

ROOKER REPORT

March 2000

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PARKINSON DEPARTS CLERK POST

After 14 years of service, Jeff Parkinson has left the circuit court clerk's office for a new career in the private sector.

Parkinson, 40, who headed up the office's child support department for more than a decade, bid farewell to co-workers on March 10. He has joined the firm of Insurance Link as a systems analyst.

"It goes without saying that Jeff's absence will be sorely felt," said Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker. "He has been an asset in a number of functions relevant to the operations of this office over the years."

Parkinson, a self-employed building and remodeling specialist when he joined the clerk's staff in 1986, was first assigned to cleaning chores and organizing the office's archives.

He drew on his carpentry skills to build shelving to accommodate files in an orderly fashion, an accomplishment that led to his being selected to design and help construct new office space for the General Sessions Civil Division in the Ben West Building.

He would later benefit from an accounting degree from David Lipscomb College when he was named the office's internal auditor with companion responsibilities of helping develop the county's first computerized child support system.

After the system successfully debuted in 1989, Parkinson became supervisor over child support collections and distribution, a position he held until his resignation. In the interim, he worked



PARKINSON

SEE PARKINSON, PAGE 4

'SEMINAR' CONCEPT WILL PROMOTE INTERACTION WITH 'STUDENTS'

DRIVER CLASS CHANGING

Going to defensive driving class will soon become a totally different experience for the county's errant drivers who opt for education over monetary retribution.

A new concept sanctioned by the National Safety Council will be adopted this summer for drivers assigned to Metro's four-hour defensive driving classes.

Look for smaller classes and increased interaction between "students" and instructors as the course takes on more of a "seminar" type approach in teaching the evils of irresponsible driving habits.

The days of merely watching shock films and listening to endless lectures are numbered, giving way to more modern and effective methods of instilling better driving skills and preventing the need for future class attendance.

Terry Peaks, who manages Metro's traffic school program for the General Sessions Court, said the new format could be in place as early as July, provided training is completed for the 25 instructors who teach the courses.

Three of those instructors have been added only recently to accommodate the program's growing enrollment.

While the curriculum will change, Peaks said, the enrollment fee will remain at \$40 per four-hour class.

Currently, as many as 50 students attend each weekly class. Under the new format, that number will be reduced by approximately 50 percent, Peaks said, providing a more effective exchange between students, instructors and materials.

SEE DRIVER, PAGE 2

CALL HIM THE 'MARRYING JUDGE'

Circuit Judge Hamilton Gayden can rightfully be called the "marrying judge."

He is known for presiding over large weddings. And we do mean "large."

Two years ago, you may recall, he married 97 couples in a mass ceremony at 100 Oaks Shopping Mall. So, he was the obvious choice to do the honors this year when the Nashville Chamber of Commerce cosponsored a nationwide contest that would bring 67 couples together on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry to say "I do" in unison.

Maybe you caught the event on your local TV news channel. If not, the ceremony in its entirety will be carried soon on The Nashville Network.



GAYDEN

In addition to the solemn ceremonial rites performed by Judge Gayden, you'll be entertained by singers John Berry, Bryan White and Connie Smith, who dropped in for a special appearance.

But the real stars were the 67 couples who won the right to be married or to renew their wedding vows by competing in the nationwide contest cosponsored by the

chamber, Country Weekly magazine and Southwest Airlines.

And Judge Gayden, of course, who donated his fee to charity.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS AT 2 A.M. ON SUNDAY, APRIL 2. DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD.

NEW TRAFFIC OFFICE HOURS

THE TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU AND WARRANT OFFICE WILL OBSERVE NEW OPERATING HOURS BEGINNING IN APRIL.

BOTH OFFICES WILL OPEN AT 7:30 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 5 P.M. DAILY, BEGINNING WITH THE MONTH'S FIRST BUSINESS DAY ON APRIL 3.

CURRENT OPERATING HOURS ARE 7:30 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

CIRCUIT COURT CLERK RICHARD ROOKER SAID THE EARLIER CLOSING TIME WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY DURING THE HOURS MOST FREQUENTED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

APPOINTMENTS

JACK TARKINGTON HAS ASSUMED THE POSITION OF DIVISION MANAGER FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES.

GLENDA GREGORY TRANSFERS FROM GENERAL HOSPITAL TO HEAD UP THE DEPARTMENT'S ACCOUNTING DUTIES, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1.

