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Schoolhouse Shoot-Out Seriously Hurts Youth, Results in Indictment of Another

Last Friday morning an incident at Jones High School just outside Trenton sent one boy to Lenoir Memorial Hospital in Kinston with three serious pistol wounds and another to the county jail on charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Seventeen year-old Alvin Grant of Dover route 2 is charged with shooting 18 year-old Thomas Brimage of Trenton route 2.

The shooting took place before school was convened for the day at about 8 a.m. just as busses were arriving for the day.

Grant shot Brimage three times in the upper body with a small caliber pistol. Grant is free under bond, pending trial

Jail for Speeders

District Judge Buck Wooten seemed to be getting a lot tougher with speeders last week. James Gulley of Camp Lejeune and Kenneth Ray Thompson of Richlands route 1 were each found guilty of speeding 110 miles an hour in a 60-mile zone and Wooten sentenced each to 90 flat days in prison. They both gave notice of appeal to superior court, perhaps hoping that Judge Joe Parker would be back to treat them as gently as he did Paroled Murderer Wesley Fordham, who was put on probation for armed robbery and aggravated assault.

of the charges in superior court. Brimage is reportedly recuperating satisfactorily.

The sheriff's office also reports booking two others in the past week. Herbert Elwood Howard of Pink Hill route 1 was charged with drunken driving and speeding 80 miles an hour and Chester Roberts of Pollocksville, who is out on bond, pending trial on a murder charge, was charged with drunken driving, driving without a license and resisting arrest.

Two Suits Filed in Superior Court During Past Week

Jones County Clerk of Court Rogers Pollock reports receiving two civil suits in his office during the past week.

Anna Elizabeth Quinn Metts filed suit for a divorce from Wilbur Ashley Metts, alleging their marriage on March 29, 1942 and their separation on May 25, 1966. The complaint says four minor children born to the marriage are in the custody of Mrs. Metts.

The other suit was one filed by Sinclair Refining Company of Illinois, which seeks to collect a bill allegedly owed that company by Ikie D. Hill of Jones County.

The suit alleges the debt to be \$169.43 and it asks recovery of that amount with interest from July 1, 1965.

Landowners Fined For Failing List Taxes Properly

Four of the nine cases cleared from the docket of Jones County District Court in the past week were charges of failure to list taxes.

Obediah Strayhorn of Trenton route 1, James Bryant and William C. Jones both of Pollocksville and Gilbert and Lela Meadows of Maysville were fined \$10 and the \$15 court costs for their oversight in this department.

Charles F. Mooney of New Bern, Leslie Spells of Hout, Indiana, and Donald Dale Smith of Jacksonville route 2 each paid \$20 for speeding.

Everett W. Wilson of Ayden and W. J. Findiesen of Maysville each paid \$15 for failure to comply with the vehicle inspection laws.

DRAFT BOARD SCHEDULE

Local Board No. 53, Jones County (more commonly known as the draft board) will be closed on Dec. 23rd and 24th, but open on the 26th and 27th for business as usual. Hours 8:30 to 5:30 daily Monday through Friday.

TWO CHECKS, FIVE MONTHS

J. C. Jarman of Kinston route 1 was found guilty last week in District court of passing two worthless checks for which he was given five months in jail. One of the checks for \$554.43 was given to a Kinston auto dealer as down payment on a new car.

Lengthy Bill of Particulars Filed Against Jones County Sheriff Yates

A group of eight Jones Countians and one Highway Patrolman stationed in Kinston have filed a lengthy bill of particulars

against Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates in Superior Court aimed at removing Yates from office.

Six Onslow Boys in Trouble for Thefts

Last week six Onslow County teenagers were charged with more than 50 acts of thievery and vandalism over a wide area.

Included in their handiwork were jobs they did in Lenoir County at Hardee Gas Company, Mills International, Kinston Plaza Dry Cleaning plant and Lenoir County Community College.

MH-30 Thief Gets Suspended Jail

James Grady Jr. of LaGrange was convicted in Lenoir County Superior Court last week of stealing a large quantity of MH-30 from the Smith-Douglas plant north of Kinston.

He was given a 2-year jail term suspended on condition he remain on probation three years, pay \$800 to the company and \$270 to his attorney.

SMITH ON USS ENTERPRISE

Boatswain's Mate Third Class Stacy L. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Smith of Route 1, Trenton, participated in operation "Beef Trust" aboard the nuclear-powered attack aircraft carrier USS Enterprise off the coast of Southern California.

LEVON CARR IN TEXAS

Airman Levon Carr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond W. Carr of Route 1, Trenton, has been graduated from an Air Force technical school at Sheppard AFB, Tex. The airman, who was trained as a medical services specialist, will remain at Sheppard for further training. He is a graduate of Jones High School.

This move which began just after the close of the annual Jones County Fair now has become the official responsibility of the courts of the county.

Legion officials, who conduct the annual fair, made the first complaint. They are Harvey Boyette, Logan Green, Clifton Heath, Manley Gray Jr., and Wayne Stillely. They alleged that Yates was repeatedly too drunk at the fair to carry out the duties of his office.

The affidavits filed in the office of Court Clerk Rogers Pollock this week include one from Highway Patrol Sergeant Louis Taylor of Kinston, who swears that on October 5, 1968, Yates was drunk in his office at the court house, and Taylor concurred in the charges made by the fair officials.

Another affidavit sworn to by W. D. Eubanks says that on February 24, 1968, Yates was drunk at the scene of a fire near Pollocksville in which an aged woman had burned to death, and that Yates interfered with firemen at the scene.

County Commissioners Clifton Hood and Horace Phillips in their affidavits make no specific charges, but they assert that on numerous occasions since they were sworn in on the first Monday of December in 1967 citizens around the county have complained to them about Yates "riding around the county in an intoxicated condition."

