



INSTITUTION PRISON CAMP # 112 Located at JACOBSON, N.C.

PRISON DIVISION RALEIGH

Received Feb. 6, 1939
From Edcombe County

Crime False Pretense

Sentence: yrs. mos. 30. days
Date of sentence Feb. 15, 1939
Sentence begins Feb. 8, 1939
Sentence expires
Good time sentence expires
Date of birth 1903 Occupation Farmer

Birthplace N.C. Nationality American

Age 35 Comp. Fair

Height 5 ft. 10 in. Eyes Blue

Weight 120 Hair Blond

Build Medium

Scars and marks out scar in forehead

Home Address Whitakers, N.C.

Home of Father of Mother J. H. Judge

Address Whitakers, N.C.

Home of Brother or Sister

Address

Home of Wife or Husband Answer to

Address Bureau of Identification--Prison Division

Home of Relative State Highway & Public Works Commission

Address Highway Building, Raleigh, N.C.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

NAME	NUMBER	CITY OR INSTITUTION	DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION OR SENTENCE
PAROLED	10-843 17027				
PAROLE REVOKED					
DATE MAY 16 1946					
PAROLED					
DATE JUN 13 1946					
PAROLE REVOKED					
DATE FEB 11 1939					






(Please furnish all additional criminal history and police record on separate sheet)






LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

Name Joe J. Jingo Classification 25 W 88T 11
 (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT PLAINLY) Reference 25 W 88M 16

Alias **MASTER**

No. 12521 Color White Sex Male

Right Hand				
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger
				

Left Hand				
6. Thumb	7. Index finger	8. Middle finger	9. Ring finger	10. Little finger
				

Four fingers taken simultaneously

LEFT HAND

MAC

Four fingers taken simultaneously

RIGHT HAND

Amputations 114

Right thumb Left thumb

Prisoner's signature: P. J. Jingo

Impressions taken by: P. J. Jingo

Date impressions taken 2-1-33

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HIGHWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

PRISON DIVISION
RALEIGH

Institution . . . N.C. PRISON CAMP #402

Located at

SMITHFIELD, N. C.

Prisoners

Home Address
HITAKERS, N.C.

Home of Father or Mother _____ MOTHER) MRS W. H. JUDGE

Address _____ SAME AS ABOVE _____

Home of Brother or Sister-

Address

Home of Wife or Husband—

Address

Home of Relative

Address

Scars and marks ---SMALL GOAB ON FOREHEAD.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

[illegible]


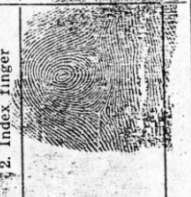



(Please furnish all additional criminal history and police record on separate sheet)






LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

Name JOSEPH JUDGE Classification 25 W 001
 Alias (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT PLAINLY) 12 W 001

No. 171427 Color WHITE Sex MALE
266345

Reference 16

Right Hand			
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger
			
			5. Little finger
			

Left Hand			
6. Thumb	7. Index finger	8. Middle finger	9. Ring finger
			
			10. Little finger
			

Four fingers taken simultaneously

LEFT HAND

Four fingers taken simultaneously

RIGHT HAND

Amputations

Left thumb

Right thumb

Prisoner's signature: J. Williams

Date impressions taken

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

PRISON DIVISION
RALEIGH

Institution N.C. State Prison

Located at Halifax N.S. Camp #109

Prisoners

Home Address
Whitakers, N.C

Home of ~~XXXXXX~~ Mother (M) Mrs. W. H. Judge

Address Whitakers, N.C.

Home of Brother or Sister-

Address

Home of Wife or Husband—

Address

Home of Relative

Address -----

Scars and marks --- Scar On Left Cheek ---

CRIMINAL HISTORY

[illegible]

(Please furnish all additional criminal history and police record on separate sheet)











LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

Name John Joseph Judge Classification 25 W 00 I 14
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT PLAINLY)

Alias 12 W 00 M 16

No. 224397 Color White Sex Male

MASTER

Right Hand			Left Hand		
1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger	6. Thumb
					
					

Four fingers taken simultaneously

LEFT HAND

Four fingers taken simultaneously

RIGHT HAND

Amputations _____

Left thumb Right thumb _____

Prisoners signature John Joseph Judge

Impressions taken by L. E. Whitaker

(SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING PRINTS)

Date impressions taken 4/22/1948

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD

Located at

Ahoskie, N. C.

Home Address -----Whitakers, N. C.

Home of Father or Mother -----Mrs. W. H. Judge

Address -----Whitakers, N. C.

