

Griffin Bound Over on Manslaughter Charge

Jones County Recorder's Court Judge Nick Noble last Friday found probable cause of guilt against James Coy Griffin, 56, route 1 Trenton, who had been charged with reckless driving and manslaughter following a March 30th accident that resulted in Jones County's first traffic death of 1964.

According to investigating officers Griffin was operating a pickup truck that went out of control, resulting in the death of 57-year-old Leonard Hunter of route 2 Trenton who was a passenger in the truck. The accident occurred approximately two-and-one-half miles east of highway 58 on a rural paved road that runs southwardly from Doc Killingsworth's store.

Hunter was killed instantly in the accident.

Other Recorder's Court

In other Recorder's Court action Friday Judge Noble found Carl Todd of Maysville not guilty of hit and run, leaving the scene of an accident, driving drunk, drunk and disorderly, and malicious damage to private property.

James Gaskin Rodman of route 1 Trenton was fined 25 dollars and costs for driving without a license.

James Augustus Bruton of route 1 Trenton was assessed court costs for violating a drivers license restriction.

Hugh Thomas Morris of Fort Jackson, South Carolina, paid the court costs for driving on the wrong side of the road.

Gladys Murrell of Pollocksville paid court costs for failing to see that intended movement could be made safely.

Lester Jones of route 2 Snow Hill was fined 10 dollars and costs for speeding.

Jesse Gray of Trenton was ordered to pay court costs for being drunk.

Floyd Roberts of Pollocksville was fined 25 dollars and costs for driving without a license.

George Albert Small, of route 1 Pollocksville was ordered to pay court costs for failing to dim his headlights.

William Edward Johnson, route 1 Trenton, was fined 10 dollars and costs for reckless driving.

Gaston Smith of route 1 Kenansville was assessed court costs for

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New Federal Building Approved for Trenton

Congressman David N. Henderson today announced that the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House Public Works Committee approved construction of a new Federal Building in Trenton.

Approval by the full committee normally follows subcommittee approval as a matter of routine.

The proposed building will house the Trenton Post Office and also provide office, space for District Judge John D. Larkins, Jr.

Henderson said that the authorization approved by the subcommittee provided \$46 thousand for fiscal 1965 for site acquisition and planning and that the complete cost of the structure was estimated to be \$180 thousand.

The Congressman estimated that the actual work of construction would probably get underway during 1965.

Henderson is a member of the subcommittee and of the Public Works Committee.

Maysville Man's Death Friday Ruled Accident

The death early last Friday of Jasper A. "Jap" Cannon of Maysville has been ruled accidental by Jones County Coroner George Davenport.

Cannon, manager of the US 70 ABC Store was cleaning a shotgun at his home when the gun fell and he grabbed for it and was struck by the load of buck shot with which it was loaded.

There were reportedly several members of his family in the room with him when the accident happened.

First Transplanting?

Mac Banks of the Comfort section of Jones County transplanted about one acre of tobacco last Thursday despite the week's record breaking cold weather. Bank's plants got ready and they had to be moved whether he or the weather were ready or not.

STILL DESTROYED

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates discovered and destroyed a liquor still Saturday afternoon in the Cypress Creek community. Thirty barrels of mash that was working was destroyed by the sheriff.

Supreme Court Reverses Decision Against Two Lenoir Murderers

The United States Supreme Court Monday reversed the death penalty decision of Jesse James Arnold and George Dixon, Lenoir County negroes convicted of the September 10, 1961, shotgun slaying of 68-year-old George McArthur.

The Supreme Court listed as a reason for making the decision, "systematic exclusion of negroes from Lenoir County grand juries."

Arnold and Dixon have been on death row in Raleigh since December 1961.

They were convicted of murdering McArthur at his fruit stand near the DuPont plant during a robbery attempt. McArthur was shot twice at close range with 12-gauge shotguns.

The Supreme Court's decision of course means that Arnold and

Dixon will now get a new trial in Lenoir County.

Jones Housewife OK In Alaska

Friends and relatives of Mrs. Billy J. Cook will be happy to learn that she, her family, and their home came through the Good Friday earthquake in Anchorage, Alaska, in good shape.

In a letter Mrs. Cooke said, "We are fine, and lost very little, I only hope our families get that message."

Mrs. Cook's husband is employed in Anchorage by the Philo Corporation as an electronics engineer for the U. S. Air Force.

The Cooks moved to Anchorage in 1960 when he retired from the Marine Corps.

Political Activity Sees Five File For Offices in County

Political activity in Jones County during the past week saw five men indicate their willingness to serve in a public office by paying their filing fees and announcing their candidacy.

Horace Haddock will seek a seat on the county board of commissioners.

Four men filed for seats on the county board of education. They are J. C. West, Jr., Jeff J. Conway, J. C. Wooten, and W. E. Phillips.

Jones Commissioners Accept Low Bid for County Revaluation

In regular session Monday the Jones County Board of Commissioners decided to hire Carroll Phelps Company of Greensboro to revalue all real estate in the county. This task is expected to start in the near future, and is to be completed by 1966.

The firms low bid was \$19,800.

In another action, the commissioners voted to continue the surplus food program for the aged and handicapped, at least through the summer.

Mayville to Install New Water System

Work got under way Tuesday of this week on a new water system for the town of Maysville. A new well is being dug, and a complete new water system will be installed. The contract calls for the work to be finished by December 1st this year.

