

## White cleared in arson case

A total of seven prosecution witnesses testified for the State, Monday through Wednesday of last week, in the case of Wayland L. (Bud) White to no avail.

White was found not guilty Wednesday afternoon of the two felonies of burning an uninhabited building and breaking and entering the residence of the Rev. Carl Yow.

The jury of eight men and four women took just twelve minutes to reach their verdict.

"I don't second guess juries, but I was surprised by the verdict," said Assistant District Attorney Frank Parrish.

White is serving a ten-year sentence in the state penitentiary in Creswell for larceny in Gates County. He will be eligible for parole in November of 1982.

The trial opened Monday with the testimony of Perquimans Deputy Sheriff Joe Lothian. Lothian testified that he had checked the Yow house after answering another call and "the house was as it should be."

Jimmy Chappell, chief of the Belvidere-Chapel Hill Volunteer Fire Department was the lead witness on Tuesday morning.

Broughton was asked about the visibility that night. He said that, "it was almost as bright as it is right now in this room" alluding to a moonlit night.

The next witness was Carl Yow, a retired United Methodist minister, an Elkton, Va. resident at the time of the fire.

Yow testified that he had met White two years ago and took title to the property from him on July 31, 1980. At that time, "He told me he needed a week" to vacate the property.

The witness said that the defendant was still in the house on August 7 and that he said to White, "I thought you were gone." The next day, "He informed me he wasn't going to move. On top of that he said he was going to burn the house and all I would have was 30 acres," Yow related.

Further testimony by Yow recalled harrassment by White the following month involving driving by the house spinning his wheels, racing his motor and watching the house.

Singletary, who asked the amount of insurance on the house, was told \$60,000. The defense attempted to follow up by asking if Yow had had any houses in Virginia burned, but the question was not allowed by Superior Court Judge Herbert Small.

More lengthy testimony was given by Jerry Boyce, an Elizabeth City fire marshal and certified arson expert.

Boyce testified with the assistance of 24 color slides of the fire scene shown to the court.

The witness said that the warping and discoloration of the remains of a refrigerator and stove in the kitchen area showed the use of a flammable liquid.

He also pointed to deeply charred floor joists in the kitchen area as indicating that part of the house as the fire's origin.

Boyce testified that evidence at the scene ruled out the house's wiring and furnace as possible causes of the fire. "It was not an accidental fire. It was set with a flammable liquid," he said.

Darrell Stallings, 17, who lives with his father near the Yow house, placed White in the neighborhood at about 10 p.m. on the night of the fire.

Stallings said White offered to sell him "pot plants" which he had hidden at the abandoned sawmill. En route there, "He said that he was going to burn it," Stallings testified. Asked by prosecutor Frank Parrish, "burn what," Stallings responded, "The house."

Stallings said that he was with White when the car had been stuck and subsequently abandoned.

(The Perquimans Weekly was asked not to publish the name of the next witness, a convicted felon, in the interest of his personal safety.)

The witness testified that the defendant told him prior to the fire "Rev. Yow, he bought a pile of ashes."

The witness went on to testify that White described to him afterward, in detail, how he had burned the house using kerosene.

The defense presented no witnesses.

After summations for both sides, the jury went into deliberation at 3:05 on Wednesday afternoon.

## Boo!

Halloween brought out the goblin in a lot of people around Hertford last week. At right, the employees at Peoples Bank take a break at the Hertford Cafe. Below right, Jeannie Umphlett plays Raggedy Ann for the children at the Three Bears Day Care Center. Below left, Doris Chappell, Seymour Chappell and Doris Harrell dress up to entertain the school children.



## Correction

In last week's story on county Superior Court action, the paper mistakenly identified Nancy Long as the convicted defendant in an embelishment case involving Nectar's restaurant.

In fact, Edith Carol Ferrell was the defendant. Long was a witness in the case. We regret the error.

Chappell testified that he has responded to a fire call at the residence of the Rev. Carl Yow shortly after 1 a.m. on October 26 of last year.

"When we got there, the fire was so hot we had to attack it with a straight stream," Chappell testified.

He also testified that nothing was left of the frame structure but the front portion.

Perquimans County Sheriff, Julian Broughton gave lengthy testimony on his movements the morning of the fire. During this time a hand-drawn map of the Belvidere area was entered as State's exhibit one to illustrate these movements.

Broughton said that after he responded to the fire, around 1:45 a.m., he found White's car on a lane to an abandoned sawmill about a quarter of a mile from the Yow house.

He went on to relate finding the defendant walking on N.C. 37 around 2:30 a.m. about a mile from the fire scene.

"I said, 'Good morning, Bud. You want a ride home?' He said, 'I sure do.' He said, 'I'm cold.'" Broughton testified.

The Sheriff said that White told him that he'd got his car stuck and that he'd been sleeping in the car. Broughton concluded by saying "I carried him home."

Cross-examined by defense attorney, James D. Singletary,

## Hertford police arrest another for drugs

The Hertford Police Department arrested another man Tuesday of last week in connection with its investigation of heroin distribution in Hertford.

The latest arrest increases the count to eight people facing various charges of possessing and selling heroin or cocaine.

Police arrested the others during a early morning raid of four Hertford residences Monday of last week. A ninth arrest was made during the raid for hindering an officer in the performance of his duty.

The latest arrest was of William Emmett Harrell, Sr., 42, of 303 Royal Dr., Jacksonville. He is charged with conspiracy to sell and deliver heroin. He faces up to 10 years in prison if found guilty. He is being held in Albemarle District Jail on \$10,000 bond.

