

Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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Personalities

The Dean of the Lenoir County Bar Association is one of the few remaining members of a once mighty clan that marched across court room floors, making the rafters ring, jurors quake with mirth and clients free with the clever use of fundamental psychologies that are as old as time itself.

J. Frank Wooten at 70 years of age is, indeed, a thing of beauty and joy forever; not physically for he is inclined a little to paunchiness and admittedly has never won any beauty contests.

The local bar association dean is a member and patriarch of one of this section's most numerous and noted families. His "kinfolks" are as many as the flowers in May and "Cousin Frank" has added much to the luster and lore of the Wooten Family name.

After more than 40 years before the bar there are few court room stratagems that Wooten is not familiar with and it is likely that he has invented a great many of them himself. Perhaps the safest shot in his pulvers of legal arrows is the knowledge that a happy jury is far more likely to lean in a lawyer's direction than one that has been nagged and renegged with facts, facts, facts as is the mistaken method of many a younger and less wise counselor at the local bar.

"J. Frank," as he is most affectionately known, seldom makes long speeches to juries. But he seldom makes bad ones. Humor is the key he uses to unlock the minds and decisions of those 12 men good and true.

The late Sam Newberry, one of Lenoir County's few Republican lawyers since the turn of the century, on a particular occasion had reason to learn a bitter lesson at the hands of Wooten. After a lengthy summation of facts and opinions which had the jury half asleep Newberry sat down and the jury braced itself for what it feared was going to be another monotonous monologue.

But "J. Frank" had no such notions under his canny noggin. He walked with deliberate stride to the jury box, cleared his throat and said, "Gentlemen, Mister Newberry has made a fine speech, but it reminds me of my grandmammy's old hoop skirt." And then pausing for the ears of each of the jurors to get ready for the coup de grace, Wooten won the hearts, the humor and the decision of the jury by concluding, "It covers a great deal of territory but don't touch nothing."

Wooten's unparalleled sense of humor, however, is not his only stock in trade because he has an exceedingly minute knowledge of criminal law and often whippers a word of advice in a brother lawyer's ear that enables said brethren to extract himself from a tight legal corner.

In addition to his ability to wring a laugh out of the most desolate situation and his knowledge of the criminal law Wooten has another strong point that has stood him in good stead on many occasions. That is his courage. Full many a dyspeptic judge has made the mistake of backing up and kicking at Wooten and found himself almost kicked off the bench.

A recent instance of this type drew legal blood from the tough hide of Northampton County's cantankerous Superior Court Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn. It went this way. Wooten was representing a patiently guilty client, a lady from Happersville, who was charged with taking a pop bottle and working over her "boy



J. Frank Wooten

friend" and another lady that she had caught in a rather exposed situation.

Burgwyn, who has a temper like an ill fed cobra, stopped Wooten before Wooten's address to the jury had hardly gotten to the first breathing point.

"Mister Wooten," the rude mannered juror said, "I want you to confine yourself to the facts in this speech to the jury."

Wooten was almost floored by the rudeness of the peanut country judge. He walked the length of the jury box about twice while he composed himself and let his temper percolate. Finally, and with a deliberateness of manner and tone that spoke eloquently of his sentiments, Wooten said, to the jury, "Gentlemen, you and you alone are the sole tryers of this case. Anything that I say, the solicitor says, and then pointing to Burgwyn he went on, "and anything that the judge says to you have no importance. You are the sole tryers of this and every other case."

When Wooten had finished his plea for his obviously guilty client, Burgwyn called Wooten to the bench and said, "I understand that you got a reversal from the Supreme Court on a sentence that Judge Henry Stevens gave this woman."

Wooten turned so that everyone, including the judge would get the benefit of his answer and replied, "Yes. That's right, and I'll get one on you too."

Burgwyn realized that he had been far too arbitrary in his charge to the jury as well as in his rudeness to Wooten and before court had adjourned he had reduced the woman's sentence to the very minimum to avoid Wooten's getting another Superior Court judge reversed.

Wooten's courage did not come to him by mistake since his father, Colonel John F. Wooten, had a superlative record in the War Between the States and after the war he returned to his native county and became a leading light in the bar association.

The North Carolina Supreme Court issued a contempt citation against Colonel Wooten and a number of other members of the state bar who had placed an advertisement in the Raleigh Daily Sentinel on April 19, 1889 criticizing the court for playing partisan politics.

"J. Frank's" attitude toward judges and courts is not unlike that of his father, who felt that even the highest authority was not above criticism when it happened to be wrong.

Superior Court Judge Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids, perhaps the most scholarly man on the Superior Court bench, and as nearly an opposite as possible from Wooten insofar as court

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Management School Is Well Attended

Jones County Farm Agent Wayland J. Reams said Tuesday that a surprisingly good turnout was on hand Monday for the morning and afternoon sessions on farm management that were conducted by W. L. Turner and M. S. Williams, farm management specialists from State College.

