

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE UPBUILDING OF HERTFORD AND PERQUIMANS COUNTY

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Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Friday, April 16, 1937.

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## Axe Killer Sentenced To 30 Years In Prison

### James Felton Confessed Killing Hattie Simpson With Axe

#### OTHER CASES

### Ernest Gregory Given Chance by Suspended Sentence

"Well, Hattie Simpson is dead for a long time," Judge Clawson Williams spoke the words slowly, impressively, his tone and manner indicating that he pondered well the words to follow.

Judge Williams, who presided at the April Term of Perquimans Superior Court which convened in Hertford on Monday, had just asked James Felton, self-confessed slayer of Hattie Simpson, his age. The harmless looking, under-sized Negro had replied that he was 31 years old.

"Well, Hattie Simpson is dead for a long time," said the Judge, and then, "and wherever you go, and whoever you see, and whatever you do, when you lie down on your bed at night you are going to hear, as long as you live, that woman's cry, 'Oh, as you heard it on that night when you struck her that blow with the axe. And that is what you have got coming to you for the rest of your life, and you will never forget it. I am going to shut you up for the rest of your life.'"

The stillness in the room, which was crowded, could almost be felt. There was no other slightest sound except the measured tones of Judge Williams, who had just listened to the story from the stand of the killing of Hattie Simpson on the night of January 24 as she sat in her humble home in Hertford.

"Thirty-one years old. Do you know how long the average convict lives in the state's prison?" "No, sir, I do not," replied the man who was standing to receive his sentence for the second-degree murder charge which the court had decided to allow upon the defendant's plea.

"The average man," responded the Judge, "lives there seven years. The monotony of the life there, getting up at exactly the same time every morning, eating exactly the same thing for breakfast, eating exactly the same thing for dinner each day, eating the same thing for supper, being shut up in the cell at the same hour each night, wears you out. I don't know whether you will last that long or not."

Turning to the Clerk, Judge Williams said, "The judgment of the court in this case is that the defendant be confined in the State's prison at hard labor, and to wear felon's stripes, for a term thirty years."

Judge Williams had explained to the defendant that the solicitor had seen fit to accept a plea of guilty of murder in the second degree, a course which the court had approved under the circumstances.

The eight-year-old adopted child of the slain woman, who was asleep in the room when Hattie Simpson was struck the first blow, testified that James Felton had lived at Hattie Simpson's house for a long time but that he was not living there at the time the killing occurred. She said Hattie had finished some laundry work and Felton came and delivered the laundry and collected the money for the work, which he failed to turn over to Hattie, that the two were fussing about this, when she dropped to sleep. She said when she awoke Felton was striking her mother with the axe. She insisted that he struck three times.

Dr. T. A. Cox, Perquimans County Coroner, testified that there were two gashes in the woman's head indicating she had been struck twice. Felton, however, who took the stand in his own defense, stated he only struck her once, that he had no idea he was hitting so hard and had not meant to kill her; that she hollered "Oh" once as he struck her. He also testified that he had been drinking all day.

He further testified that he had lived with the woman for about three years, "off and on," but that he had "quit her" shortly before this trouble occurred; that she sent for him and as soon as he got there she commenced to upbraid him about another woman; that she had a knife in her hand and that when he started to leave she jumped between him and the door with the knife in her hand, and that he stood there then and listened to what she had to say. "And I asked her to give me the knife and she said she was not going

### Meeting Called On April 22 To Name Town Candidates

The Town Board of Elections has called a meeting for the purpose of nominating a mayor and three commissioners for the Town of Hertford, the meeting to be held on Thursday evening, April 22, at 8 o'clock, at the courthouse.

The officers nominated at this meeting will be elected on May 4, 1937.

All registered voters of the Town of Hertford are entitled to vote at this meeting.

The Board of Election is composed of S. M. Whedbee, W. T. Elliott and B. C. Berry.

### Change of Services At Holy Trinity

A change has been announced in the schedule of services at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church by the rector, Rev. E. T. Jilson, who now conducts two services in each month at Sunbury, only one service in the month, however, being held there in the morning, and at this time, on the third Sunday in each month, there will be the usual celebration of the Holy Communion at 9 o'clock in the morning at Holy Trinity, and there will also be evening prayer services at 8 o'clock in the evening.

On the first Sunday in each month Mr. Jilson will hold services at Sunbury at 7:30 in the evening only.

Next Sunday, being the third Sunday, there will be no service at 11 o'clock in the morning, but there will be services at 8 o'clock at night.

to give me nothing, and that's when I took the axe and tapped her."

He owned, however, that when he struck her she was sitting in her chair. That was how she was found, sitting in the chair, with one foot propped up on the bed.

Attorney Charles Whedbee represented Felton at the trial.

