

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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Jones Court Has 75 Case Docket Set for This Term

Weighing Station Is A Preventative Rather Than Cure

Former Highway Patrol Sergeant Jimmy Merritt pointed out this week in discussing the new permanent weighing station that has been set up just south of Kinston which he supervises, that this effort is aimed at preventing penalties to individuals and punishment to our highways rather than curing the troubles after they have developed.

Merritt pointed out that every man who is able to own a truck should also be able to understand the simple weight restrictions and the necessity of obtaining the proper license to go with these various weight limits.

No truck—no matter how it is licensed, may have more than 18,000 pounds per axle, Merritt says and this means simply that a man may be heavily penalized by allowing a load to be improperly distributed on his vehicle. The total load might be under that permitted by the license purchased but placing that load over one or two of the axles on a truck or trailer can easily place the vehicle in a violation category.

Weight limits are basically aimed at protecting the highways, Merritt declared but the local weighing station will also be interested in protecting truck owners from severe penalties they may have assessed against them for improper loading.

There is a one cent per pound penalty for the first 1,000 pounds of overload, two cents per pound penalty for the next 3,000 pounds overload and for all overload above 5,000 pounds there is a flat five cents per

Judge Henry A. Grady of New Bern this week is conducting a one week mixed term of Jones County Superior Court and some 75 criminal cases are scheduled for hearing during the session.

The principal items on the agenda are the trial of Colonel Lindberg Murrell on a manslaughter charge that grew out of an automobile accident death in November.

Robert C. Swanke, Robert A. Wzorek and Clarence M. Whitney, who have already been tried in Craven County for a series of breaking and enterings will also face trial in Jones County on five charges of breaking, entering and larceny.

Drunken driving and driving while intoxicated were in the trial rack.

There were nine law violations, breaking and entering with non-support, five for violation of the game laws, four for assault with a deadly weapon, three for larceny, two each for simple assault, embezzlement, passing worthless checks and assault on a female and one each for alienation of affections and abduction of a minor child.

pound penalty.

Merritt concluded by pointing out to all truck owners that considerable time can be saved by the truck owner by keeping the registration card for each vehicle in the vehicle at all times. This eliminates delays in finding out how much a truck is licensed to carry.

If you have any doubt about what your authorized loading is Merritt says that he and his assistants or any highway patrolman will be happy to give you this information at any time.

Weather is Cold but Political Pot Has Heat Enough to Begin to Boil

Although there is more than a plenty of political action at the state level only two names have been tossed into the political arena by men seeking to obtain posts either totally or partially in the hands of Lenoir County voters. United States Representative John Kerr of Warrenton has admitted that he will be running in an effort to add two more years to his 29 spent in Washington as spokesman for North Carolina's second congressional district and Harvey Turner of Pink Hill has announced that he will run for the post of Lenoir County Representative in

the trial rack.

University of North Carolina Law School, is a member of one of Lenoir County's best known families and his grandfather was the last General Assemblyman to sit in the state legislature from the southern end of the county.

Turner said in announcing his candidacy that he would "be deeply interested in improving the conditions of our people who live in the county. Having spent my life in the country, I think I know their desires, their hardships and their needs; and to help them with all proper legislation would be my great ambition. Among other things, they need more electricity, more road improvement, and more telephone service. I would take nothing from our people who live in town, but in every proper way I would try to assist those who live in the country."

No county commissioners, pre-

sent or would be; no county school board members, no other purely county officials or would be officials have thrown their fedoras into the ring. It is rated as highly likely that Turner will have opposition, but it is rated just as likely that Judge Kerr will be unopposed.

Little if any opposition is likely against Incumbent Lenoir County Register of Deeds Camille Aldridge in competition in the county commission and school board races are all but a foregone conclusion. The same is true of Jones County Register of Deeds George Nobles, who says he will succeed himself.

It is very likely since he has never had opposition. So far there have been no outward comments from hopefuls in the Sixth North Carolina Senatorial District with embraces Greene, Lenoir, Jones, Craven, Onslow and Carteret counties. It is likely that Incumbent John Larkins of Trenton will be in this race and it is rumored on the lower Neuse that former Senator Libby Ward of New Bern might covet another official visit in the Capitol City.

Up from the tidewater land of Carteret County there comes repeated rumors that retired Superior Court Judge Luther Hamilton of Morehead City is wanting a crack at the senate and is reportedly even willing to sacrifice the \$600 per-month-plus disability pension that the 1951 General Assembly forced upon him after considerable debate about his state and in the legislative halls.

The pecan is the only nut produced commercially in North Carolina.

Telephone Company Is Accelerating Rural Service In This Area

E. J. Nobles, manager of the Kinston branch of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, announced Wednesday morning that 36 new telephones would be cut in Wednesday in Lenoir County's Vance Township and in the southern edge of Greene County.

At the same time Nobles said that engineering has been completed for the addition of 20 new phones in the Wheat Swamp section and plans are now on the drawing boards for a rural exchange that will serve up to 120 homes in the Moss Hill Community.

Engineering is also completed for the addition of about 20 more phones in the Southwest Community and in the near future an additional 15 phones will be available between Kinston and Dover, Nobles said.

As to just when these new phones will be available Nobles said that he and no one else could give a close guess due to the labor and materials situation but he said that it would be done as fast as his company could get the necessary men and equipment for the work.

Information has available the names of those who now have phones in the Vance Township area, Nobles pointed out.

Farmers in Lenoir County are showing a great deal of interest in the use of soil fumigants for control of root-knot in tobacco soils, says County Agent F. J. Koonce, Jr.