STORY, PAGE 2

CHEERS...

Top billing this month goes to **Dixie Gibson**, who celebrated 33 years of service as a traffic violations deputy clerk on Feb. 23. A member of the warrant office staff for most of those years, Dixie was first hired in 1967 as a substitute court clerk for the late judge **Donald Washburn**. She would later become a member of the traffic bureau staff for five years before transferring to the warrant office she has called home for a quarter of a century. We salute her longevity and her dedication.



GIBSON

- ◆ Congratulations to General Sessions Court secretary **Dot Patton** upon becoming a great-grandmother for the first time. Master **Charles Vance Goddard III** was born on Jan. 17 at Baptist Hospital, weighing in at 6 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 19 inches in length. He is the son of Dot's grandson **Charles Vance Goddard Jr.** and **Kristi Goddard**.
- ◆ General Sessions court officer **Opie Sory** and wife **Judy** are all aglow over the birth of their third grandchild. The couple's daughter **Missy Boone** and husband **Clay** presented them with a grandson on March 10. His name is sooo Americana. **Jackson Clay Boone** tilted the scales at 7 pounds, 15.5 ounces and measured 22 inches upon his arrival at Baptist Hospital.
- ◆ **Mary Stephens** has returned to the child support division following maternity leave. Earlier, she brought new daughter **Savanna** to the office to goo for co-workers.



PATTERSON

Another familiar face departed the courthouse scene last month with the retirement of state traffic clerk **Dee Patterson**. Ms. Patterson elected to take her service pension after 17.5 years with the criminal court clerk's office. A party was held in her honor on Feb. 25 in the jury assembly room where judges, state troopers and others were among well-wishers. Her official retirement date was March 1.

- ◆ Chief Deputy Administrative Clerk **Carole Garrett** completed a six-month wedding trilogy on Feb. 29, watching her third son walk down the aisle. The leap year ceremony took place in Tampa, Fla., where son **Chris Garrett** exchanged vows with **Jennifer Wilson**. Sons **Mike** and **Phillip** were forerunners, taking plunges in September and October respectively. In case you're wondering -- there are no more unmarried Garrett sons.
- ◆ There also is no longer an unmarried **Larry Stephenson**. The state trial court administrator and fiancée **Ginger Allen** tied the knot on Feb. 19. It was a small private affair with a few friends and family members in attendance and Judge **Frank Clement** presiding.

...TEARS

Condolences to employees and associates who lost family members in recent weeks. They include:

- ◆ **Jacqueline Marie Casey**, wife of General Sessions Judge **Casey Moreland**, whose mother **Emma Marie Garrett** passed away on Feb. 16 at the young age of 58. Mrs. Garrett was the wife of **Dale Garrett Sr.**, and was past president of Executive Women International. She was a registered nurse at Gateway Medical Center in Clarksville.
- ◆ Chief Deputy Circuit Court Clerk **Karen Rooker**, whose uncle **Walter Huffine** died on Feb. 15.
- ◆ General Sessions Court secretary **Joyce Searcy** in the Feb. 20 loss of her mother **Martha B. Parker**, who passed away at St. Thomas Hospital following vascular surgery. She was 63.
- ◆ Rooker Report editor **Gene Baker** in the passing of his uncle **John Bertrand Crawford** on Feb. 21 in Paducah, Ky., a cancer victim.

GREGORY APPOINTED TO ACCOUNTING POST

TARKINGTON NEW SUPER OVER METRO BUILDINGS

Jack Tarkington, who played a key role in the development of Adelphia Stadium, has been named division manager of Metro's building maintenance and operations for the General Services Department.

Tarkington assumed the position on March 16, filling a vacancy created by the Dec. 31 retirement of Rob Skipper.

A retired Air Force captain, Tarkington brings more than 20 years of management experience to the position. With a background in construction and renovation project management, as well as supervision of maintenance services, he was previously selected development coordinator for the Tennessee NFL stadium project.

He holds a master's degree in industry and technology from East Texas State University.

General Services Director Michael Bradley also announced the appointment of Glenda Gregory to the position of administrative services manager for fiscal operations, effective April 1.

Gregory has served as comptroller at General Hospital since 1996 and has more than 15 years experience in the accounting field. She will fill the vacancy created by the recent retirement of Paul Kerrigan.

