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Trials Continuing of Hail Fraud Cases in Federal Court; Larkins Orders Transfer of All to His Court

This week trials before Judge John Larkins in federal district court are continuing of numerous defendants indicted in connection with a two-year investigation of hail fraud charges largely centered in Lenoir County.

Last week two defendants on trial pleaded guilty to several instances of mail fraud, and a third witness called also entered a guilty plea after first committing perjury on the witness stand.

John Elmore and Earl Eubanks were the pair on trial and G. W. Gardner of Elm City was the insurance adjuster who got himself involved in testimony and later returned to the stand and recanted.

This week additional pleas of guilty have been tendered by Floyd Gray Jr., Clifton Gray, J. W. Poole, Lyman Edwards, Willie S. Hudson, Willie J. Smith, J. W. Roberts, Howard Rouse and Floyd B. Jones and W. C. Stafford, who pleaded not guilty

has been found guilty. Judge Larkins will begin passing sentence on the 13 when court is convened Thursday morning.

Also earlier in the week Larkins issued an order permitting the transfer of numerous additional fraud charges pending against this group and others for the state courts to the federal courts.

A motion has been made of this nature earlier by counsel for Elmore and had been under study for several months by Larkins.

The allegation supporting the motion to transfer was based on the allegation that great amounts of publicity would make it impossible for the defendants to get a fair trial in a state court.

Larkins, who has not been exposed to any of this kind of publicity, agreed with this allegation thus permitting the trials to be held before a judge and a jury, both of whom had no previous knowledge of the cases. Nuts!

Extradition Hearing Held Monday, Final Decision Not Given

It is expected that the answer will not be given until late this week, or possibly early next week whether Virginia Governor Miles Godwin will grant extradition of David Martin Rochelle to North Carolina.

Rochelle, along with Richard Rodesky of Montgomery, Alabama, is charged with the February 7, 1968 murder and robbery of Jones County ABC Store Manager Albert J. Jones Jr.

Rodesky waived extradition when arrested in Alabama, but Rochelle, when apprehended in his home town of Norfolk, Va. refused to voluntarily return to face trial.

Rochelle, among other things to his part in the murder-robbery is claiming that his confession was illegally obtained. He has not denied that he took part in the crime.

MOORE IN VIETNAM

Private First Class William G. Moore, son of William H. Moore, Maysville, was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam March 28.

Two Youths Killed

Just after 1 Monday morning a one-car wreck near Seven Springs claimed the lives of two young men from the Seven Springs Community. They were 19 year-old Kenneth E. Hill, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Hill of Seven Springs route 1 and 20 year-old Jimmy Ray Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson of Seven Springs. Thompson was home on leave from the armed forces. Both were thrown from their car which was travelling at a high rate of speed and went out of control in a sharp curve.

reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Display Schedule for Economical Water System Listed for County

Every possible effort is being made by Jones County Extension officials to give residents in every part of the county an opportunity to see a new and most economical home water system that has been developed by State University specialists.

Following here is the schedule for the display of this system and every homeowner in the county is urged to find time to take a look at it.

April 17 - 9 - 4 Long Point.

April 18 - 9 - 2 Clyde Monette's Store, Pollockville.

April 18 - 2:30 - 4:30 Allen Brown's Store, Garnet Heights, Pollockville.

April 19 - 8:30 - 4:30 Health Department, Trenton.

April 22 - 8 - 3 Food Distribution Center, Trenton.

April 23 - 9 - 3 Eugene Hood's Store, Wyse Fork.

April 24 - 9 - 3 Comfort School.

April 25 - 9 - 3:30 Ed Mitchell's Store, Highway 41 (Tukahoe Area).

April 26 - 8:30 - 4:30 Health Department, Trenton.

April 29 - 9 - 4 Wayne Haskins' Store Highway 58

April 30 - 9 - 4 Victor Harper's Store Beaver Creek Area.

A. H. Cheston Is Ham Show Winner

A. H. Cheston of Route 2, Trenton received the Grand Champion Blue Ribbon and N. L. Simmons of Route 1, Pollockville, received the Reserve Champion ribbon at the Sixth Annual Jones County Ham Show and Sale held April 12 at the Agricultural Building in Trenton.

Seventy-five hams were entered in the show. Twenty-seven of the hams won blue ribbons, 20 of them red ribbons and 28 white ribbons.

The judges for the show were Dr. John A. Christian, Food Science Specialist for Raleigh, and E. W. Barnes, Agricultural Extension Agent for Jones County.

GOODING IN VIETNAM

Specialist Four Ernest L. Gooding, son of Mrs. Harriet E. Gooding, Route 2, Trenton, was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam, March 27.

Odom In Vietnam

Airman First Class Howard L. Odom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey L. Odom of Rt. 1, Maysville, is on duty at Phu Cat AB, Vietnam.

Amos Murrell Appeals Suspended Jail Term in Shooting of New Bern Man

Among the cases before Jones County Recorder's Court Judge Joe Becton last Friday was that in which Amos Murrell of Trenton route 1 was charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Murrell was found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon, but not with intent to kill in the shooting of Thurman Parker of New Bern.

