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# TWO LENOIR COUNTIANS, DUPLIN COUNTIAN CHARGED IN GOLDSBORO ROBBERY-MURDER

## THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

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### Two 4-H'ers From Area Attending National 4-H Conference



These outstanding 4-H members have been selected to attend the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D. C., April 21-26. Dr. T. C. Blalock, state 4-H Club leader, (left) congratulates the winners: (left to right) Tex

Barrow, Rt. 2, Snow Hill; Janice Hancock, Rt. 1, Seagrove; Martha Reeves, Rt. 1, Clyde; and Lee Hood Capps, Kinston. The winners were selected Friday (Feb. 23) in a day-long series of interviews by a panel of judges at North Carolina State University.

### It Doesn't Just Seem Colder This Winter, It Is, and How!

For all those laboring over fuel bills and doctoring sniffles, or worse: It doesn't seem colder this winter. It really is, and the records of Kinston Weather Observer Douglas Rouse prove it, and the winter still has one of its most blustery months left to run.

The first freeze in the winter of 1966-67 didn't arrive until October 31st, but freezing weather got to the Kinston area 11 days earlier this year, with the mercury dropping below 32 degrees on the night of October 20th.

Last winter, from that first freeze on October 31st to the

last freeze on March 23rd—a total of 144 days there were just 68 nights in which the temperature dropped below freezing.

But this winter . . . brrrr! Since the first freeze on October 20th, with 123 days logged since that first freeze Kinston has seen 83 nights with below-freezing readings on the official thermometer.

In the winter of '66-67 between that first freeze and the last there were freezes on 48.2 per cent of the nights. This winter—left from that first freeze on October 20th until Monday of this week 64.8 per cent of the

nights have recording freezing or colder temperatures.

Last year's coldest blow of the year came on February 28th. This year the low—up until now, was a chilly nine degrees on the night of February 11th.

Roger W. Johnson of Deep Run route 2, Charles Whitley of 1511½ Old Snow Hill Road in Kinston and Virgil L. Lanier of Beulaville route 2 have been charged with robbery and murder in connection with the Monday night robbery of a Goldsboro motel and murder of a Goldsboro policeman.

Shortly after 1 a.m. Tuesday the trio is charged with sticking up and assaulting Grant A. Black, night manager of the Holiday Inn in Goldsboro, of \$310.

Black notified police shortly after they left the motel, and Goldsboro Policemen Walter J. Rouse and David E. Dale stopped a car answering the description of the one driven by the bandits.

As the officers approached the car Dale was shot in the stomach and back and Rouse was killed with a single blast in the chest. Dale emptied his pistol at the bandits' car, which was found about three miles north of Richlands later Tuesday morning by a school bus driver. It belong to Lanier and it had three bullet holes in one of the doors.

Shortly after seven Tuesday night Whitley came to the police station in Kinston and asked for Sgt. J. W. Pate, with whom he had had some connection previously. When Pate learned that Whitley wanted to make a statement about the Goldsboro crimes he called Police Chief Fred Bates.

Whitley was informed of his constitutional right to have a lawyer present and that anything he said might be used against him in court. But he still said he wanted to make a statement.

All three of these indicted were employees of the Du Pont plant and they decided to go rob the Holiday Inn after getting off work at midnight Monday.

Whitley said all the shooting was done by Johnson.

Chief Bates called Sheriff Fred Boyd and informed him of charges against Johnson, who

was very well known to both Bates and Boyd, having served some over three years on the police department with both Bates and Boyd.

Boyd and Deputy Raymond Eubanks, who also worked with Johnson as a police officer, went to the Du Pont plant and arrested Johnson.

Lanier has fled the area and reportedly called a girl friend late Tuesday from South Carolina. Fugitive warrants have been issued for his arrest on charge of flight to avoid prosecution for murder and armed robbery.

Lanier was arrested Thursday morning in Fayetteville by State Bureau of Investigation Agent Warren Campbell, who was a member of the Goldsboro Police Department before he joined the SBI. No details of the arrest and no time has been set for Lanier's arraignment. He is charged with murder and armed robbery, as are Johnson and Whitley.

Early Wednesday morning, Johnson, also after being fully informed of his constitutional rights, confessed, corroborating Whitley's statement: That he had done all of the shooting that caused the death of one policeman and critical injury of another.