The grand jury failed to find a true bill in the case of Shadrach Boone, colored, against whom probable cause had been found in a hearing given the defendant in Recorder's Court two weeks ago, in a case charging rape.

Ernest Gregory, young white man of the Hog Neck section of the county was found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon and was put under a suspended road sentence of from eighteen months to two years.

Gregory was tried in Recorder's court last fall on this charge and was found guilty and appealed to Superior court. There were three charges in the original warrant but, at the conclusion of all the testimony Judge Williams granted a motion of the defendant's attorney, C. R. Holmes, for non suit as to charges of carrying concealed weapons and resisting an officer.

In this case only one witness testified. F. C. Winslow, deputy sheriff, testified that on the night of November 9 he, in company with Fred Chalk and a young lady, drove up to the filling station of Bob Ivey to turn around when the defendant came out of the station with a pistol in his hand; and that he told him he had better put the gun up, and that the defendant walked over to the car and said "I understand the law is looking for me." Mr. Winslow said he did not know the man and had never seen him before but that he could tell he had been drinking. "I am not looking for you but I am the law and I am apt to be looking for you if you don't put that gun up," he testified he told the defendant, whereupon the defendant, with an oath said, "If the law wants me let him get out of the car and take me."

Mr. Winslow testified that the girl in the car was frightened and he did not feel so good himself, and he drove off and the next day the Sheriff arrested Gregory.

The jury remained out only a few minutes before returning a verdict.

In asking the mercy of the court upon the defendant, it was represented that he had a wife and two small children dependent upon him for support. "How does he expect to take care of a wife and children when he is out at a filling station, drinking?" asked the Judge.

The judge was told that there was liquor manufacturing said to be going on in the neighborhood.

"Well, it's about time for him to know," he said, "before he gets mixed up in it. I do not like your attitude toward the law," he said to the jury. Court adjourned late Wednesday afternoon.

## JUDGE WILLIAMS SUPPORTS OAKLEY VAGRANCY STAND

### Quotes Scripture Requiring Every Man To Work

#### AN APPEAL CASE

### Continues Prayer For Judgment Against Lee White

Quoting scripture in support of his statement that every man must work Judge Clawson Williams, who presided at this term of the court, indicated that he doesn't hold with vagrancy any more than does Recorder's Court Judge Walter H. Oakley, who sentenced Lee White, Winfall Negro, to jail last fall upon conviction in his court of the charge of vagrancy.

It will be remembered that last fall Judge Oakley from the bench announced in effect that the loafers who were standing around idle while Perquimans farmers were unable to get labor to house their crops were to be prosecuted. There was some criticism of this stand at the time. It was said that the Recorder was over-stepping his authority and that he could not make folks work if they didn't want to. If some member of a man's family is supporting him they asked what business is it of the court?

Lee White appealed to Superior court from Judge Oakley's judgment. But he went to work, though testimony was introduced at both trials to show that he had not worked for a long time previously; that he had a wife and a large family of small children; that his wife worked, and that he was physically able to work. White swore on the stand at the first trial that he was sick and unable to work.

However, he has had a job and has been working regularly at the mill since that trial. When his case was tried on Monday in Superior court White did not take the stand. At the conclusion of the state's evidence, James S. McNider, defense attorney, entered a plea of nolo contendere, whereupon Judge Williams said "stand up, White".

"You know," said Judge Williams, "there is one thing a man has got to do in this country as long as he can stand on his feet, and that is work. Solomon said, 'He that provideth not for his own is worse than an infidel,' continued Judge Williams. "We do not mean for a man to have a bunch of children and a wife and not work and support them. The state has a chain gang, and if you don't work for your family, you will be put to work on the chain gang. I am glad to see you have changed your way of living and have gone to work. You go on and work for the old lady and the children. Prayer for judgment is continued."

### Piney Woods Society Has Interesting Meet

The Missionary society of Piney Woods Friends Church met Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Velum Winslow with Miss Maggie Chappell as joint hostess.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. F. C. White. The hymn "Joy To The World" was sung. The lesson was given by Miss Margaret B. White in a very interesting manner in the form of a dialogue. Mary C. White gave a "Missionary Advocate Brief," ending in an Indian dialogue.

Fruit jello and cake was served by the hostesses.

Those present were: Mrs. H. P. White, Mrs. L. J. Winslow, Miss Maggie Chappell, Misses Emma, Margaret B. Clara, and Lucy White, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Trivette, Mrs. E. S. White, Mrs. V. C. Lane, Mrs. Velum Winslow, Mrs. Freeland Copeland, Mrs. F. C. White, Mrs. E. L. Chappell, and Mrs. Sammie Winslow.

### FRONIE L. LAMB WINS VERDICT BY JURY IN EJECTMENT SUIT

A verdict in favor of the plaintiff was returned by the jury in the ejectment suit of Fronie L. Lamb against Maxey D. Chappell, tried on Tuesday.