Home of Brother or Sister

Address

Home of Wife or Husband

Address

Home of Relative

Address

Scars and marks _____ Scar on nose and forehead _____

[illegible]

(Please furnish all additional criminal history and police record on separate sheets)

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

Name JUDGE, Joseph Classification 25' W 00I- 14
 Alias 326033 Reference 12 W 00M 16
 No. 326033 Color white Sex male

RIGHT HAND

1. Thumb	2. Index finger	3. Middle finger	4. Ring finger	5. Little finger

LEFT HAND

6. Thumb	7. Index finger	8. Middle finger	9. Ring finger	10. Little finger

Four fingers taken simultaneously

LEFT HAND

Amputations

Four fingers taken simultaneously

RIGHT HAND

Left thumb

Right thumb

Impressions taken by: B. E. Melvin
 (SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING PRINTS)
 Date impressions taken 11.29/55

Prisoners signature: Joseph Judge

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THIS CARD







REX A. PARAMORE
MAYOR
BILLIE G. KENNEDY
TOWN CLERK
MAURICE L. COOPER
CHIEF OF POLICE
THOMAS E. BATCHELOR
FIRE CHIEF



TOWN OF NASHVILLE

NASHVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
27856

COMMISSIONERS
DAVID D. GHIST
W. HEATH HINSON
J. P. WOODARD
BECKY J. BASS

PERMIT

Permit to Picket as set forth in th Code of the Town
of Nashville, Chapter H, Section 30 to be effective
from:

DATE: September 19, 1977 to September 23, 1977

Such picketing is not to begin before 9:00 AM daily, nor
extend beyond 5:00 PM each day.

Rex A. Paramore
Rex A. Paramore, Mayor



OUR STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE!

Today Joe Judge, a rich white shopkeeper and slumlord, confessed murderer of Charlie Lee, an Afro-American worker, will stand trial here in Nashville. For five months since the murder, Joe Judge has walked the streets of Whitakers a free man - free to continue cheating the masses of people who buy at this store, free to continue carrying a gun to threaten the people. Judge has been protected by the police, the courts, the whole government, while those of us struggling for justice have been harassed, intimidated, and even arrested on trumped up charges. And we expect today will be no different. The courts serve the rich and will try to crush the poor, especially poor Black people. Justice will not be done in the rich man's courts.

At the same time, in Fayetteville, a 16 year old Afro-American youth was just sentenced to 30 years in jail for killing a white youth in self defense. The young white started a fight, and a knife appeared. The Black youth stabbed the white youth and the white youth later died. The murder weapon was never found. Witnesses made it clear that the white youth started the fight. Yet the young Black man will spend most of his life in prison.

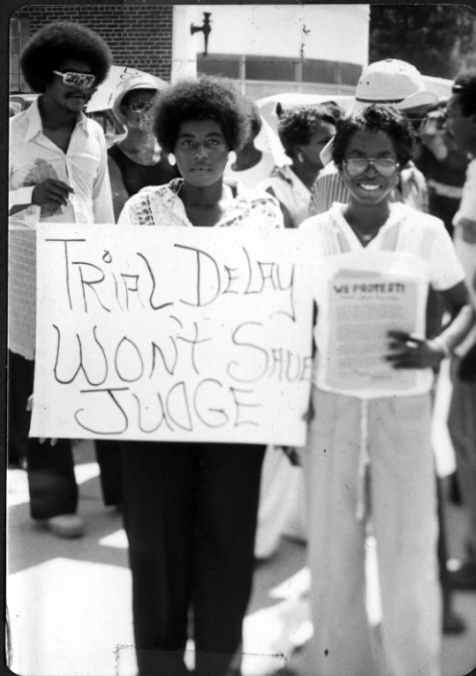
In Whitakers, a rich white man kills a Black working man and very likely will go free. A young Black man in Fayetteville defends himself too well and goes to jail for 3 decades. This is what this criminal system brings- oppression and brutality for the masses, especially for Black people, and heaven for the rich, especially rich whites. There is no democracy, no justice, no so-called "human rights" for the poor and the Black, only rich whites get "justice", a phony justice that money can buy. Rich whites control the system and Black people are still treated like slaves. Poor whites are treated almost as bad.

Many hundreds of people have struggled for months to see justice done in the case of Joe Judge. Thousands more support this struggle. Last Saturday, a People's Trial group of over 100 Whitakers residents found Joe Judge guilty of murder. But this is a capitalist country where the rich rule and the People's word has no influence. So Joe Judge will not have to pay fully for his crime. But this will only strengthen our determination to struggle. And we must struggle not only for justice in cases like Joe Judge and the young brother in Fayetteville. But we must struggle against the whole class of rich white bloodsuckers who control the courts, the police, the government, the factories, and the fields. Cases like that of Joe Judge make clear to all of us that to improve our lives, to have real justice for the people, we must struggle against this class of rich, this class of murderers and thieves.

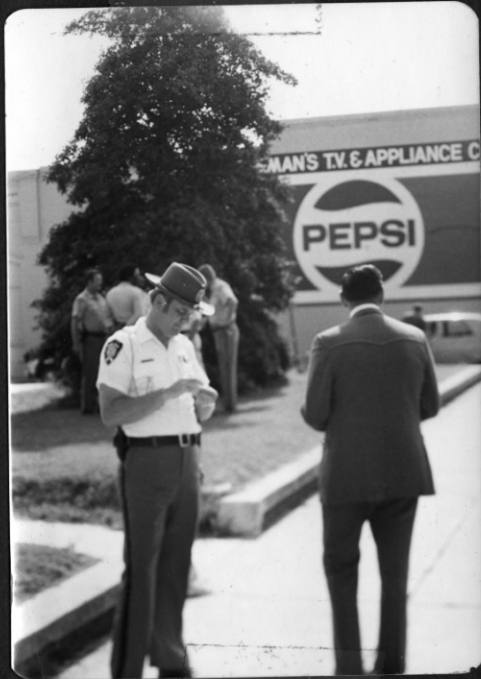
We will continue to struggle for justice in this case. We will continue to struggle even if the courts let Joe Judge go. We will continue to struggle against Joe Judge and his kind, to protect not only the Lee family, but the masses of poor people against injustice and oppression.