Taylor Murder Still Unsolved On Its 5th Anniversary

Five years ago today (January 31) Kenneth Taylor, a past-middle-age Kinston bakery employee, bid good night to the men and women gathered about the warmth at a Tower Hill Road filling station and started on his way home, a mile and a half away in Kinston. Taylor's lifeless body was found the next morning lying in a huge puddle of frozen blood just a few yards from the bank of the Adkin drainage ditch and just outside the Kinston city limits.

Today, although one man, Lemuel Parrott, spent six months in the shadow of the state gas chamber awaiting death for the murder of Taylor the crime is still listed on police records as one of the major unsolved crimes in recent years in Lenoir County.

Taylor, a quiet fellow, who was best known for "minding his own business" left the filling station, stopped at the brink of the hill just outside the city limits to talk with a resident of that neighborhood who was on his way home and walked about another three hundred yards to first be bludgeoned in the back of the head, carried into the bushes beside the road and there his throat was cut to such an extent that the deep knife wound almost met the point where it had first begun under Taylor's left ear.

Sheriff Sam Churchill and his men were called immediately to the scene of this brutal murder and the Kinston police department, which was then headed by State Bureau of Investigation Agent George Canady, assisted in the long and now fruitless investigation made into the crime.

About a week after the body was found it seemed that the case was completely cleared up when Sam Thompson, a Goldsboro youth with a vivid imagination, who was under arrest for a Goldsboro burglary, "confessed" to the part he had played in the murder of Taylor but placed the principal guilt on Lemuel Parrott, a resident of Kinston, who was under arrest with Thompson for the Goldsboro breaking and entering.

Thompson told a convincing story of just how Parrott had gone about committing this cold blooded crime for the purpose of robbery. Parrott plead innocent from the beginning and protested that he knew nothing of the crime.

Parrott was indicted and on Thompson's testimony ALONE he was convicted and sentenced to die in the lethal gas chamber at the North Carolina Prison in Raleigh. Thompson, because of his assistance to the prosecution of Parrott, was permitted to plead guilty to second degree murder and he was given 30 years in prison for his admitted part in the crime.

Local law enforcement officers closed the book on the case and marked it finished.

But just as all officials concerned with the crime were relaxing on the Taylor murder, Thompson, was in state prison behind the same walls with Parrott, who was awaiting the day when he would be stripped of all his clothing except shorts and marched into that morbid, awful little chamber where several potassium cyanide tablets would be dropped into a cup of hydrochloric acid and after a few deep gasps the life would depart from

his body. Time to meditate on the fate about to be meted out to the man he had singlehandedly placed on Death Row or perhaps knowledge of the extreme length of his own 30 year sentence caused Thompson to write a letter to Kinston police and ask to be given a chance to tell the "Truth."

Kinston Detective Wheeler Kennedy and Police Secretary Doris Tull went to the "walls" in Raleigh and there Thompson denied any knowledge of the Taylor murder except what he had been able to learn from reading the newspapers while he was in the Wayne County jail in Goldsboro.

Thompson said he had gotten mad with Parrott because Parrott had "squealed" on him about the laundry robbery in Goldsboro. He read the papers and saw that the police were getting no where fast and he decided to fabricate a story and "fix" Parrott for "squealing" on him.

He fitted together an excellent story. Story enough to fool a jury and judge and solicitor but his willingness to place his own neck in a second degree murder rap was more than enough to convince the authorities that his story was the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

But Thompson now said he was in Wilkes County on the night of the murder of Taylor and what's more he was able to prove it. He was chased by a patrolman and after wrecking the car managed to escape to visit in North Wilkesboro in the home of people he knew there. His story of the wild chase

with the patrol car was corroborated by the chasing patrolman down to the smallest detail. The people he visited in North Wilkesboro came to Kinston and swore that he was in their home within three hours of the time that Taylor was murdered in Kinston nearly 350 miles away.

Kinston Police Chief George Canady, who had become a member of the SBI after the trial of Parrott, now, along with other members of the SBI, was in the peculiar position of having to offer evidence to free a man that had earlier been convicted at least partially through his efforts.

The new judge and jury listened to Thompson and his new story. Solicitor Abner Barker and private prosecution battered away at the new Thompson story but when the jury returned they voted to believe Thompson's latest story. This time, unlike the first time, Thompson had witnesses to corroborate his testimony.

Parrott was found not guilty and after more than a year in prison, six months of that time on Death Row in Raleigh's cold gray prison, he was free to walk the streets—free as any man could be who had walked so closely with death for so long.

Thompson, his conscience now relieved, was returned to Raleigh and the 30 year sentence he had imposed upon himself in an effort to "get even" with another fellow. He was in an extremely peculiar legal position. He was serving 30 years for his part in a murder that he had proved he had no connection with. Yet, now five years after the crime, he is still serving that long, hard sentence.

For perjury, which he was surely guilty of, the maximum penalty is 10 years and Thompson has tried repeatedly to interest first one lawyer and then another in getting him freed from his web of lies so that he may be tried for perjury. The lawyers have apparently taken the attitude that once was a part of the Hebrew criminal code: That a man must serve the sentence of the man he has lied upon. In this instance Thompson's lying came very near to depriving an innocent man of his life and a great many who have made any expression on Thompson's situation feel that he should serve every minute of his 30 year sentence.

With the release of Parrott the question again stared Lenoir County officers in the eye: If Parrott didn't kill Taylor, who did?

That question still remains unanswered five years after that cold January night when someone struck the aging Taylor a tremendous blow from the back and then nearly cut his head off to make sure of the brutal job.

Robbery was established as the motive at the time of the murder; yet Taylor was not a man who carried large sums of money about and less than \$30 was missing from his pockets.

Today there remains very little tangible evidence to go upon in any attempt that might be made to clear up the five-year-old crime. Only two facts and on these many do not agree: That a powerful man, with a powerful motive killed Taylor with a blow and knife wound that only a left-handed man could have inflicted.