirror images of the surrounding area. The design throughout depicts solidity while at the same time creating its own inviting atmosphere. Landscape architects plan to utilize existing plantings where possible.

The seven story structure will include twin service towers to house electronically controlled, high speed elevators, stairs, storage and other service areas.

Ample drive-in facilities will be adjacent to the tower side of the building as well as a parking area with space for more than 100 cars. The building may be entered from Nash Street or through a covered entrance from the parking area. Entrances and drives have been arranged to provide ease of access for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

The building will be constructed in a manner requiring no interior columns. This clear expanse and feeling of openness will be particularly evident on the ground floor with its 18' ceiling height and walls of clear glass.

Heating and air conditioning, a complete heat-reclaim system, feed through the exterior columns into cellular floors at each level and are distributed to individually controlled outlets to give utmost flexibility and adaptability.

The accoustical ceiling is integrated with the heating, air conditioning and lighting systems and these unique fixtures can be moved along with the

partitions, making the physical space within the building adaptable to any future changes.

In addition to the lobby, on the first floor will be the Commercial and Installment Loan Departments, and the main vault.

The feeling of spaciousness which pervades the ground floor is accentuated by a large central well in the ceiling which results in a mezzanine on the second

floor. This floor will house the executive offices for the system. The Board Room will also be situated on this floor as well as offices for the Credit Department and for the Bond Department.

A community meeting room with a capacity of 400, smaller conference rooms, other departments, and an employees' lounge will occupy portions of

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A rig for drilling oil has been set up on the Dallas Jones farm on Highway 101 between Magnolia and Warsaw. Drilling operations are expected to get underway soon by Coastal States Petroleum, Inc. with home offices in Texas.

Coastal States Petroleum Inc.

Oil Drilling In Duplin To Begin Soon

Coastal States Petroleum Inc. with headquarters in Houston, Texas, has located a drilling rig on the Dallas Jones farm near Magnolia and Warsaw. Drilling operations are expected to get underway soon.

The rig was set up on the Dallas Jones farm near Magnolia and Warsaw. Drilling operations are expected to get underway soon.

well is still active.

Reports circulating the area that the survey is conducted by airplane with a device that registers oil under ground. It has been determined that oil is underground in the area within two miles of downtown Magnolia. Oil has also been reported in the Town Hall area, determined by the same device.



July, 1969--Architectural Rendering of New Home Office Building of Branch Bank and Trust Company Wilson, North Carolina.