JUSTICE MUST BE DONE !

-PEOPLE'S COALITION FOR JUSTICE







NEW NORTH CAROLINA STATE STATUE REQUIRING PICKETS TO BE 300 FEET
FROM COURTHOUSE (became effective July 1, 1977)

CHAPTER 266

HOUSE BILL 77

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT OBSTRUCTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BY
PICKETING OR PARADING

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. A new section is added to General Statutes Chapter 14,
Article 30 ("Obstructing Justice"), to read as follows:

" § 14-225.1. Picketing or parading. -- Any person who,
with intent to interfere with, obstruct, or impede the
administration of justice, or with intent to influence any
justice or judge of the General Court of Justice, juror,
witness, district attorney, assistant district attorney,
or court officer, in the discharge of his duty, pickets,
parades, or uses any sound truck or similar device within
300 feet of an exit from any building housing any court of
the General Court of Justice, or within 300 feet of any
building or residence occupied or used by such justice,
judge, juror, witness, district attorney, assistant district
attorney, or court officer, shall upon plea or conviction
be guilty of a misdemeanor and imprisoned for not more than
two years or fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000),
or both.

G.S.
§ 14-225.1

Sec. 2. This act shall become effective on July 1, 1977.

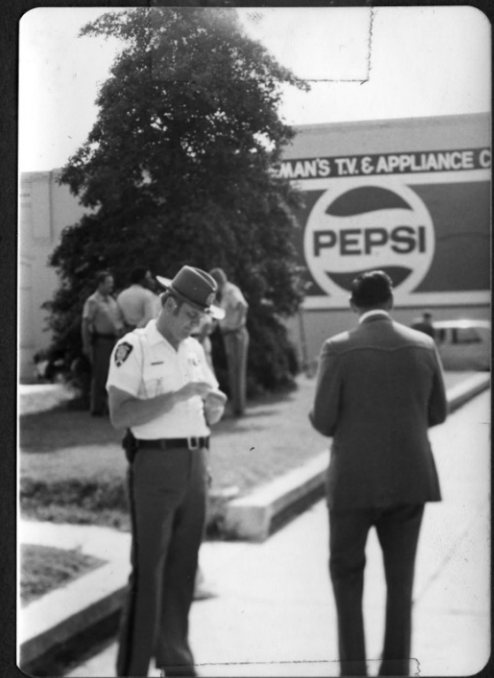
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this
the 28th day of April, 1977.

JAMES C. GREEN, SR.

James C. Green
President of the Senate

CARL J. STEWART, JR.

Carl J. Stewart, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representa-
tives





Capitalist Courts Set Joe Judge Free! BUT the People's Coalition for Justice EXPOSES SHAM JUSTICE!

On Monday, September 19th, in Nashville, N.C. Joe Judge was clearly exposed by the People's Coalition for Justice as a murderer, a sex pervert, and a menace to the community of Whitakers for years. Judge's murder trial began at 10 a.m. in the Nash County Courthouse and by 11 am. (only one hour later!) Joe Judge walked out of the courthouse and got in his car -- a free man! The results of the sham show of justice shows the hypocrisy and injustice of the courts, the police, the district attorney, and the judge. As the People's Trial held in Whitakers last Saturday clearly demonstrated through the testimony of many witnesses, JOE JUDGE IS GUILTY OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER!!! We know that and Judge knows that.

The People's Coalition for Justice supports Mrs. Leola Lee's decision to accept the \$25,000, but we think that she deserved much more than that. This amount is nothing! If Charlie Lee had lived and worked until he was 65 years old, he would have earned 2-3 times this amount himself. We uphold Mrs. Lee's struggle to get the cash settlement. We also recognize the work of people in the Whitakers area over the past 5 months has been important and helped create the conditions for the \$25,000 offer. If people had not united and fought for justice, Joe Judge would have been free months ago and Ms. Lee would have no money today. We must be clear as to the importance of the people in this struggle.

Many people have been actively struggling through the People's Coalition for Justice over the past few months to see that justice is done in the Joe Judge murder case. As a result of this organization of people's united effort to struggle and fight for justice, the Whitakers people last Saturday morning arrested two PCJ members, Waldo James and Paul Bermanzohn, on false charges of threatening an officer and trespassing. These arrests were clearly an attempt by the police to suppress our call for justice. However, we will not be stopped! We will fight to free our brothers and get all charges dropped when they go to trial in Nashville on October 4th.

