

BIDS FAREWELL TO MOTHER AND WIFE ON WAY TO PRISON

Sheriff Takes Marshall Williams to Prison to Begin Long Sentence

FATHER GOES WITH SHERIFF AND SON

Williams Testifies During Trial of Negro Following His Sentence

At about 10:15 o'clock this morning Sheriff N. H. McGeachy took Marshall Williams to the state's prison at Raleigh to begin serving his 30-year sentence for second-degree murder in the killing of Deputy Sheriff A. J. Pate last July. Claude Williams, father of the prisoner, accompanied the sheriff and his son. The sheriff and his party went through the country in automobiles. They went to the prisoner's home in Black River township in order that he might bid farewell to his wife and mother. Mr. Williams, the father, went on to the state's prison with his son after the leave-taking at the Williams home.

In getting through as much of the docket as possible before adjournment of Cumberland County Superior Court, Judge Lane disposed of the following cases Friday:

Frank Hinchman, larceny; guilty, 12 months on the roads. Hinchman's wife had a warrant sworn out for him on a charge of stealing money and clothes from her.

Will Jackson, housebreaking and larceny; guilty and two years on the roads.

Alonzo Small, beating board ill; not guilty.

Collie Gibbs, assault with a deadly weapon; pleaded guilty and judgment suspended on payment of \$88.

Found Not Guilty

Ham Dawson, charged with a secret assault on Deputy Sheriff A. J. Pate at the time when Pate was killed last July in a raid on Marshall Williams' still; not guilty. In this case Williams went on the stand and testified that on the day Pate was killed he (Williams) fired one time. He did not intent to kill; that when he shot he always hit the mark. He further testified that Dawson fired four times. Dawson asked Williams if he shot to kill, and Williams replied that he did not. Then Williams asked Dawson if he shot to kill, and Dawson said that he did. Williams said he wanted to give this testimony because Dawson had gone back on him.

Criminal Term of Court Here Adjourns

Superior Court for the trial of criminal cases, which was held here during this week, with Judge

WILLIAMS SITS CALMLY AS LAWYERS ARGUE CASE

In the presence of a great crowd which packed the Cumberland County Court House, without standing room, yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock Judge Henry P. Lane passed sentence on Marshall Williams, who pleaded guilty of murder in the second degree for the killing last July of Deputy Sheriff A. J. Pate. In the midst of the pleading of his counsel, who dwelt with eloquence and effect on the severe punishment the extreme limit of the law would inflict, the prisoner seemed stolidly indifferent, looking straight ahead of him as he sat facing the Judge on the bench, and apparently taking no interest in the proceedings. He was neatly dressed, looked in good health and made a very creditable appearance. Beside him was his aged father, who was

bowed down with grief.

Counsel for the defense, in pleading for less than the maximum penalty, started out by saying that while they failed to prove in their issue of insanity that defendant was of unsound mind, they still believed that he was, that he was not responsible at the time of the act and did not know right from wrong. Therefore, they asked for an indeterminate sentence, so that should defendant show improvement in his mental condition and make a good record for moral deportment, there might be some chance for the State to restore him to his loved ones. Counsel dwelt on the great length of time the maximum penalty would force Williams to remain in prison. At the expiration of 30 years, they said, his father would have

reached the great age of 90 and odd years while his young wife would have become a middle-aged matron. Counsel dwelt eloquently on mercy and pleaded for mercy for the defendant.

The State contended that Williams had been shown mercy in the act of the Solicitor in accepting a plea of second-degree murder, when he had waylaid and shot an officer who was not personally contending with the prisoner, but was shot while sitting in an automobile after performing his duty as an officer in destroying Williams' still. They contended that expert testimony and the testimony of neighbors showed that he was not insane, but knew perfectly well what he was doing when he killed Pate.

Judge Lane, in passing sen-

tence, said that he had read the testimony given in the trial on the insanity issue and was convinced that Williams was not of unsound mind, but was responsible for his acts. As to mercy, said the Judge, it should be extended to the public as well as to the criminal, that the criminal had been shown mercy in allowing him to plead guilty to murder in the second degree. Instead of being tried for his life, therefore, all the testimony and facts in the case being duly considered, the Court gave the maximum sentence, 30 years confinement in the State Prison.

After sentence had been passed there seemed to be a loosening of tension in the great audience, and judging from expressions of opinion the sentence pronounced met with general approval.