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THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 38 TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1968 VOLUME XIX

Only One Case Brought to Trial But Several Ended in Civil Court Term

The January civil term of Jones County Superior Court with Judge William J. Bundy presiding terminated last week by actually trying in Court one of the nine scheduled cases at a cost to the County of \$800.

you have tried only one case, your presence here in court has been invaluable in precipitating out-of-court settlements, and your time has certainly not been wasted."

Suits and counter-suits totaling \$281,450 in damages asked were to be tried before Judge Bundy but the only case to make it to the bench was an \$1800 suit and counter-suit issue stemming from a 1965 automobile accident near Hargett's Crossroads involving Pearl Davis Smith and Sidney and Hugh Sandlin.

According to Trenton attorney Darris W. Koonce, who represented the Basdens, an \$8500 overall settlement was reached in these two cases: James Nelson Basden, administrator, and Rose Marie Basden, minor, versus Judy Florence Dudley and others.

The jury returned a verdict of mutual negligence and carelessness on the parts of both parties concerned in the case and consequently did not award accident damages claims to either side.

In four separate suits against Prentice W. and Danny K. Turner, all of which arose out of a single traffic accident, Helen Marie Burney, Vivian Koonce, Fannie G. Burlington and Clay Koonce asked for a total of \$26,000 in damages, but according to Darris Koonce, attorney for the plaintiffs, decided to settle for \$3000.

All other pending civil cases were settled out of Court by the lawyers of the respective clients. As Court adjourned Wednesday afternoon, Judge Bundy told the departing jurors, "Even though

Another Trenton attorney, Donald P. Brock, said that two insurance company suits Mary Jordan versus Southern Life Insurance Company, and Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company versus Charles Henry Strayhorn and others have been nonsuited by consent orders with the amount to be settled out of Court. Brock said that he expects the settlement to be much less than the more than \$100,000 total being asked.

Homicide Ruled

Following a lengthy coroner's inquest held in Trenton Wednesday night the triple slaying of Mrs. Charlotte Start and her two children was ruled "homicide by a party or parties unknown". The family of Camp Lejeune Major Raymond Start was found in the family car about three miles north of Maysville last fall about 24 hours after each had been shot in the head with a .38 caliber pistol found in Mrs. Start's hand. But testimony taken in the hearing ruled it most unlikely that she had fired the shots.

The Pennie Lessy Kellum and others versus Hardy Collins and wife case was continued, and on the motion docket, County Attorney James R. Hood was released as attorney of record for Gerald L. Turner in the Gerald L. Turner against Glenda P. Turner suit.

Five out of six divorces were granted on the divorce docket. Ernestine Smith's divorce against her husband, Earl Smith Jr. was continued.

Divorces granted were: Harris Alton Adams from Maude Elizabeth P. Adams, Walter A. Thomas from Thelma Grady Thomas, Lillian Wilson Register from Charles Jenkins Register, James Edward Sheppard from Robin Taylor Sheppard and Floyd Lee Gooding from Patricia Adelle Harper Gooding.

Submissions Account for Majority of Cases Cleared in Recorder's Court

The Friday, January 12, session of Jones County Recorder's Court in Trenton with Judge Joe Becton presiding saw only two cases come before the Court for judgement. Those two decisions consisted of one case being nol prossed and the other dismissed when the plaintiff withdrew charges and paid Court cost.

Willie Floyd Hill of Route 2 Dover charged with driving without an operator's license, had his case nol prossed, and Eddie Earl Roberts of Route 2 Trenton charged with assault on a female, had the warrant against him withdrawn and the charges paid by the plaintiff.

All other Recorder's Court action consisted of defendants waiving appearance and paying fines and court costs for a variety of minor traffic violations.

In the speeding violation category, three offenders forfeited \$26 apiece for speeding 70 mph in a 60 mph zone and two speedsters paid \$26 apiece for doing 65 mph in a 55 mph zone. The speedier offenders were James Robert Avery of 1901 West Vernon Avenue in Kinston, Carol Oscar Jennings of Camp Lejeune and Bertha Herring, of Pollocksville. The other two speeding offenders were Willie Lathan Jones of Route 1 Pollocksville, and Leroy Burney of Newark, N. J.