In order to discuss the results of the Judge trial on Monday, to prepare for Waldo and Paul's trial, and decide where to go from here, we are calling a mass meeting of the PCJ this Wednesday, September 21st at 7:30 P.M. at the Bloomerhill Community Center on Highway 301 in Whitakers. COME! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Some people may think that now that Joe Judge is free and back operating his store that our struggle has been in vain. But we have not struggled for nothing! Progress has been made. What was won was only because of the people's struggle. And even more important, many hundreds of us have learned how treacherous the capitalist system is, how to fight better for justice and liberation. We must continue our fight for justice wherever it's needed -- in our plants, in the fields, in the streets of Whitakers, in the schools, and so on.

COME TO THE PCJ MASS MEETING!!
FIGHT TO GET CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST WALDO AND PAUL!!

~ PCJ MASS MEETING
Wed., Sept. 21st 7:30 P.M.
Bloomerhill COMMUNITY CENTER (Right side of bldg;
Revival will be on Left side)

The News and Observer

62 Pages Today

Raleigh, N.C., Tuesday, September 20, 1977

112th Year

Suspended term Whitakers man gets given in slaying suspended sentence

By JERRY ALLEGOOD
Staff Writer

NASHVILLE — John Joseph Judge, an elderly white store owner charged with murder in the death of a black farm worker in April, received a suspended jail term Monday after pleading no contest to a reduced charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Under the terms of a plea bargaining arrangement approved in Nash County Superior Court, Judge also agreed to pay the victim's family \$25,000.

According to evidence presented in the brief session, Judge shot Charlie Lee, 46, with a .25-caliber pistol in Judge's store in Whitakers on April 17 during an argument over a \$10 bill.

The defendant, 73, was charged with murder when Lee died two days later. Conviction of involuntary manslaughter carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Judge John Webb of Wilson sentenced Judge to 10

See WHITAKERS, page 2

Continued from Page One

years but suspended the sentence for three years and ordered him to pay the settlement and court costs. He also ordered that the weapon be turned over to law enforcement officers.

"In light of the evidence, I believe this plea bargain is the best for all concerned," Webb said.

A small group of blacks and whites who said they were members of the "People's Coalition for Justice" conducted a peaceful demonstration two blocks from the courthouse. They carried posters which said, "Judge must pay" and "If he'd been black, he would be in jail."

Leaders of the group denounced the negotiated settlement as evidence that "there is no justice for the poor and black."

The settlement was reached by defense attorneys and prosecutors including Robert L. Spencer, a Rocky Mount lawyer hired as a private prosecutor by Lee's family.

The victim's widow told the judge Monday that she was not pressured to accept the settlement and that she made the decision on her own.

"At this time you feel this is a good plea bargain for yourself and your family, for the sake of yourself and your family?" the judge asked.

"That's right," Mrs. Lee answered.

There was no questioning of potential jurors or witnesses.

District Attorney Frank Brown of Tarboro read statements about the incident from Judge and from Joseph L. Tippet and Milton Bryant, Whitakers resi-

dents who were in the store at the time of the shooting.

Tippet and Bryant said Lee accused Judge of giving him change for a \$10 bill instead of a \$20 bill when he was in the store earlier in the day. They said Judge told Lee he should have counted his money before he left.

According to Bryant's statement, Lee was cursing and Judge told him to "watch his mouth." Bryant said Lee put his hand in his pocket and Judge fired.

Judge told officers he ordered Lee three times to leave the store and, when he refused, he took out his pistol. He said he told Lee once more and then fired.

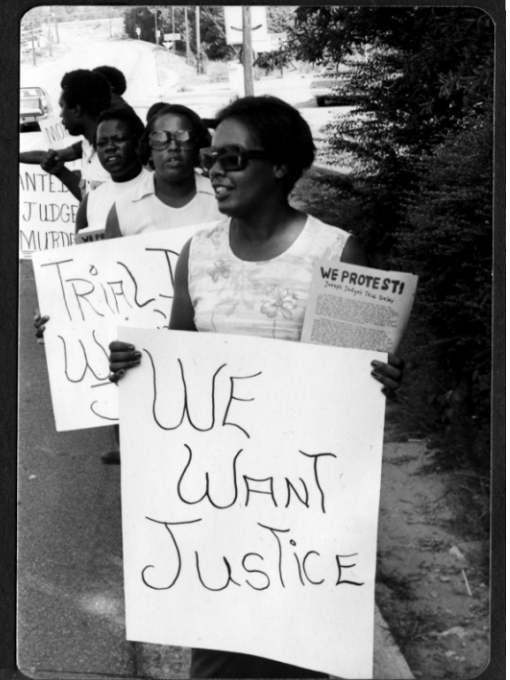
One of Judge's attorneys said a knife was later found in the area, but neither of the witnesses reported seeing a knife.



Judge John Webb
... accepts plea bargain

Black leaders in Whitakers, a small town in northeast Nash County, had criticized the handling of the case in a series of marches and demonstrations before the trial. Two demonstrators were arrested on Saturday on trespassing charges.

The media has intentionally misrepresented PCJ's view of the \$25,000 settlement. (see leaflet on back). We support Mrs. Lee's decision to accept the money. However, we condemn the courts for not giving Joe Judge an active sentence for murdering our brother, Charlie Lee. Instead, they let him go free.





