

Interest In Williams Murder Case at High Pitch In City Today

PRISONER BROUGHT HERE THIS MORNING

Experts Will Decide Whether Williams Is Sane or Insane In Trial

(BY C. B. TAYLOR)

Supported by the strongest array of counsel any case has had in this county in recent years, the battle to save the life of J. Marshal Williams, who is charged with the murder of Deputy Sheriff A. J. Pate while a still alleged to have belonged to the defendant was being raided in the swamps near the little town of Godwin in the upper edge of the county, will begin this afternoon when experts will vie with each other in testifying that the young man is insane or of sound mind. Before John H. Kerr in Cumberland Superior Court this great fight will be waged.

Arrayed on either side will appear such legal lights as Solicitor S. H. McLean of Maxton, former Solicitor Neil A. Sinclair, Robert H. Dye, J. Bayard Clark, W. Carl Downing, Henry Lilly Cook, John H. Cook and H. L. Brothers of Fayetteville for the prosecution and J. C. Clifford and N. A. Townsend of Dunn, V. C. Bullard, D. M. Stringfield, John Shaw and Duncan Shaw of the Fayetteville bar. The prisoner was brought to the city this morning from the Hoke County jail where he has been confined this morning and underwent examinations at the hands of experts who will testify on either side. Dr. J. Allison Hodges of Richmond, Va., Col. E. S. Ligon, headmaster of Blackstone Military Academy, Blackstone, Va.; Drs. F. Olive, J. K. McLean, K. G. Averitt and T. M. West of this county, with a number of former school teachers of the defendant's are here to swear Marshal Williams is mentally unsound and was not responsible if he did shoot the popular deputy sheriff to death. On the other hand Dr. Taylor of the State Insane Hospital at Morganton, Dr. Albert Anderson of the State Hospital in Raleigh and a large number of others are ready to tell the jury Williams is of sound mind.

At the opening of the afternoon session this afternoon Solicitor McLean will call the Williams case and the battle will be on. It is doubted if another case has attracted such countrywide interest as this. And a tremendous crowd is here as witnesses and spectators. It is not believed a jury to determine his sanity will be secured before tomorrow and an all-day fight over that issue will be staged. In case the jury finds him sane he will then be placed on trial for murder and another long fight will be staged running perhaps into next week.

Robbery Case

W. B. Maxwell of Stedman was the storm center of one of the bitterest cases beginning yesterday afternoon and reaching the jury just before noon today. Tom Hart and Jeff Bedsole are charged with robbing an Atlantic Coast Line car at the Camp Bragg junction on the 8th of May and after breaking the seal stealing therefrom 60 odd cases of canned goods and cigarettes. Maxwell, acting in the capacity of railroad secret service man, went with Hart and Bedsole on Sunday afternoon to the junction and took the goods out, piled them into Maxwell's automobile and brought them to the city, according to the testimony of Maxwell himself.

As the state contended Maxwell also kept in close touch with Hart and Bedsole and other alleged members of the gang until the depot at Stedman was robbed. Following the tip given by Maxwell, Captain W. W. Bindeman of the A. C. L. police here and other members of his force and Deputy Sheriff W. O. Patrick went down to Stedman, hid themselves in the depot and captured the bunch when they entered for the purpose of robbery.

The defense claims that on the Sunday night Maxwell alleges they robbed the car at Camp Bragg, Hart and Bedsole went with a man named Green to St. Pauls to see a brother of Bedsole's to borrow some money. Marshal Hales testified that on that night he sold some gasoline to Hart and Bedsole while they were on their way to St. Pauls. A long line of witnesses testified to the good character of the two defendants.

W. M. Moore, Sergeant Wilkie and Private Cullinan, of Camp Bragg testified to loading the goods in the boxcar, sealing it up and waybillng it. Harris and Everett, two boys, testified they came to town with Maxwell on Sunday and saw him talk with Hart and Bedsole. They got out of the car at the National Bank and the two defendants drove off with Maxwell.

(Continued on Page 3)

STRONG ARRAY OF COUNSEL TO FACE EACH OTHER HERE

(Continued from Page 1)

and returned about 10:30 that night with several boxes piled up in the rear of the car.

This morning Attorney Downing jauntily attacked the testimony of Maxwell and declared since he had three warrants against him for robberies he was a defendant and should not be believed. The lawyer arraigned him for turning state's evidence after laying in jail here until his father could stand his bond and secure his release. On the other hand Solicitor McLean in his speech appealed to the jury to believe the testimony of Maxwell who was brave enough to take his life in his own hands and enter into a bargain with this band of car robbers in order to turn them up and bring to an end this series of robberies going on for the past several years.

Judge Kerr's charge to the jury was interrupted by the passing of the circus parade, nearly all of the large number of spectators rushing out to see the clowns and animals. The jury retired about noon and will return with its verdict after the afternoon recess.