

CASTRATION CASE TESTIMONY HEARD IN CLOSED COURT

William Poole, a 48-year-old colored resident of Nags Head, pleaded not guilty to the castration of Amanda Lee Meekins, his colored mistress from Manteo, in a preliminary hearing at Dare County Recorders Court on Tuesday, as Judge W. F. Baum cleared the courtroom to hear testimony by the victim and her mother before finding "probable cause" and ordering the alleged assailant held over for trial at the May term of Superior Court. Bond has been set at \$1500.

Poole, who appeared without benefit of counsel, seemed unaware of the nature of the charge against him or its gravity. The soft-spoken Negro heard solicitor Martin Kellogg read the warrant, which accused him of "maliciously maiming and disfiguring the privy members" of Amanda Meekins, "with the intent to render her impotent" and, when asked if he understood, replied "No." After a repetition of the charge, the defendant stated that he did comprehend the nature of the charge contained in the warrant.

Amanda Meekins, 32 year old victim of the attack, appeared as the first witness for the state and faced a crowded courtroom of spectators. Judge Baum stopped the proceeding and stated that "this girl here is entitled to the same consideration as anybody else and her race makes no difference."

Baum noted that the witness had asked that the courtroom be cleared during the testimony and asked officers to clear the hall of everyone who "is not an officer of the court or a representative of the press."

The defendant heard Amanda Meekins nervously describe the March 12 assault which occurred at 2 a. m. at her "home" on Bay Street. "It is really a trailer," she stated. The witness related how the defendant pulled her off of her bed and stated that he was going to fix her "so you're no good for me or anybody else." The witness recalled how she had screamed during the perpetration of the offense and told how she had asked Poole, in her agony, "if he was going to kill me."

William Poole heard the accusations without any trace of emotion. He looked around the emptied courtroom from time to time and gave the appearance of

a man who was about to go to sleep. After hearing the victim's testimony, Judge Baum asked the defendant whether he would like to question the witness and Poole began to give a version of the incident from his seat.

The judge repeated his offer and emphasized that Poole could question the witness but was not to give testimony from the floor. The defendant remained silent and Amanda Meekins continued to give her account of the sordid crime.

She stated that she was still "messed up inside" and indicated that several transfusions had been necessary after her transfer to Pungo District Hospital on the afternoon of March 12. The victim remained there for 13 days for treatment of "vulva and buttock" lacerations.

Elnora Bowser, mother of the victim, sat across from the defendant during the hearing and carried on a heated conversation with him during a portion of her daughter's testimony. She was cautioned by the solicitor and then took the stand to confirm the victim's testimony.

Poole appealed the "verdict" just before Judge Baum indicated that "probable cause" had been determined and declined to take the stand at the hearing. He was placed under a \$1500 bond and returned to the cell which he has occupied since March 12 in the Dare County Jail.

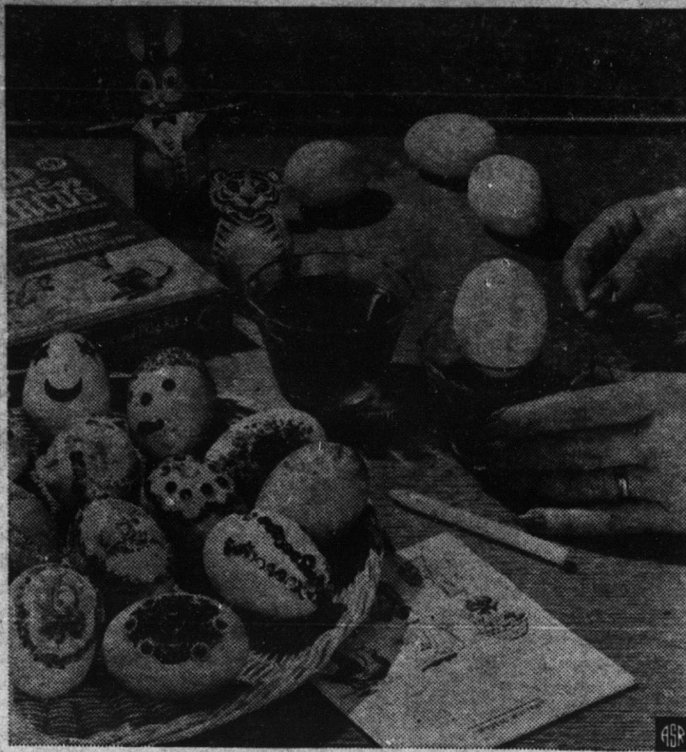
The case of State vs. William Poole has been scheduled for the May 28 term of Superior Court before Judge Henry Stevens.