The News and Observer

Raleigh, N.C., Friday, September 23, 1977

112th Year



The News and Observer

I advise and enjoin those who direct the paper in the tomorrow never to advocate any cause for personal profit or preference. I would wish it always to be "the voice" and devote itself to the policies of equality and justice to the underprivileged. If the paper should at any time be the voice of self-interest or become the spokesman of privilege or selfishness it would be untrue to its history.

JOSEPHUS DANIELS — Editor and Publisher 1894-1948

But what justice for Charlie Lee?

There is no perfect measure of justice, but it's clear that justice was not fully served in the placing of a \$25,000 value on the life of black farm worker Charlie Lee, 46, in Nash County.

John Joseph Judge, the white 73-year-old Whitakers country store operator who shot and killed Lee, emerged from a plea-bargaining agreement with a suspended sentence and an order to pay Lee's widow the \$25,000. Mrs. Lee and her attorney settled for what they apparently felt was the best that could be made of a bad situation. But where is the justice for Charlie Lee?

Evidence in the case indicated

ed that Lee protested to the storeowner that earlier in the day Judge had given him change for a \$10 bill instead of a \$20 bill. Words were exchanged, and a witness said Lee cursed the storeowner. Both Judge and the witness said Lee put his hand in his pocket before Judge fired, but there was no evidence Lee had a weapon.

Originally charged with murder, although placed under only \$1,000 bond on the shooting charge before the victim died, Judge eventually pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter—the unintentional killing of a person without malice. He could have received an

active sentence of 10 years in prison.

In suspending the defendant's sentence, Judge John Webb of Wilson took into consideration the fact that the plea and the conditions were agreed to by the prosecutors, one of whom represented Mrs. Lee privately. The widow told the judge she wasn't pressured into accepting the \$25,000 to compensate for the loss of her husband. And the defendant's age could have been an additional factor in Judge Webb's decision to suspend the sentence.

Nevertheless, the disturbing thing about this case is the atmosphere that makes this kind of settlement necessary to get any semblance of justice. It's plain that citizen victims and courts alike in North Carolina still have to worry too often about double standards of justice offered both by race and the social or economic standing of defendant and victim in the community.

The \$25,000 must have loomed large to Mrs. Lee in light of the risk of getting nothing if a formal trial had proceeded. But whatever she and her family net from that in the long run, it still puts a low price on human life in North Carolina, black or white.

The News and Observer

"THE OLD RELIABLE"

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Editor Emeritus ... Jonathan Daniels

Friday, September 23, 1977

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**The Black Press—
Our Freedom Depends
On It!**

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

VOLUME 55 — NUMBER 38

"READ BY OVER 30,000 DURHAMITES"

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1977

Joe Judge, The Killer of Charlie Lee Is Free On The Streets Again

WHITAKERS (CCNS) — Joseph Judge is free.

He was sentenced to ten years probation after a guilty plea to the involuntary manslaughter of Charlie Lee.

On April 19th, Charlie Lee, a black farmworker, and his friend walked up to Joe Judge's store in Whitakers, made a purchase, received some change and left. Shortly after, he counted his change, and decided he had been short-changed by the shop-keeper, Joe Judge. He returned to the store to deal with the issue and this time when Charlie Lee emerged from Joe Judge's store, he had been shot. Two days later Charlie Lee was dead.

Joe Judge was charged with the murder and initial reports indicated Judge was charged with murder and released on bail of \$250. Nash County Clerk of Court however told a reporter that Judge's bond was set at \$10,000.

The trial was set for the August term for Nash County Superior Court only to be postponed until last Monday, September 19, when a special session of Court was held and Judge placed on probation.

Judge was tried last Saturday, however, by the People's Coalition for Justice. Shortly after the death of Charlie Lee, reaction to the incident resulted in demonstrations, meetings and eventually the formulation of the People's Coalition for Justice. The emotionally and politically charged situation of Whitakers eventually was to involve a number of people from other areas of the state, primarily Greensboro and Durham.

These were members of the African Liberation Support Committee whose influence now leads the

People's Coalition for Justice. African Liberation Support Committee is in turn lead by another organization called Worker's Viewpoint Organization, a relatively new leftist group whose ranks include a number of experienced activists and organizers.

Under the leadership of Worker's Viewpoint Organization, an attempt has been made to build a mass movement in the Whitakers area around the issue of Charlie Lee's death. The death of Lee, however, is seen as a symptom of greater social ills and these ills, these issues, are the real focus of the leadership of the Whitakers struggle, for ALSC and Workers Viewpoint Organization. What exists can hardly be described as a mass movement at this point, but there is a hardcore

[Continued On Page 15]

JOE JUDGE

[Continued From Front Page] of mainly young people committed to following through in their pursuit of justice in the case.

The immediate justice desired depends upon who one talks to and it varies from demands for a fair trial to the hanging of Joe Judge, as was suggested in one of the leaflets handed out by the Coalition.

The high point of the organizing around the case came Saturday, September

17, in what was billed as a people's trial of Joe Judge. Proceedings took place at the Bloomerhill Community Center. A mock courtroom was set up and an audience was empaneled as the jury. During the two hours a parade of prosecution witnesses was called to testify around things from the character of Charlie Lee and Joe Judge to the working conditions in a Greensboro hospital.