Notice of appeal to the Supreme Court was given by Mr. Chappell's attorney, J. S. McNider.

In the case of Lydia G. Whedbee against John F. Winslow, involving a disputed boundary, a compromise settlement was arranged between the parties during the progress of the trial.

Court adjourned late Wednesday afternoon.

## MISSES KEATON AND BERRY WIN MUSIC HONORS

### Both Girls Capture First Places In Elizabeth City Event

#### EACH SINGER

### Maude Keaton Participant In Two State Contests

How Miss Maude Keaton is going to manage the situation with which she is confronted as a result of being a winner in both debating and singing is yet to be decided. But those most interested are hoping that, in spite of the fact that the finals in the debating contest and the state music contest are to be held, one at Chapel Hill and the other at Greensboro, during the same two-day period that the young Perquimans High School senior can arrange to compete in both affairs.

Miss Blanche Moore Berry, another Hertford girl, won first place as alto singer in the District High School Music Contest held in Elizabeth City last Saturday, when she sang Brahms' Lullaby, and Maude Keaton who has been victorious in the district contests of the past two years, won first place in soprano when she sang "My Mother Bids Me Bind My Hair," by Haydn. The two young ladies will go to Greensboro to take part in the state contest to be held on April 22 and 23.

Meantime, as Maude Keaton is a member of one of the two victorious debating teams of Perquimans High, she is expected to debate at Chapel Hill sometime during the two-day period that the state music contest is being held in Greensboro.

Miss Berry is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Berry, of Hertford. Miss Keaton is a daughter of the late R. R. Keaton and Mrs. Keaton, of Bethel.

### Bethel P. T. A. Holds Interesting Meeting

The Bethel P. T. A. met Wednesday night at the school building. The president, Mrs. Ennis Phillips, opened the meeting with the song "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." The devotional was followed by a business session during which time the rest of the dues were collected and program and refreshment committees were appointed. It was decided to have the program in three groups with Miss Brothers in charge of the grammar school children, Misses Esther Ward and Maude Keaton the older boys and girls and Mesdames Roy Chappell and Ennis Phillips the parents.

The social committee for the May meeting consists of the following: Mrs. C. T. Phillips, Miss Maude Keaton, Mrs. Josiah Proctor and Misses Eunice and Madge Long. At the close of the business session a very interesting and helpful program was rendered under the leadership of Miss Brothers. During the social hour a delicious sweet course was served. Two very entertaining contests were also enjoyed with Mrs. Ennis Phillips and Clarence Phillips, Pensie Ward, Maude Keaton, Esther Ward, and Mrs. E. J. Proctor winning prizes.

### LADIES COUNCIL MEETS WITH MRS. LOUIS EAVES

The Ladies Council of Bethlehem Christian Church held its regular monthly meeting Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Louis Eaves, the president, Mrs. R. A. Perry, presiding.

After the business part of the meeting was over an interesting program was rendered with Mrs. E. Y. Berry in charge, the subject being "How Selfishness Reacts Upon Us." There were several readings on the subject.

A duet by Mrs. R. A. Perry and Mrs. S. J. Cullipher, "It pays to serve Jesus." At the close of the meeting the hostess served a salad course. Those present were Mesdames R. A. Perry, S. I. Cullipher, Reuben Stallings, Willie Lane, E. Y. Berry, W. A. Russell and two visitors Mrs. Louis Proctor and Miss Adelaide Eaves.

### ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Blanchard announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Ferguson, to Marcus Edwin Hobbs, of Duke University and Wilmington. Miss Blanchard is a member of the library staff of Duke University. Mr. Hobbs is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hobbs, of Wilmington. The wedding will take place in July.

## Judge Scorns Shelter Now At County Home

### Commissioners Ordered Make Repairs Before Next Court

#### ENGAGED



Miss Sarah Ferguson Blanchard, whose engagement to Marcus Edwin Hobbs, of Duke University and Wilmington, has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Blanchard, of Hertford.

### Winfall School Not To Be Put In Use Until Next Term Of School

Although the handsome new school building at Winfall will be completed very shortly, it will not be put in use until the beginning of next year's school term, according to F. T. Johnson, superintendent of education.

Had the new building been built for the Winfall school alone it would be a simple matter to move from the old dilapidated structure into the new building. But the new school is to take the place of not only the Winfall school but five others. With so little of the school year left, it is thought best not to attempt to move into the new building this spring.

There will be a dedication service held at the new school sometime during the summer.

### Missionary Union Meets Monday Night

The Woman's Missionary Union of the Hertford Baptist Church met on Monday night at the church, with Mrs. I. A. Ward, president, presiding. Mrs. Frank Gregory, chairman of Circle No. 4, had charge of the program, which included an interesting talk by Mrs. T. W. Perry, a duet by Mrs. Irying White and Mrs. J. E. Everett, and a talk by Mrs. E. W. Mayes.