Yates has 30 days to file and answer to the charges made by this group, after which the case automatically becomes the first to be heard in the next term of Jones County Superior Court.

The charge is heard without jury by the presiding judge, who has the authority to suspend Yates from office pending further appeals in the case if appears are taken.

SOCIAL SECURITY TAX GOING UP BUT BENEFITS OUT-WEIGH COST TO AVERAGE CITIZEN

by Jack Rider

Those who pay social security taxes complain that the rate is too high and they flinch anew with each boost in the rate, which goes up another .8 per cent on the first \$7800 of annual income as of Jan. 1, 1969.

Those who are on the receiving end of social security benefits generally complain that they are not getting enough.

This 31 year-old program has been cussed and discussed ever since it became a part of the American Way of Life in 1937. But it is here to stay, and there is every evidence that it is accepted, and generally appreciated both by the payer and the payee.

When social security began in the Early New Deal Days it represented a 2 per cent tax on the first \$3000 of annual income. One per cent to be contributed by the worker and the other one per cent by his boss. This was the rate for the first 12 years of social security, and only a very small per cent of the national workforce was earning an average of \$3000 per year in those early lean years.

But the war came and brought its inevitable inflation and along with the general inflation the social security tax began to inch higher, but each time its bite on the payroll got larger the list of benefits expanded and other groups became eligible for participation, or their participation became mandatory under new provisions of the law.

In 1950 the rate became 3 per

cent on the first \$300 of annual payroll.

For the next three years (1951-53) the rate was 3 per cent on the first \$3600 of annual payroll.

In 1954 the rate was 4 per cent on \$3600. In 1955-56 it was 4 per cent on \$4200. In '57 the rate was 4.25 per cent on \$4200. In '59 the rate went to 5 per cent on \$4800. It rose to 6 per cent on \$4800 for '60-61. Rose in '62 to 6.25 per cent on \$4800. For the three years '63-64-65 the rate rested at 7.25 per cent on \$4800. In '66 the rate was 8.4 per cent on \$6600, and in '67 the rate rose to 8.8 per cent on \$6600 and for the year now ending the rate rose once more to 8.8 per cent on \$7800.

Maximum Payments

If a worker were lucky enough to be earning the maximum taxable income during all those years from 1937 through 1968 he and his boss would have paid into the social security trust funds a total of \$5962. If the worker wanted to be selfish and merely consider only what he had paid himself his total contribution over this 31-year period would have been \$2981, but his boss was forced to pay in the same amount, for which the boss got no benefit, except staying out of Atlanta, but anyway it's considered it's money that could have been in the worker's pay check if it had not been sent to the social security administration.

Assuming that this lucky worker reached the retirement

age of 65 during 1968 he could have retired for the rest of his natural life at \$168 per month and his wife, if she were 62 years old would have been eligible for a monthly benefit so long as her husband lived of \$63 per month, and at his death she would become eligible for \$138.40 per month for the remainder of her life.

If they happened to be Mr. and Mrs. Average American they had three children and during the time those children were under 18 or until they reached the age of 22 if they remained in an approved school the children also had considerable vested interest in those deductions that had been made on Papa's paycheck.

If Papa during the childhood, or education period of his children suffered a totally disabling injury or illness he and his family would have been eligible for \$309 per month, with this being reduced as each child passed 18 or 22 years of age. Children totally disabled physically or mentally remain eligible for their entire lives under this provision of the law.

If Papa during the childhood or educational period of his children had died his survivors would have received \$368 per month, with the same provisions for the ages, educations and disabilities of each child. And \$255 would have been paid to Papa's estate to help with the funeral expenses.

In a theoretically possible situation, which has happened

thousands of times over a young father of say 30 is killed or dies naturally and leaves three children behind aged one, two and three, and he has maximum social security coverage. Consider:

Assuming that each of those three children went to college and remained in school until their 22nd year the total payments to his family would have been \$91,864, which represents \$84,304 for the 19-year period until the oldest child reaches 22, \$6048 for the two years until the next child reaches 22 and one more year at \$1512 until his last child reaches 22.

Under existing laws his wife would not be eligible for any widow's benefits after the last child has passed 22 until she reaches the age of 60, or unless she is past the age of 50 and totally disabled, and in either of these circumstances his widow would then be eligible for \$120.40 per month for the rest of her life.

But There's More

Effective with 1967 persons 65 years of age and older became eligible for something called Medicare, which is financed through the social security administration tax and from appropriations from the federal general taxation.

Under this for each separate spell of sickness in a 12-month period the patient pays the first \$40 of hospital bills for the first 60 days in a hospital and Medicare pays the balance, and all but \$10 per day for an additional 30 days in each spell of sick-

ness. And another 20 days in an extended care facility, and another 80 days in such a convalescence of nursing home with all but \$5 per day for each spell of sickness. Also pay for up to 100 home-health visits by nurses or other health workers in the 365 days after release from a hospital or nursing home, and 80 per cent of the cost after the first \$20 of out-patient diagnostic tests in a hospital for each 20-day period of testing.

Some package!

But there's more, on a voluntary basis. If one is frightened by doctor bills at the age of 65 he may sign up for Medical Insurance under this program, which costs \$4 per month, payable in advance or deductible from one's social security check if one is drawing such a check. Under this social security will pay 80 per cent of reasonable doctor bills after the first \$50 has been paid by the patient.

Actuarial Soundness?

Some Adam Smith conservatives frequently assert in public fraud, that the government is using the money it collects for an assortment of odd jobs and peculiar projects, and these types further assert that a lot of people who are "paying in" today will never "draw out" tomorrow.

The basic fault with such allegations is that they are trying to compare cheese and chalk. They are using the bookkeeping methods of private insurance companies, whose only guaran-

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