The judge in the mock proceedings was Tyrone Alston, a Whitaker's insurance salesman, the prosecuting attorney was Nelson

Johnson, of Greensboro, a member of ALSC and Workers Viewpoint Organization. Joe Judge's defense was provided by Joyce Johnson, who is Nelson Johnson's wife.

Testimony began with a re-counting of the events leading up to the death of Charlie Lee. Witnesses to the good character of Charlie Lee were called as well as the bad character of Joe Judge. The prosecution produced two young black women who testified to sexual overtures allegedly made to them by Joe Judge. Two witnesses said Judge had also threatened them with guns and had also gone as far as to pistol whip them.

Still more anti-Judge testimony came in the form of Judge's criminal record of

flim-flam, larceny, and a number of other charges of which he had been convicted.

The mock trial, however, involved another kind of witness — witnesses whose purpose was to show a common thread of exploitation and protest between various groups and locations. In this vein, a textile worker from Greensboro talked about exploitation and organizing and a young man from Mebane talked about police harassment and about his picking up the gun in his own defense. Once the proceedings were finished, the gallery found Joe Judge guilty by acclamation. The people's trial did not resemble at all what happened in the state courts, but the fact that it happened surely had effects upon the trial's

outcome.

Part of the plea bargain arranged with Judge Joseph Wells, who presided over the case, was a \$25,000

settlement for Ms. Leola Lee, Charlie Lee's widow. She is to be paid \$12,500 at the sentencing and the remainder in one year plus interest.

THE CAROLINA TIMES — 15

SAT., SEPT. 24, 1977

GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS

Since July 18, 1909

GREENSBORO, N.C., TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 20, 1977

Fifteen Cents

A16 Greensboro Daily News, Tues., Sept. 20, 1977

Plea Puts End To Slaying Trial

WHITAKERS (AP) — The trial of Joe Judge, the elderly white shopkeeper charged in the slaying of black farmworker Charlie Lee, ended abruptly Monday when Judge pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Superior Court Judge John Webb of Wilson said the plea was agreed upon outside court in a plea bargaining negotiation between defense attorneys and Dist. Atty. Frank Brown.

Judge was given a 10-year suspended sentence and ordered to pay \$25,000 to Lee's widow, Mrs. Leola Lee.

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

Dedicated to the Upbuilding of Western North Carolina

108th Year . No. 263

Asheville, N. C. 28802, Tuesday, September 20, 1977

AP, AP Wirephoto

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1977 15

SECTION TWO

Murder Trial Ends With Plea Bargain

WHITAKERS, N.C. (AP) — The trial of Joe Judge, the elderly white shopkeeper charged in the slaying of black farmworker Charlie Lee, ended abruptly Monday when Judge pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Superior Court Judge John Webb of Wilson said the plea was agreed upon outside court in a plea bargaining negotiation between defense attorneys and Dist. Atty. Frank Brown.

Judge was given a 10-year suspended sentence and ordered to pay \$25,000 to Lee's widow, Mrs. Leola Lee.

Charles Finch, representative of a group called Peoples Coalition for Justice, issued a statement condemning the court action.

"This trial shows the hypocrisy and injustice upheld by the courts and our entire political system," said Finch, whose group demonstrated outside the courthouse as the trial got under way. "The district attorney, judge, lawyers, police and everyone concerned with the case knew it wouldn't go before the jury."

Lee, 46, reportedly was killed when an argument erupted over correct change from a purchase in Judge's store last April 17, Judge, 73, claimed he fired in self-defense.

Finch and others staged demonstrations in protest when Judge's bond was set at \$10,000.



THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN
PUBLISHED DAILY
EXCEPT SUNDAYS

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WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL



THE EVENING TELEGRAM

VOL. 66 -- NO. 340
16 PAGES

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1977

PRICE 15c DAILY

THE EVENING TELEGRAM

Local, Area News

Monday, Sept. 19, 1977-9

Judge Is Sentenced On A Reduced Charge

The murder trial of Joseph Judge, 73, quickly ended today when the white Whitakers store

owner charged with fatally shooting a black farm worker pled no contest to a reduced charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Judge, who allegedly shot Charles Lee, 46, last April in his store, was given a 10-year sentence suspended for three years on the condition he pay court costs, remain on good behavior and not violate any law for three years. He was also ordered to pay \$25,000 to the estate of Lee with half to be paid immediately and the remaining half to be paid within a year.

In a plea bargaining session prior to the opening of the trial at 10 this morning, District Attorney Frank Brown agreed to accept the plea to the lesser charge. The plea was entered into court and the judgment rendered.

Lee's widow took the stand and told Superior Court Judge John Webb that the \$25,000 settlement was acceptable before Webb passed sentence on Judge.

An estimated 15 demonstrators appeared outside the courthouse to continue their protest of the state's handling of the case. Judge's bond was set at \$10,000, a figure which the black demonstrators said was too low for a murder charge.

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

81ST YEAR No. 171

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Winston-Salem Journal, Winston-Salem, N. C., Tuesday, September 20, 1977—Page 15

Storekeeper Is Sentenced In Killing

NASHVILLE (UPI) — An elderly white storekeeper agreed to pay \$25,000 to the estate of a black farm worker Monday after pleading no contest to involuntary manslaughter charges in the worker's death.