SPACE SEARCH UPDATE

Local judges and the administration are continuing to explore possible solutions to the courtroom space dilemma that threatens to curb expansion of the judicial system.

Already one courtroom short of accommodating immediate needs, even more space must be provided before two new proposed judgeships can be approved.

A budget crunch notwithstanding, the state legislature reportedly stands ready to create new criminal court and chancery court judgeships if courtroom space is assured.

While a number of possibilities are being examined, none is firm enough to be made public at this time.

Stay tuned.

	Circuit Court Clerk	General Sessions
April Birthdays	3 Gene Baker	30 Judy Christopher
	4 Barbara Eddings	
	5 Beverly Rawls	Traffic Violations
	Kelli Olin	5 Jeff Filson
Probate Clerk	6 Cathy Garrett	25 Pete Page
	11 Will Cripps	27 Carl Smith
	18 Holly Russell	28 Eva McNaney
	23 Mike Garrett	

DRIVER CLASS GETTING NEW CONCEPT

(FROM PAGE 1)

The concept also provides for role playing in mock scenarios and working out situations through small group participation.

Peaks noted that visual aids, such as film footage, would continue to be a part of the curriculum, but on a smaller scale than now. Attendees also will continue to receive handouts of instructional literature.

The new concept is already being administered in a number of other cities and soon will be adopted nationwide for uniformity.

"Everybody is converting," said Peaks. "It's a national effort to keep everything compatible and to be nationally certified in reciprocity."

In keeping with that goal, each student completing the four-hour course will receive a certificate from the National Safety Council, which recently honored the Metro driver safety program as the nation's best for the fourth straight year.



JURY

TRIAL VERDICTS

ABBREVIATIONS:

P	PLAINTIFF	CP	COUNTER PLAINTIFF
D	DEFENDANT	CD	COUNTER DEFENDANT
ST	SOFT TISSUE	GSA	GENERAL SESSIONS APPEAL
REC	RECOVERY	TCPA	TN. CONSUMER PROTECT ACT

APPEALS

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of January 31

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
97C-3606	CONTRACT	5TH	HUNG JURY	
99C-43	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	2ND (P)	\$7,015	(P-30) (D-70)
97C-914	AUTO ACCIDENT	6TH (P)	\$45,000	

JUDGMENT	APPELLANT

Week of February 7

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
97C-640	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	6TH	DEFENDANT	
98C-3474	AUTO ACCIDENT	1ST (P)	\$11,263	
97C-2454	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	2ND (P)	\$1,762	ADMITTED

JUDGMENT	APPELLANT

Week of February 28

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
99C-116	AUTO ACCIDENT/DEFAULT	1ST (P)	\$20,000	

JUDGMENT	APPELLANT

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

APPEALS

GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of February 14

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
99C-1234	GSA/ASSAULT	8TH (P)	\$9,137	
99C-2509	GSA/DETAINER	3RD (P)	\$3,398	
96C-25	AUTO ACCIDENT	1ST (P)	\$15,000	
98C-3066	CONTRACT	5TH	UNDER ADVISEMENT	
99C-2410	DAMAGES	5TH (P)	\$36,700	
98C-582	DAMAGES	1ST (P)	\$50,000	
98C-1855-56	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH (CP)	\$10,775	
99C-2899	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST (P)	\$875	
99C-3196	GSA/CONTRACT	3RD* (P)	\$225	
99C-1231	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH (P)	\$885	
98C-3231	DAMAGES	5TH (P)	\$23,950	
99C-1936	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH (P)	\$1,950	
99C-2366	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH (P)	\$14,404	
99C-2502	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH (P)	\$2,800	
99C-3197	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH (P)	\$3,150	
98C-106	SLIP/FALL	1ST (P)	\$25,000	

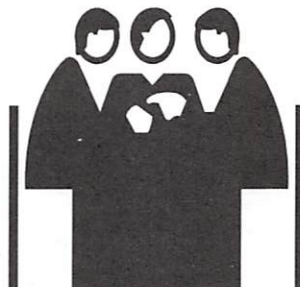
JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
P-\$4,500	DEFENDANT
P-\$2,978	DEFENDANT
TRANSFER	BOTH PARTIES
P-\$750	DEFENDANT
P-\$550	DEFENDANT
P-\$590	DEFENDANT
P-\$2,600	DEFENDANT
P-\$14,404	DEFENDANT
P-\$2,900	DEFENDANT
P-\$2,860	DEFENDANT

*--HEARD BY SPECIAL MASTER MARSH NICHOLS

FEBRUARY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

CASES CONSIDERED 7

Source: Megan Gregory, case coordinator



BY CLASSIFICATION

Auto Accidents	1
Nezgligence	2
Contract Disputes	3
Miscellaneous	1

DISPOSITIONS

Settled	5
Rescheduled	2

Who Do?