At the time of the arrest, Harrell was out on bail pending trial on a charge of possession of heroin for the purpose of sale. The HPD arrested him on that charge last April, and he

was scheduled to appear before the Perquimans County Superior Court on Tuesday of last week.

The trial date has been postponed until the next convening of the court in January due to the latest arrest.

The other seven arrested last week were John Henry Askew, Fred Julian Harvey, George Harvey, Annette Johnson Harvey, Linda Gregory Harvey, Mickey Louis Johnson and Donald Vernel Broady, all of Hertford. They face from 20 to 45 years in prison if found guilty.

The two women were released on \$30,000 and \$40,000 bond. The others are still in Albemarle District Jail on from \$30,000 to \$50,000 bond pending trial.

Wadell Harvey had been arrested for hindering an officer. He was released last week on \$400 bond.

The arrests followed a year-long investigation, three months of that using undercover agents from the State Bureau of Investigation.

More arrests are expected in the investigation, according to HPD Chief

Marshall Merritt.

Merritt said that police believe the persons charged are part of the largest heroin distribution ring in the area, and allegedly are connected with heroin distributors in New York.

The HPD and the SBI have been in contact with law enforcement authorities in New York concerning the case.

Property recovered during the raid at the home of Fred Harvey — which police believe may be stolen, and some of which has been identified by stores in Elizabeth City as stolen property — has been more accurately estimated to be worth \$7,950.50, rather than the \$4,500 original estimate.

Along with the goods, \$1,100 in cash — believed to be payment for either drugs or stolen merchandise — was also seized.

Police also found a small amount of substance believed to be either heroin or cocaine. The report on laboratory tests of that substance hasn't come back yet.

In other unrelated arrests, Hertford

police arrested Charlie Fleetwood Wilson for second degree burglary and three counts of larceny last Friday.

Wilson, 27, of 319 Stokes Drive, was arrested for allegedly stealing a lawnmower and other garden equipment from Leo Ambrose of 221 Market Street.

According to Merritt, a resident of Dobbs Street — who wished to remain anonymous — heard a "clattering sound" and saw a man who police believe was Wilson walking a lawn mower down the street.

The Dobbs Street resident followed the man in his car, and watched as he left the mower between two houses on King Street. The resident then called police, who found the mower there, and later found another mower — believed to be stolen — which had been sold to another man on King Street.

The man who bought the mower identified Wilson as the man he purchased it from.

## Poor prices, spotty rain spoil corn harvest

With all the results in, it looks as if this was an off-and-on year for county corn growers, according to the county Agricultural Extension Chairman Bill Jester.

It was either off or on depending on where you stood, or rather where your corn stood. According to Jester, corn growers north of Belvidere experienced another bad year — the fifth in a row for many of them.

Out in Durants Neck it was the same story. But for farmers west of the Perquimans River, it couldn't have been better.

"Overall, it was a very good year for corn," said Jester. Despite the hot, dry weather — which hit the area in late June and early July, just as the corn was pollinating — farmers west of the river had yields well above 100 bushels per acre, some even taking in up to 140.

East of the river it was another story. The combination of sandy soil and spotty rainfall made the Chapanoke area "a disaster," said Jester, with Belvidere, Durants Neck

and Woodville right behind.

Farmers in these areas ran about 40-50 bushels an acre, some farmers even claiming as low as 20.

"Some areas were very good and others were downright awful," said Jester. As a whole, the county averaged about 85 percent of its normal yield, which is around 105 bushels an acre, according to Jester.

"The weather patterns were spotty this year," said Jester. "At no time did we have a general front come across the area. Farmers just had to rely on thunderstorms."

The thunderstorms hit best around Bethel, Hertford, Bear Swamp and Winfall, with the rest of the county — which needs more water anyway because of its more porous soil — coming up short.

For farmers who thought that last year was the last bad year they could afford, the peanut and soybean crops — which did well through most of the county — may just pull them through.

But while some farmers had rain and others didn't, one thing will effect

all of them in the same way: prices.

Corn prices are down 60 cents a bushel from last year, according to Jester. Last year at this time, corn sold in Norfolk for \$3.48 a bushel. Now it's \$2.87.

Soybeans have taken an even worse dive, falling from \$8.17 last year to \$6.53 today. Peanuts have dropped about \$150 a ton from last year's mark.

"The only thing I can say is that farmers have to tighten their belts," said Jester.

Jester also advised using what marketing tools farmers have available to them. For instance, farmers who contracted their soybeans last year are in luck, making close to \$2 per bushel more than if they hadn't contracted. Peanut farmers who took the chance on contracting last year are also sitting pretty right now.

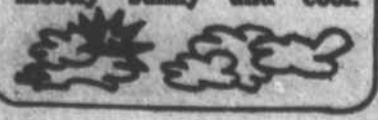
Jester also recommended — if you can afford a delayed payday — storing a portion of this year's crop until the price is good. Crops can be

stored safely from one season to the next, but Jester didn't recommend holding out for two years.

Storage also can be a risk, but Jester said, "storage can give you some control over the market, and in the long run it's a good management tool."

**This week**  
Charlie Appleton of Hertford commemorated more than just another Halloween last Saturday. Turn to page three

**Weather**  
Cloudy and warm with a chance of rain today and tomorrow. Saturday will be mostly sunny and cool.



## Officer promoted

Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt (left) awards Officer Robert Morris a new set of stripes following Morris

promotion to captain by the Town Council. With them is Morris' wife Athena.