In addition, Joseph Judge, 73, of Whitakers was given a 10-year suspended prison term and was placed on probation for three years.

He was originally charged with second-degree murder in the death of Charles Lee, 43, who was shot April 16 and died April 18. The charge was reduced through plea bargaining.

Judge was accused of shooting Lee during an argument in Judge's store in which Lee claimed he had been shortchanged \$7 by Judge earlier in the day. He died of a bullet wound in the chest.

Judge John Webb of Nash County Superior Court said Judge must pay Lee's estate \$12,500 immediately and must pay the rest of the money, with interest, in a year. He was also ordered to pay court costs.

Dist. Atty. Frank Brown said it was decided plea bargaining was the best way to settle the case after talking with Lee's widow, Mrs. Leola Lee, other family members and witnesses.

Outside the courthouse, members of a group calling itself the "People's Coalition for Freedom" picketed during the half-hour trial.

"This trial shows the hypocrisy and injustice upheld by the courts and our entire political system," said the group spokesman, Nelson Johnson, when the case ended.

The judge, the district attorney and everyone within the case knew that it would be a short trial with no jury selected. But in order to make some show that justice was being done, a jury was selected for a half hour before the final plea bargaining was done, said Johnson.

THE TIMES

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Thomasville, (N.C.), Tuesday Morning, September 20, 1977

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Judge pleads no contest to reduced involuntary manslaughter charge

Page 8A THE TIMES—Thomasville, N.C., Tuesday Morning, September 20, 1977

WHITAKERS, N.C. (AP) — The trial of Joe Judge, the elderly white shopkeeper charged in the slaying of black farmworker Charlie Lee, ended abruptly Monday when Judge pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Superior Court Judge John Webb of Wilson said the plea was agreed upon outside court in a plea bargaining negotiation between defense attorneys and Dist. Atty. Frank Brown.

Judge was given a 10-year suspended sentence and ordered to pay \$25,000 to Lee's

widow, Mrs. Leola Lee.

Charles Finch, representative of a group called Peoples Coalition for Justice, issued a statement condemning the court action.

"This trial shows the hypocrisy and injustice upheld by the courts and our entire political system," said Finch, whose group demonstrated outside the courthouse as the trial got under way. "The district attorney, judge, lawyers, police and everyone concerned with the case know it wouldn't go before the jury."

The Charlotte Observer

Foremost Newspaper Of The Carolinas

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Carolinas News

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Observer Wire Reports

Judge Suspends Sentence

WHITAKERS — Joe Judge, an elderly white shopkeeper charged in the slaying of black farm worker Charlie Lee, pleaded no contest Monday to a reduced charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Superior Court Judge John Webb of Wilson suspended a 10-year prison sentence and ordered Judge to pay \$25,000 to Lee's widow, Leola Lee.

Charles Finch, representative of a group called Peoples Coalition for Justice, issued a statement condemning the action.

"This trial shows the hypocrisy and injustice upheld by the courts and our entire political system," said Finch, whose group demonstrated outside the courthouse as the trial got under way.

Lee, 46, reportedly was killed when an argument erupted over correct change from a purchase in Judge's store last April 17. Judge,

Around The Carolinas

73, claimed he fired in self-defense.

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PROTESTORS DEMONSTRATE—Members of the "Peoples Coalition For Justice" demonstrate on Main Street in Nashville Monday during the trial of Joe Judge, who was given a suspended sentence for involuntary manslaughter in the April shooting death of Charles Lee. (Graphic photo by Lupton.)

Slaying Trial Is Concluded

A suspended sentence on a reduced charge of involuntary manslaughter was handed down Monday in Nashville by Superior Court Judge John Webb in the case of John Joseph Judge, a white service station owner charged in the April gun slaying of Charles Lee, a black farm worker from Whitakers.

Judge pleaded no contest to charges of involuntary manslaughter and accepted a sentence of 10 years in jail, suspended for three years. Also included in the sentence was a \$25,000 restitution to be paid to the Lee family.

After Judge submitted his plea, District Attorney Frank Brown read statements of two witnesses, Joseph Tippet and Milton Bryant of Whitakers, describing the April shooting incident.

The evidence indicated that Judge shot Lee with a

.25 calibre pistol following an argument over change for a \$10 bill.

According to the statements, Lee had returned to the store claiming that Judge had given him change for a \$10 bill when he had given him a \$20 bill.

The statements read that after a verbal exchange, Judge told Lee to "watch his mouth" and ordered him out of the store three times. Lee had reached in his pocket when Judge shot him, the statements said.

Judge was later charged with second degree murder which was reduced to involuntary manslaughter after a plea bargaining agreement was made with the court and attorneys for both sides.

Lee's widow, Mrs. Leola Lee, also took the stand Monday and acknowledged accepting such a plea without receiving pressure.

The involuntary manslaughter charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment. Judge was ordered to pay the settlement and court costs and the weapon turned over to authorities.

During the brief trial, members of the "Peoples Coalition for Justice" demonstrated on Main Street, protesting the handling of the case.