Poole's warrant charges that he did "unlawfully and wilfully and feloniously of malice aforethought maim and disfigure the privy members of Amanda Lee Meekins with intent to maim, disfigure and render impotent said Amanda Lee Meekins." The defendant faces a maximum term of 60 years imprisonment if convicted of the offense.

A drunken driving case also occupied the attention of the lengthy Recorders Court session. Lesalle Midgett, a 42-year-old Kitty Hawk resident entered a plea of not guilty to a charge of drunken driving on the night of March 25 and introduced testimony indicating that he had "never been convicted of an offense of any kind."

Midgett was accused of having been under the influence when his car swerved into a "road closed" sign on Highway 158, near Whalebone. Judge Baum found the defendant guilty of

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the offense, after hearing testimony by Patrolmen H. W. Pridgen and C. F. Patton. Midgett has appealed the conviction and has been placed under a \$200 bond.

Eugene Willard Arnette, Jr. of Manteo entered a plea of guilty to driving on the wrong side of the road and was fined \$10 and costs of court. James Ollie Purvis, colored, of Nags Head also entered a plea of guilty to his offense of driving under the influence and was given a sentence of 60 days on the roads, which was suspended on payment of \$100 and costs. The case of State vs. Barfield will be continued until the next session of Recorders Court. Barfield, a Columbia, S. C. native, failed to appear in defense of his public drunkenness charge and a capias has been issued.

Paul Kendrick of Manteo pleaded guilty to charges of trespass and the unlawful taking of an automobile, without intent to steal, and received a judgment of 90 days on the roads which was suspended upon the payment of \$35 and costs.

C. S. Meekins, Clerk of Court, listed those cases involving defendants who offered no contest and who paid fines, as follows.

Paul Boshier Ellington, Kill Devil Hills; charged with appearing in a public place while in a drunken condition, \$25 and costs.
Charles E. Byrd, Jr., Coast Guard, Hatteras Inlet; driving with expired license plates, \$10 and costs.
Robert Paul Beach, U. S. Navy, Buxton, driving an automobile without registration card, \$10 and costs.
Fred Hamilton Gray, Avon; careless and reckless driving and possession of non-tax paid beer, \$35 and costs.
Hazel Jenett Gilliam, Kill Devil Hills; operating a motor vehicle under the influence, Careless and reckless driving and resisting arrest, \$135.
Maxie McKinley Berry, colored, Manteo; appearing in a pub-

DISTRICT REBEKAH MEET HELD AT SWAN QUARTER

The First District held its spring session with Rebekah Lodge No. 153 at Swan Quarter. Visitors were welcomed by Miss Mildred Spencer, who presided at the register.

Mrs. Esther D. Ramsey of Greensboro, State President, brought a message. She was accompanied by her Conductor, Mrs. Mary Highfield, also of Greensboro.

District president, Mrs. Hilda Francis of Manteo presided. The welcome was given by Mrs. Dell C. Berry, District Deputy President. Response was by Mrs. Godley of Elizabeth City. Also present was State Warden, Mrs. Mildred Moore of Elizabeth City.

District officers for the coming year were seated: President - Mrs. Ella Lou Swindell, Swan Quarter; Vice President - Mrs. Margaret Scott, Elizabeth City; Secretary - Mrs. Virginia Warren, Elizabeth City; Treasurer - Mrs. Olive Cahoon, Swan Quarter; Conductor - Mrs. Elizabeth Symons, Elizabeth City; Warden - Mrs. Carolyn Etheridge, Manteo; Chaplain - Mrs. Katie Cahoon, Swan Quarter; Inside Guardian - Mrs. Lydia Gibbs, Swan Quarter; Outside Guardian - Mrs. Arthel Williams, Swan Quarter; Musician - Mrs. Beulah Gaylord, Manteo.