Mrs. Mark Gregory won the WMU pin for having the largest number present from her circle.

The meeting was dismissed with prayer by Mrs. R. S. Monds.

### WINFALL DEMONSTRATION CLUB MET WEDNESDAY P. M.

The Winfall Home Demonstration Club met Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Walter Humphlett and Mrs. Jim Lowe as joint hostesses.

Following the opening exercises, there was a discussion of the menu to be served at the District Federation meeting which will be held in June. Miss Gladys Hamrick, Home Agent, then told about the different commercial patterns, and gave many useful hints about the use of a pattern. She also passed around for observation articles made by the O. N. T. Cotton Company, which would be helpful to club members.

Mrs. Jim Lowe, home furnishing leader, had charge of the program, her topic being "Spring Cleaning," she gave many helpful suggestions as to painting and other ways in which homes might be made more attractive.

During the social hour the hostesses served ice cream and cake to the following: Mesdames William Bagley, D. L. Barber, Alvin Winslow, Joel Hollowell, Walter Humphlett, Clyde Layden, Jim Lowe, Effie Miller, E. N. Miller, George Roach, D. C. Stallings and C. D. White, Misses Gladys Hamrick, Celeste Godwin, Frances Rogerson, Addie White, Mary Elizabeth White and a visitor, Mrs. Frank Humphlett.

### PRIZE MONEY UNCLAIMED

The same drawn at the State Theatre on Wednesday night was Arthur Bregenan of Tyner, who was not present to claim the prize.

### Commissioners Ordered Make Repairs Before Next Court

#### SAYS NO EXCUSE

### Guardians Jacked up For Failing to File Accounts

Judge Clawson L. Williams, in instructing the Clerk of the Superior Court to furnish a copy of the grand jury report to the Board of County Commissioners and also a copy to the Board of Education, upon the report being handed in on Tuesday afternoon by the foreman of the grand jury L. W. Anderson, directed the Clerk to call the attention of the Board of Commissioners to that part of the report which recommended certain repairs being made to the county home, and said: "Unless the Board of Commissioners makes some effort to remedy that situation before the next term of this court, the solicitor of this district is going to be instructed to provide a bill of indictment for them."

Judge Williams went on to say that there was no excuse for those old people at the county home not to be provided with the proper shelter.

Judge Williams also called attention of the Clerk to the fact that there were two guardians who had not filed annual reports.

"Mr. Clerk," said the Court, "I instruct you to issue citation immediately to these guardians to file accounts, and if the accounts are not filed you are to issue citations and remove them a guardians."

The following men composed the grand jury: L. W. Anderson, Foreman, D. R. Trueblood, H. D. Elliott, Ed Copeland, Robert Winslow, George W. Nowell, J. O. Hendricks, J. A. Gregory, C. W. Haskett, J. T. Lamb, H. T. Broughton, John A. Riddick, L. H. Hurdle, George C. Eure, J. N. Stallings, H. R. Miller, Arthur Elliott, Archie T. Lane.

### Bethel School Wins Easter Seal Prizes

Bethel school won both prizes offered in Easter Seal sale. Seventeen children enrolled, and total sales were \$4.00. The second grade with an enrollment of 5 won the \$2.50 prize offered to the grade selling the most seals. The school won prize of \$5.00. Second grade sold 250 seals.

Prizes were offered on a percentage basis to give all schools an equal chance, worked out on number of children enrolled and number of seals sold.

Net receipts of seal sale totaled \$25.16. One-half of this has been sent to N. C. League for Crippled Children which in turn pays 10 per cent to the International Society; pays cost of seal sale, and keeps the rest for emergency cases in counties when there is not enough money to take care of them.

This is the first time a sale has been conducted in the county, and it is hoped there to have them regularly in the future. The outcome of this was very gratifying.

Eleven schools participated in the sale. Bethel has one of the smallest enrollments in the county.

### Farmers Asked Consult Agent About Acreage

All farmers in Perquimans County who have signed work sheets may, by calling at the County Agent's office, receive information as to what acreage to plant in various crops so as to receive the largest benefits, as the crop bases have been established by the State.

#### ENTERTAINS AT DINNER

Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Cartwright of Snow Hill entertained a few of their friends Sunday at dinner. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Mason Sawyer and daughter, Barbara Lee, of Old Neck; Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cartwright, Misses Blanche and Maude Cartwright, Mrs. Vernon Winslow, Mrs. Martha Cartwright, Miss Lucille Cartwright, Miss Clara Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Hale of Camden and Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Cartwright.

Spends Day In Jacksonville  
Mrs. J. G. Rogerson and Mrs. Rosser Brinn spent Wednesday in Jacksonville.