Three defendants admitted their guilt to failing to display inspection certificates by forking over \$13 apiece. They were Lieutenant John Mumford of Camp Lejeune, Horace Claude Becton Jr., of Route 6 Kinston, and Paul Whitaker Morgan, of Route 1 Trenton.

Julius Williams of Beulaville

and Paul Johnson paid total of \$91.15 restitution for worthless checks that they had passed.

Malvin Gene Waters of Route 1, Pollocksville and William Randolph Mayfield of Fort Bragg, paid \$13 apiece for failing to yield right of way.

Elizah Roberts of Route 3, Kinston for disobeying a stop sign; Jimmie McDaniel of Pollocksville paid \$13 for failing to see movement could be made in safety; and Robert Ward of Route 2 Trenton paid \$16 for driving with an expired license.

Monday Fire

The Maysville Volunteer Fire Department extinguished a blaze in the Long Point Community about five miles east of Maysville Monday night between 9:30 and 10:00. The fireman, led by Chief Merle Jones, put out the fire at the Kenneth Dillahunt residence before damages had been sustained.

ATTEND MEETING

Attending an annual procedure and refresher training meeting for North Carolina Federal Corp Insurance personnel in Charlotte, last week were Mary B. Barnes, Office Representative and D. E. Taylor, Fieldman for Jones County.

Maysville Area Group Organizes for Rescue Squad to Serve General Area

Approximately 15 Maysville area citizens met Monday night at Clark's Funeral Home in Maysville for the purpose of planning and organizing an emergency rescue squad for the town and surrounding area.

Edward Parker of the Jones County Health Department met with the citizens group and explained that the ambulance service for the community formerly provided by Clark's Funeral Home had been terminated because of inability to meet strict training and equipment requirements recently imposed by the State Board of Health.

Mayor Nolan Jones told the group that he has written to the State Board of Health for a 90-day extension of ambulance services until the Maysville Rescue and Emergency Squad can be organized and initiated.

After a lengthy discussion, the concerned citizens voted to ap-

ply for an organization charter and elected the following officers; Mayor Nolan Jones, President, Walter Goodman, Vice-President, and Jason Cumbo, Secretary and Treasurer.

Morehead Awards Finalists Named for 13-County Area

Six nominees from District II have been selected as finalists in competition for 1968 Morehead Awards to study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Finalists are Joseph Henry Stallings, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Stallings Sr. of 1706 River Drive, New Bern; Nigle Bruce Barrow Jr., son of the Rev. and Mrs. N. B. Barrow Sr. of Route

2, Snow Hill; McKinley Wade Thigpen, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Thigpen of 112 South Adkin St., Kinston; James David Cone, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Cone of 404 Houston Rd., Jacksonville; Paul Allen Powell, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Rowell of MOQ 3082, Camp Lejeune; and Randall Neal Pittman, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Pittman of Route 1, Stantonsburg.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY FACING MAJOR CHANGES FROM PLANT BED TO SMOKER'S LIP

by Jack Rider

This is a busy winter of meetings on the specific subject of The Great Mess the tobacco buying companies made of the 1967 selling season.

Farmers, warehousemen, state and federal officials and an occasional tycoon from the tobacco monopoly are gathering with frightening regularity all over Tobaccoland, USA, to sift the bitter ashes of this past confused selling season.

When all of this ash-sifting has ended, whether it is officially publicized or not it will be found that the tobacco-buying monopoly simply could not resist the temptation to pick itself up a few million dollars extra profit, nor miss an opportunity to nail one more coffin tack in the auction system.

Now nobody can logically criticize the tobacco-buying monopoly for wanting to make a fast million bucks or two, but there is some question about the open-ended invitation extended to this monopoly by the taxpayers which permits, and even encourages this kind of profiteering.