Cost of the project is not to exceed \$214,000. The money will come from the sale of bonds, unauthorized by citizens of the town in January. The vote on the bond issue was 130 for, 27 against.

DRUNKS BOOKED

The Jones County sheriffs department over the past weekend booked Joe Bender of Pollocksville and William Strayhorn of route 2 Trenton, both on charges of being drunk.

MICROFILM RECORDS

Representatives of the Archives of History are in Trenton to inventory the county's records. When the inventory is completed all permanent records will be microfilmed.

Jones County, and a portion of Lenoir County, will become a battleground for some ten days starting Sunday, April 12th, when two thousand paratroopers from Fort Bragg will drop from the skies in the Oak Grove section of Jones County. The jump is scheduled to take place between 6 and 8 a.m.

These 2,000 paratroopers' mission is to eliminate a few hundred "guerillas" who will be operating in two counties, mainly around Trenton.

According to propaganda materials being distributed in the schools and on the streets the guerilla forces are "to be regarded as friends of the citizens of Jones County." These men will not be in full military uniform, but will be easily recognized. The 'enemy' will be in full paratrooper uniform including steel helmets.

All participants in the exercise, dubbed "Quick Kick" are from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg.

All farmers and other property owners in the vicinity of the exercise have been notified that no heavy equipment and no live ammunition will be used. The Army has stated that no property will be damaged, or if it is accidentally, the government will pay for it.

Maysville Expands Corporate Limits

The town of Maysville is now officially bigger in area.

At a meeting of the town board of aldermen Tuesday night the board voted to annex an area encompassing 7.2 acres. The property annexed runs from the south side of Sixth Street to the western limits of the town.

Former Trenton Mayor, Alderman W. H. Hammond Dies

Funeral services will be held tomorrow (April 10th) at 3 p. m. in Trenton Methodist Church for William Henry Hammond, Jr., 60, who died Wednesday in a Kinston Hospital. The body will be placed in the church one hour before services.

Hammond was a former mayor of Trenton, and had served as alderman for many years. At the time of his death he was an automobile dealer in Trenton.

Hammond was a native of Trenton and moved back there from Mt. Holly in 1948. He practiced law in Mt. Holly from 1928-1948, serving as mayor, recorder's court

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Equitable Taxation Officialdoms Most Difficult Problem

By Jack Rider

Every group of officials charged with the responsibility to levy taxes is always confronted with the next-to-impossible task of levying a tax that hits every tax payer's pocketbook in the same fashion.

Perhaps the most difficult tax to levy equitably is the "ad valorem" tax on real estate. In Latin "ad valorem" means "at value," but different people on different days and especially in different years — have widely differing views of the "value" of a given parcel of land and the buildings upon it.

An effort has been made in recent years to go about the business of evaluating property for taxes in a scientific manner. This method is much better than the old-hit-or-miss opinions of a supposed "unbiased panel" of local folks, who generally lack the training and time to do a thorough job.

But even with the scientific approach the shifting sands of a county's economy and other commercial factors undo the work of the evaluator frequently before the ink has dried on his evaluation.

Lenoir County this year, and Jones County next year will have their real and personal property re-evaluated in this scientific manner.

Jones Job Easy

In Jones County the problem is fairly simple because there is no large concentration of industry and the overwhelming majority of the real estate valuation of the county is represented by farm land.

The total real estate valuation in Jones County is \$7,375,044 and of that total \$5,936,748 is represented by farm property.

This means that 80 per cent of the value placed upon Jones County real estate is in farm land.

Lenoir Is Different

But in Lenoir County, where there is a greater balance between farm and non-farm property the picture is far different and the problem gets much more complicated.

The total real estate valuation for 1961 in Lenoir County was \$58,647,290, but farm land value for that same year in Lenoir County was only \$20,845,955, which is only slightly more than 35 per cent of the total.

In Lenoir County for '61 town residential lots were valued higher than all the farm land in the county at \$23,695,974 and residential lots outside of corporate communities added another \$2,500,094 to the total.

And there comes the rub, because although housing costs have multiplied since pre-World War II days they have not gone up in the

same ratio as farm property.

Residential property in Lenoir County is valued at about one-third its present market value. Farm land is presently valued at about one-tenth of its market value.

On the basis of current sale prices of farm land which are very largely detremined by the size of tobacco allocation on a farm one-third of the market value of Lenoir County's farms would be nearer to thirty million dollars than the present figure of just over twenty million dollars.

Farm owners argue quite logically that farms are "too high" but buyers of residential property can offer the same excuse.

But in essence the problem is just that simple: A farm that sells for \$50,000 is on the tax books for \$5,000, while a home that sells for \$50,000 is on the taxbooks for \$15,000.

The board of county commissioners will face the ticklish task of narrowing the gap between these valuations or it will face an angry crowd of residential property owners.

And, quite obviously if it raises farm values the meeting room will be filled with hot farm owners.

As one city property owner recently told the county commissioners: "I don't care whether you raise the value of farm property or lower the value of residential property, just as long as you feed all property owners out of the same spoon."

At present this is not the case.

This should be one of the paramount considerations when the voter goes to the polls on May 30th to select the slate of men who are most likely to be those who determine what, if anything is to be done to bridge this gap.