Mrs. Dell C. Berry was reappointed as District Deputy President.

A lunch served picnic style was enjoyed.

The fall meeting will be held in Manteo in October.

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

The Dare County Library will hold "open house" at 8 p.m. on Friday night, according to Mrs. Leo Midgett, chairman of National Library Week. Mrs. Midgett has indicated that the winner of the Nell Wise Wechter award, which is donated annually to the elementary student contributing the best piece of creative art, will be announced at that time. The public is invited to attend.

lic place while in a drunken condition, \$25 and costs.

Nolan Stewart Ambrose, Elizabeth City; operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator or chauffeur license, \$25 and costs.

Renew Your Subscription

RESUME HEARINGS ON STORM WARNING IN WASHINGTON WED.

Congressman Herbert C. Bonner announced last week that his Subcommittee on Oceanography would commence hearings to discuss the question of establishment of more effective methods and procedures for forecasting and warning of major ocean storms.

Mr. Bonner, who is Chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee of the House, stated that the storm that struck the east coast of the United States on March 7, of this year, was one of the most disastrous in history. The hurricane-like storm brought severe winds and high tides along the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

The First District Congressman viewed the damage along Nags Head-Hatteras areas after the storm and said, "persons who have not had an opportunity to view the damage would find it unbelievable."

Hearings commenced on April 4, at 10 o'clock in Room 219 Old House Office Building to hear officials of the Weather Bureau, the Navy Hydrographic Office, the Beach Erosion Board of the U. S. Corps of Engineers, the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the United States Coast Guard.

Congressman Bonner stated that only through more and continuing research could we be able to determine the exact mechanism of the production of tropical cyclones, hurricanes and other disastrous storms such as the one that just recently affected the entire Atlantic Coast.

There is a possibility that future research will enable more long-range forecasting of these occurrences when we know more about the phenomena of the upper atmosphere which is now being explored by the satellites this country has put into space.

WCS DISTRICT WILL MEET APRIL 10, E. CITY

The annual meeting of the Elizabeth City District of the WCS will be held at the First Methodist Church in Elizabeth City on April 10, beginning at 10 o'clock.

The address will be given by Thor Hall, a student of the Duke Graduate School of Religion. Mr. Hall was born in Larvik, Norway and is a graduate of Oslo University.

The host church will serve coffee from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. and will serve lunch.

REDSKINS WIN 6-5 THRILLER OVER CENTRAL

The Manteo Redskins walked their way to a 6-5 victory over Central High in an "extra-inning" baseball thriller at Manteo Ball Park on Tuesday afternoon. The local nine drew the winning run with the bases loaded in the eighth inning, when Johnny Daniels advanced to home plate with the victorious score.

Manteo led through six innings of play before the Green Waves tied the ball game at 5-5 with a rally in the 7th. Central failed to score in the top half of the eighth and the walk, by G. G. Bonner, who eyed a 3-2 pitch with the skill of a pro, proved to be the margin of victory.

The exciting eighth-inning run came after Johnny Daniels drew a walk from Central's Eason to open the frame in the top of the eighth. Eason became "rattled" and pitched four balls which advanced R. S. Meekins to first base. Jerry Simpson flied to shortstop and was followed by Dickie Burrus, who walked to load the bases. Simpson was followed by pitcher Bill Tolson, who struck out, and it was then that Bonner acquired the winning walk.

Approximately 200 spectators saw the Redskins win their third game of their undefeated season under Coach Jerry Cahoon. Cahoon stated that he was "very pleased with the performance of his club."

Bill Tolson was the star of the game and fanned 12 Central batters during his long eighth-inning performance. The young mound ace allowed only five hits and two earned runs in an outstanding performance on the mound.

The Redskins will play against the Knapp Knights on Tuesday at 3:30 in the Manteo Ball Park. The Knights are reported to have the same strength as last year when they captured the conference championship. Coach Cahoon has stated that he is "very pleased with the spirit of the boys," but has indicated that "we still need more hitting strength."

(TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY)

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