The shotgun used in the murder-robbery was found near the Jones-Lenoir countyline just off Highway 258 on the basis of the confessions of Johnson and Whitley. A rifle carried by one of the men in the robbery was also recovered from Johnson's trailer home near Deep Run.

Black's pocketbook was also found in the same general area. Johnson has also served two terms as a township constable since he began work at the Du Pont plant.

The only previous police record of the three in Kinston involves one speeding charge against Lanier, three motor vehicle violations against Johnson and four traffic violations against Whitley, who has suffered nervous breakdowns and has been under psychiatric care several times.

Johnson and Whitley were to be given a preliminary hearing Wednesday afternoon before a Wayne County justice of peace.

Johnson's immediate family includes two sons, aged nine and ten. Whitley has one child and Lanier who is the father of three children was separated from his wife.

Officer Rouse had one six year-old son. Officer Dale has no children. Dale is listed as critically injured, but he is expected to recover, barring unusual complications from the two shotgun blasts he suffered.

### Nine Traffic Cases and Two Others Cleared, Plus Hearing in Rodesky Indictments in Recorder's Court

In the past week in addition to finding probable cause of guilt in the charges and murder against Richard Rodesky the Jones County Recorder's Court docket was cleared of 11 other cases.

One non-traffic cases resulted in a 90-day jail term being given to Melvin Sharp of Maysville, who was found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon and malicious damage to private property.

The only other non-traffic charge was withdrawn by the plaintiff, who paid the costs in a charge of false pretense against Hubert Mattocks of Maysville.

Paying off for speeding were Samuel Goldman of Woodmere, N. Y., James Clifton Lombard of Swansboro, Elmer Benson Collins of New Bern, John D. Grady of Schenectady, N. Y., Gerald R. Townley of Athens, N. Y., Herman Getty Jr. of Clifton Heights, Pa. and Roland Turner of Camp Lejuene.

Annie Nelson Conville of Sylacauga, Alabama and Donna

Swinford Keys of Jacksonville each paid the court costs for not complying with auto inspection laws.

### Accidental Shooting

Rose Marie McDowell, 10, died almost instantly at about 7:45 Saturday night when she was accidentally struck in the neck from the close-range blast of a .410 gauge shotgun that her eleven year-old brother Joey was playing with in their home near Kelly's Millpond east of Kinston. The mother of the children, Mrs. Dorothy Radford McDowell was working at a nearby oyster bar when the accident took place.

### Pvt Williams Commended

Private First Class Jobie L. Williams, a 1966 graduate of Jones High School, was awarded a letter of commendation, Feb. 1, while serving with the 4th Armored Division near Bamberg, Germany.

### Child Saves Family

Last Wednesday night the William Carroll family was saved from a most likely death when their three-year-old deaf mute daughter aroused her mother and father in their trailer home five miles east of Kinston on US 70 and alerted them to the fact that their home was on fire. The three managed to escape with minor injuries in the sub-freezing temperatures, but their new trailer was totally destroyed with an estimated loss of \$6300 for the trailer and \$3000 for its furnishings and the family's clothing.

### Solicitor Hamilton Says He Will Try Rodesky and Rochelle for Their Lives

Monday Fifth District Solicitor Luther Hamilton Jr. of Morehead City said he would put the confessed murders of a Jones County Whisky store manager on trial for their lives at a special term of court he has requested for Jones County in May.

Last Friday the first of the two defendants Richard Rodesky was given a preliminary hearing in Jones County Recorder's Court in which probable cause of his guilt was found in the February 6th robbery and murder of Albert J. Jones Jr. of Maysville.

The second defendant Martin David Rochelle is still fighting extradition from Virginia to North Carolina, but this is felt to be a formality without much substance and an early ruling is expected in the matter by the Governor of Virginia. Each of the defendants has

confessed to arresting officers that he took part in the brutal slaying-robbery, but each has accused the other of doing the actual stabbing and slashing that left Jones dying from 22 wounds in the whisky store located between Maysville and Pollocksville on the afternoon of February 6th.

The defendants were absent without leave from Camp Lejuene at the time they admit committing the robbery-murder.

Rodesky is from Montgomery, Alabama and Rochelle is from Norfolk, Virginia.

### Two Jones Arrests

During the past week two persons were booked at the county jail in Trenton. Melvin Sharp of Maysville was accused of simple assault and Norman Robinson of Trenton was booked on a non-support charge.