Apparently dissatisfied with the negotiated settlement, leaders of the group stated the outcome was an example of "injustice to blacks" and claimed that Judge had been protected by the police and the courts.

September 23, 1977

Dear Mrs. Lee,

Now that the trial is over, we are sure that a tremendous weight has been taken off your shoulders. We were aware of the sadness you were bearing including your father's illness. All of us in the People's Coalition for Justice (PCJ) support your decision to accept the financial settlement. As we have been saying, we think you deserve even more. The news media and a few others are trying to make it appear that we opposed your decision or that your decision was a "sell-out." This is not true! We know that you fought with all your strength for justice. It was with your support that the People's Coalition for Justice was developed. It was in your home that we often met and we were always made to feel welcome. We all marched together in the hot streets of Nashville on August 9th. We have no questions at all about your desire for justice and we support whatever financial compensation you were able to get. We feel that the work of the coalition helped make it possible to get the \$25,000 settlement. In many cases like this in the past, such as the Sandra Dupre case in Scotland Neck last year, the murderer has gone free and the family has got no money settlement.

Although Joseph Judge will pay \$25,000 and he should pay much more, he should not go free. Our view is that Joseph Judge is a murderer, a sex pervert, and menace to the community of Whitakers. He should die for this crime or, at least, spend the rest of his life in jail. This same type of hypocritical justice is what usually happens when a white man (especially with money) kills a black person. That's what happened last year in Scotland Neck, that's what happened several years ago in Ayden, N.C., and that's what happened in Greensboro in 1969. We blame the system for these criminal acts. We blame the system for making it possible for murderers to go free. The People's Coalition for Justice sees it as its duty to expose this injustice and continue to struggle against it. It was clear from the beginning that the political and judicial forces were not interested in justice. Otherwise, Joe Judge would not be free today.

We think that crooked lawyers, the judge and the District Attorney combined with Joe Judge's forces to make you the scapegoat. Spencer never explained that you could have gotten a financial settlement and still have pressed charges for manslaughter. We did not understand the system well enough, so we did not give you clear enough legal advice.

Then the District Attorney put you on the stand to make it look like you were selling out the struggle. They put you on the stand to get people angry with you, not with their crooked system, angry with Charlie Lee's family instead of with the system that lets the murderer Joe Judge go free. These were tricks that Watson must have known about, since Spencer was his lawyer and since Watson wanted you to stop struggling. They knew your spirit and fighting energy were a big factor in the struggle, an inspiration to many. So they figured the best way to hurt the struggle was to make it look like you had sold out. But we know it was a financial settlement you had to take.

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These were tricks to fool the people, to divide us, and to take the heat off the courts and Joe Judge. But in understanding these tricks we will grow stronger, better able to fight this rotten system.

In addition to the financial settlement, much good has come from the work of the People's Coalition for Justice. Many, many more people have a better understanding of how this crooked system really works to obstruct justice. More people from around the state of North Carolina are in touch with each other and can better organize our struggles in the future. We have all learned a lot about how to fight.

The Coalition will continue its work. We will help Paul and Waldo, who were arrested on trumped-up charges on September 10th. The PCJ will have a meeting this Thursday night, September 29th at 7:30 P.M. at the Bloomerhill Community Center. Paul & Waldo's trial is set for October 4th. After that we are not sure about our exact plans. Whatever is planned, we will keep you informed. We hope that all goes well for you and your family. You have our best wishes and full support.

Yours in struggle,

THE PEOPLE'S COALITION FOR JUSTICE

Wilson Johnson
Shirley Parnell
Rayl Bynum-John
Sara Cawley
Hawleen Parnell
Blanche Young
Jones Anderson
Dora Williams
Candy Parnell
Lew Nicholas
Margaret G. Bryant
Charles Finch

Durham Morning Herald

FINAL EDITION

DURHAM, N. C., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1977

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PAGE 24C

Whitakers Chief Of Police Resigns Over 'Interference'

WHITAKERS, N.C. (AP) — A dispute with town officials over what Police Chief C. R. Wyatt called interference with law enforcement has led to the chief's resignation.

Wyatt, 35, who has been chief since February, handed in his resignation Friday. The Town Council and police commissioner — a council member assigned to oversee the police force — prevented officers from performing their duties, Wyatt said.

"The council told me not to enforce the speed limit on U.S. 201 which runs through Whitakers. The speed limit through town is 35 miles per hour but I

was told not to write any citations for violations that were not over 20 m.p.h.," he said.

Mayor H. B. Johnson had no response to the allegation but said the council is willing to discuss the matter with Wyatt and the town's three police officers.

Wyatt also complained that R. G. Payne, the police commissioner, had cancelled a speeding ticket issued by one of the officers, William R. Gay Jr.

The ticket was cancelled because policemen were out at 7:30 a.m. Sunday writing tickets in front of a church, Payne said.

"He is trying to make some thing personal out of this," Payne said of Wyatt, also charging, "Wyatt has been neglecting his duties and will not lend to his job."

Wyatt said he also recently had a spat with the mayor.

"The mayor chewed me out because I was a half-mile out of town looking for a convict that had escaped recently," he said, adding, "That is one of the main reasons I had resigned."