Reams said that principal emphasis of the meeting was placed on the overall farm outlook for the coming year and the need for more attention on the part of the individual farmer to the changing population pattern in the United States.

The general wave of prosperity and the changes in the eating habits of the nation also were discussed at length and their relation to the farm program in Jones County were brought out clearly, Reams stated.

Reams says that great advancements in the science of farming have taken place in Jones County in the past generation but lagging far behind the ability to produce more crops on less land has been the fundamental application of sound farm management principles.

Few farmers, Reams admits, know where their income comes from or how that income was spent. One of the purposes of this school Monday, and a standing desire of the entire extension service, is to impress on each farmer the importance and profit of applied farm management practices.

Chain Chicks Here

Assistant Farm Agent Henry Swiggett announced this week that the 4-H poultry chain chicks have arrived and have been distributed to the 10 club members who had been previously chosen to carry on this chain during 1952. The chicks arrived in good condition and Swiggett reports that they are doing extremely well.

Not Until Spring

Soil Conservationist Mack Griffin said this week that work on the cleaning out of Trent River with funds supplied by the Army and Jones County landowners would probably not be started until the rough winter weather was over and spring arrived to make work on and in the river less arduous.

Marriage License

Jones County Register of Deeds George Noble reports the issue of two marriage license in the past week by his office. Carl Jones, 16, of Cypress Creek Township and Virginia Albert, 16, of Kinston and F. H. Pierce, 16, of Seven Springs and Willa Dean Browder, 18, also of Seven Springs, were the two couples.

One Arrest

Jones County Sheriff Jeter Taylor reports the arrest of Charles Franklin Bryant of Trenton Route one by Highway Patrolman L. S. Melggs over the past weekend on a charge of drunken driving. Bryant is held under \$200 bond until the next term of Jones County Superior Court, following a hearing before Magistrate J. K. Dixon.

Cpl. Langston With Army's 7th Division

WITH THE 7TH INFANTRY DIV. IN KOREA—Cpl. John W. Langston, whose wife, Mary Frances, lives on Route 1, Dover, recently was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for excellent performance of duty in combat with the 7th Infantry Division.

Langston, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Langston of Dover, is a



MOVING DAY . . . West Berlin nursery home moves from one district to another—babies and all, without removal from beds.

Artificial Breeding Gives Jones Dairymen Chance Greatly Improve Herds

By W. J. REAMS

Artificial breeding service is now available to farmers in 79 of the state's 100 counties. This service is provided by 63 local associations and during 1952 they will artificially breed 43,500 cows in North Carolina. This represents an increase of almost 10,000 cows over the number bred during 1951 and brings the total to date since January 1, 1948 to 117,474.

The Eastern Artificial Breeders Association, organized to serve the dairymen and family cow owners of Jones, Craven, Carteret and Pamlico Counties is located in New Bern. Farmers in these counties wishing to use this service are instructed to call Maola Milk and Ice Cream Company Telephone 4184 in New Bern before 10 a. m. daily including Sunday. Tom Baylis is the artificial inseminator.

Most North Carolina dairymen have been quick to realize that through a program utilizing nothing but high index, desirably proved sires they can make rapid and certain progress but a few still do not understand the advantages of using a proved bull. A proved bull is one that has at least five unselected daughters that have each completed at least one lactation.

The records of these daughters are then compared with the graduate of Dover High School and was formerly employed with Wells-Oats Lumber Co. of Cove City.

records of their dams to determine what level of production the bull is transmitting to his proved that they can consistent offsprings. Only those that have sire high producing daughters are purchased by the Southeastern Artificial Breeding Association in Asheville for use in this state.

The quality of bulls available to farmers in this state is well above the average for the nation. The average butterfat production of the daughters of all the bulls used in artificial breeding in the entire United States last year was 432 pounds.

Service is available in North Carolina to Guernsey bulls that have sired daughters that averaged 484 pounds of butterfat or 52 pounds higher than the national average. The daughters of the Holstein bulls available in that state averaged 540 pounds of butterfat or 108 pounds above the national average. Jersey men will be interested to know that the Jersey bulls had daughters that averaged 504 pounds of butterfat or 72 pounds higher than the national average. To bring these comparisons closer home the average butterfat production Herd Improvement Associations of cows in North Carolina Dairy is 342 pounds.

Farmers realize that with proper feed and management these animals will be profitable ones. They are raising these heifers to replace less profitable ones now in the herd.



POET'S FATE . . . Darling of the Greenwich village Bohemians in the 30's, Maxwell Bodenheim, poet-novelist, sits in center of his living room after release on bail following arrest as common vagrant.