

WILLIAMS PLEADS GUILTY TO MURDER IN SECOND DEGREE

Surprise Is Sprung In
Marshall Williams Case

Late This After-
noon

JUDGE WILL PASS SENTENCE FRIDAY

To Read Over Typewrit- ten Evidence and to Pass Sentence on Next Friday

Bulletin

After the midday recess of Superior Court today, counsel for the defense in the case of Marshall Williams, charged with the murder of Deputy Sheriff A. J. Pate, withdrew the plea of insanity for which Williams was tried during the October term of court and on which the jury failed to agree and entered the plea of not guilty as to the charge of murder in first degree, but plead guilty to the charge of murder in the second degree.

Counsel for defense suggested that the judge read the typewritten evidence, which he consented to do, and will pass sentence next Friday.

The state consented to the plea of murder in second degree.

This move by the defense came as a surprise in the case which has aroused the interest of the entire state of North Carolina.

Marshal Williams charged with the murder of Deputy Sheriff A. J. Pate. The murder took place July 22.

On account of the unsafe condition of the Cumberland county jail Williams was taken to Rutherford and lodged in the Hoke county jail there.

On October a special term of Cumberland Superior Court was called for the trial of the defendant at which time he entered an insanity plea. A great array of witnesses testified both for the state and for the defense.

Alienists of note, and relatives and friends testified for the defense and alienists and neighbors of the prisoner testified for the state. The trial consumed nearly a week and the jury remained out about 36 hours, finally failing to agree, standing 11 for sanity and 1 for insanity.

Williams is prominent in the county, his father being at one time chairman of the county commissioners.

According to lawyers this afternoon the minimum sentence that can be given upon the charge the defendant plead guilty to is ten years and the maximum is thirty years.