AN ACTUAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN AN ATTORNEY AND A WITNESS:

Q: DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR DAUGHTER HAS EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN VOO-DOO?

A: WE BOTH DO.

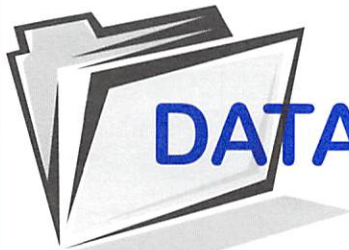
Q: VOO DOO?

A: WE DO.

Q: YOU DO?

A: YES, VOO DOO.

TRENDS



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of February

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	256
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	354
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	299
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	315

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	2,591
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	2,703
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	3,570
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$554,608
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	189

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	177
CASES CLOSED	128

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	23,021
PARKING VIOLATIONS	9,863
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$435,338
NULLIFICATIONS	2,030
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$24,270

PARKINSON LEAVES CLERK POST

(FROM PAGE 1)

with the State of Tennessee and Andersen Consulting in the development of the state-wide Clerk Model Child Support System, which was implemented in 1997.

In reference to his resignation, Parkinson said, "This is one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make. Anytime you are around people eight hours or so every day for 14 years, they become a part of your life. They are very dear to me and I will really miss them."

Parkinson and wife Nancy, a middle school guidance counselor at David Lipscomb, have been married 19 years. They have a son, Cory, 13.

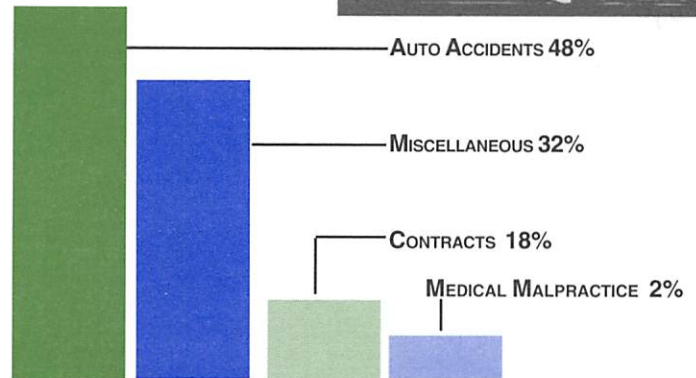
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Established by George L. Rooker (1929-1993),
(Circuit Court Clerk, 1968-1993)

Richard R. Rooker Circuit Court Clerk
Gene Baker Editor

CIVIL TRIALS By CLASS



AUTO ACCIDENTS 48%

MISCELLANEOUS 32%

CONTRACTS 18%

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE 2%



RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 1.1-1

CASE ANALYSES

AUTO ACCIDENTS

PLAINTIFFS 6
DEFENDANTS 5

MONTH-BY-MONTH

MONTH	TOTALS	JURY	NON-JURY	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	12	8	4	6	5	1
FEBRUARY	9	5	4	9	0	0
YEAR TO DATE	21	13	8	15	5	1

JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	77,000	2,000-60,000	7,500
FEBRUARY	85,0040	1,762-45,000	12,786

NON-JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	271,989	1,500-260,000	5,242
FEBRUARY	22,900	1,950-15,000	2,975

SOFT TISSUE CASES

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	17,000	2,000-8,000	7,000
FEBRUARY	8,777	1,762-7,015	N/A

*GENERAL SESSIONS APPEALS

MONTH	TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	3	3	0	0
FEBRUARY	3	3	0	0
YEAR TO DATE	6	6	0	0

OTHERS



CONTRACTS YTD PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS NO VERDICT
8 6 0 2

FEBRUARY AWARDS: \$27,164 -- TOTAL AWARDS TO DATE: \$34,664

MISCELLANEOUS



14
PLAINTIFFS 9
DEFENDANTS 4
NO VERDICT 1

MALPRACTICE



1
PLAINTIFFS 0
DEFENDANTS 1
NO VERDICT 0