Consider: This year, with a few more pounds to be sold from this past year's flue-cured crop in the Old Belt, 282,077,480 pounds of very high quality tobacco has gone under government loan in the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation.

Even on the basis of a \$60 per hundred average price for this pooled tobacco this means the tobacco-buying monopoly has over \$167 million it can invest in securities, or expansion. At a reasonable five per cent return this will bring the tobacco-buying monopoly \$8,350,000 interest in just one year on money they did not have to invest.

Also they do not have to pay the ad valorem tax on this tobacco while it is under storage with the co-op. Also they save the labor investment required to process 282 million pounds of tobacco. Also they save the difference between union labor costs of processing and the much lower labor cost of processing this tobacco in co-op plants, or in plants that process co-op holdings. They can let it remain in the co-op pool until they need it for manufacture and continued to save storage and ad valorem tax levies, and still pay the co-op a thin profit for the tobacco and come out smelling like several million dollars worth of roses. This is a game of exceedingly big numbers.

Now everybody recognizes that the people running the tobacco-monopoly are not the world's smartest people, but they all have one thing in common: They count right good.

At the end of this selling sea-

son there will be over 800 million pounds of tobacco under government loan, representing a massive minimum cost at the warehouse door of \$480 million which the tobacco-buying monopoly did not have to make from its own reserves.

When the tax savings, labor-cost savings, storage savings are used to invest the money earned in today's money market on this kind of loot the figure becomes truly staggering.

And who else is going to buy the tobacco than this same tobacco-buying monopoly?

What industry couldn't proliferate, or diversify if the taxpayers would maintain an on-instant-tap inventory of its raw materials?

But this is a razor's edge the tobacco monopoly has to walk; realizing that on some foggy day in Washington some bureaucrat may suddenly decide that it is time to end the illusion of free enterprise insofar as tobacco is concerned and convert it the rest of the way into a government monopoly. In most nations of the world today tobacco is already a state monopoly, and the gap between total state monopoly and what we now have in these United States is narrow, and getting more narrow with each passing year.

So the tobacco monopoly may see its greed result in a modern replay of the old melodrama

about the man who killed the goose that layed the golden eggs.

But the swag is so huge, and the temptation is so glaring that none but the purest in heart could ever expect the pirates of the nicotine trade to turn away from such opportunity. And none has, and none will.

There are noises occasionally about the threat of the United States Public Health Service to the future of the tobacco industry. Despite mountains of absurdity from this organization the consumption of cigarets still climbs with each passing year.

Also the men on the inside of the tobacco industry know very well that ultimately science will find both the cause and the cure for cancer, and even this transient threat to their trade will end. There was a time, and recently when a considerable segment of the medical profession blamed cigarets for tuberculosis, until it was noted, as with lung cancer, that everyone using cigarets is not infected, and many who never touched a cigaret suffer the disease. The latest scientific view is that smoking is beneficial for those with some stages of tuberculosis because of the additional exercise and aeration of lung areas provided by smoking.

Now to the auction system: The auction system has existed in name only since prior to World War Two. It really began

to die when government grading and government price supports were established. Now it is dead, and only the burial remains to be performed.

The bright young men who operate the slide rules in the back rooms of the tobacco monopoly argue, with considerable logic that the present so-called auction system is economically unfeasible.

In 1966 warehouse auction fees amounted to slightly more than \$22 million. This is money that could go either into the tobacco farmers' pockets or remain in the bank accounts of the tobacco monopoly.

Farmers have an understandable reluctance to put themselves totally in the hands of this greedy monopoly, and prefer to pay this goodly annual premium of more than \$20 million in order to cling to the illusion that some how, some way, somebody is protecting them from this huge apparatus which profits so richly from their labor and investment.

This "credibility gap" that exists between the long commercially raped farmer and his perpetual rapist will be bridged in tobacco as it has been bridged in the vegetable world.

Long ago the processors of vegetables learned that they could only stabilize their raw material source by providing
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