The judgment of the court was that Murrell be given a six-month jail term suspended on condition he pay a \$50 fine and pay \$450 for the medical expenses of Parker.

Murrell, who claimed that he was acting in self defense and only shot Parker after he re-

peatedly tried to get Parker to leave his home, gave notice of appeal to superior court and was released under \$500 bond.

Willie Hill of Dover route 2 was found guilty of using indecent language and making indecent overtures to a woman and was given a six-month jail term suspended on payment of the court costs and condition he remain on probation two years.

Ethlyn Hicks Johnson of Jacksonville was fined \$26 for speeding, Ben Moses Smith Jr. of Trenton route 1 paid \$13 for a traffic violation as did James Alford Moore of Jacksonville and Warren Dale Hall of Rocky Mount paid \$16 for failing to

KINSTON OFFICIALS ACT TO ANNEX SEVEN SMALL AREAS; IGNORING BIGGEST NEED

by Jack Rider

Monday night the Kinston City Council took the second legal step in the ultimate annexation of seven small areas to the north and northwest of the city, but there has still not been made the first official step to even begin an analysis of the annexation of that area which should be given the most immediate attention; specifically the Rivermont complex which lies just across Neuse River to the south and east of Kinston.

The orderly development of every urban area is in great jeopardy when officials, for any reason try to ignore a large developed area on the doorsteps of a city.

Schools, recreation, fire protection, sewage disposal, storm drainage, flood control, street improvement, police protection and zoning all suffer when such neglect is tolerated too long.

The second largest "town" in Lenoir County is Rivermont, although it is not incorporated, and although the name Rivermont specifically covers just

that area west of US 258 and South of the Old Asphalt Plant Road the overall built-up area more properly should be said to include those areas south of Neuse River and extending eastwardly to at least the Blendspun Plant and extending southwardly to include Jackson Heights.

Admittedly, there is still a considerable "open acreage" in this area, but also admittedly very few years will have passed before the spread of commercial and residential construction will consume the majority of those open areas. If one looks at a 10-year-old aerial photograph of the area and compares it with a current photograph this expansion can be more fully appreciated.

Thousands of people have millions of dollars invested in homes and hundreds of people have more millions invested in commercial enterprises in this area, including the rapidly expanding campus of Lenoir County Community College.

The expansion of Kinston to

the north, east and west has been careful and without major problems, but this has been done in small tracts when and as city finances could stand the cost of expansion.

Now the city is on the eve of major extension of its water system and installation of a sewage disposal system. The Rivermont area is to a very large extent "included out" in all of these plans.

There is no way of knowing what the feeling of the majority of home and business owners in this area is on the subject of annexation to the city. Many automatically resist coming under an additional taxing jurisdiction. But the vast majority of this area has been paying the special Kinston School District Tax for over 20 years and not getting any benefit from this tax, since they have elected very largely to send their children to county schools because of free transportation, although they have been paying 21 cents on the \$100 valuation to make the schools

better to which they were not sending their children.

This, obviously, is a weird governmental mixup that could, and should be cleared up with an orderly annexation program that included steps aimed at correcting this absurdity.

As any sanitation engineer very well knows there is also a limit to the absorption potential of septic tank discharge in any soil types and especially the soil types that predominate in this area which very largely lies within the flood plain of Neuse River. This problem is a constant health threat, not only to the residents of this area, but of the entire Kinston area.

Before the entire area is converted to private purposes land should be set aside for public uses, such as schools, parks, playgrounds, fire stations and water and sewage installations. None of this is even being given rudimentary consideration now by either city or county officials. Although it is reasonable for residents of this, as well as other

white make-up and brown costuming in "The Lottery." Seniors Carol Edwards, Debbie Conklin, and Chuck Courtney have all received special recognition from contest judges on their individual performances in the play.

The other three one-acts to be presented will be "Impromptu," "Sparkin'," and "A Mad Breakfast."

Four Jones Arrests

In the past week Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports the arrest of four persons. Two teen-aged boys, Thomas Wright and David Green of Trenton route 1 were each charged with forcible trespass, William Murphy of Pollockville was charged with public drunkenness and Criss Kinsey of Trenton route 1 was accused of drunken driving.

areas to resist annexation, when the full financial picture is known they generally realize that the cost is not nearly so bad as it sounds at first thought.

One of the most immediate problems of this area is flood damage. And although this threat is not a frequent one it was learned the hard way just a few years ago that poor highway engineering and failure to consider the potential damage from this poor highway engineering cost residents of this area a lot of money when the flood waters did come; not to mention the health threat to the entire metropolitan Kinston area which the flood waters also brought.

The development of Kinston from a town into a city has been orderly and extremely well planned with a few notable exceptions, but Kinston cannot continue its flight to the east, west and north forever. It must ultimately give serious consideration to doing what so clearly lies so close at hand to the south. If ultimately, why not now?