

ROOKER REPORT

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Fuller Makes It To Hall of Fame After 50 Years

Traffic Warrant Officer Still Going Strong As Dean of State High School Officials

If you asked someone to name just one high school sports official in Tennessee, chances are the response would be Ray Fuller.

Fuller's name is synonymous with state high school athletics, having devoted the last half-century to officiating varsity sports of all varieties. If that seems like a long time, consider the fact that he is still going strong as he celebrates his 79th birthday this month.

His service to high school sports was properly recognized in March when he was inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame.

It was an honor that received hardy congratulations from fellow workers in the traffic warrant office where Fuller has held down a "day job" for the past 23 years.

'Retirement is Not for Me'

Idle time is not conducive to Fuller's lifestyle. Never has been. Never will be. He earned the right to take it easy long ago, but quickly decided that "retirement is not for me."

Call it nervous energy or just plain desire to be productive, the juices have been driving Fuller for as long as he can remember. Upon his graduation from Hume-Fogg High School in 1943, he immediately entered the Army and spent the next 2.5 years in the European Theater and participated in the invasion of France and the notorious Battle of the Bulge. (You may recall a photograph in an earlier issue showing Fuller and other troops getting a briefing from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower on the Normandy invasion.)

After returning home from the service, Fuller readjusted to civilian life. While attending a YWCA dance, he met and developed a relationship with a lady named Anita. A short time later they would enter into a marriage that has lasted 57 years. They are the parents of two sons, Ronald and Kevin, both salesmen by profession, and a daughter, Jackie Hough. Their son Ronald so far has provided the only grandchild, a boy.

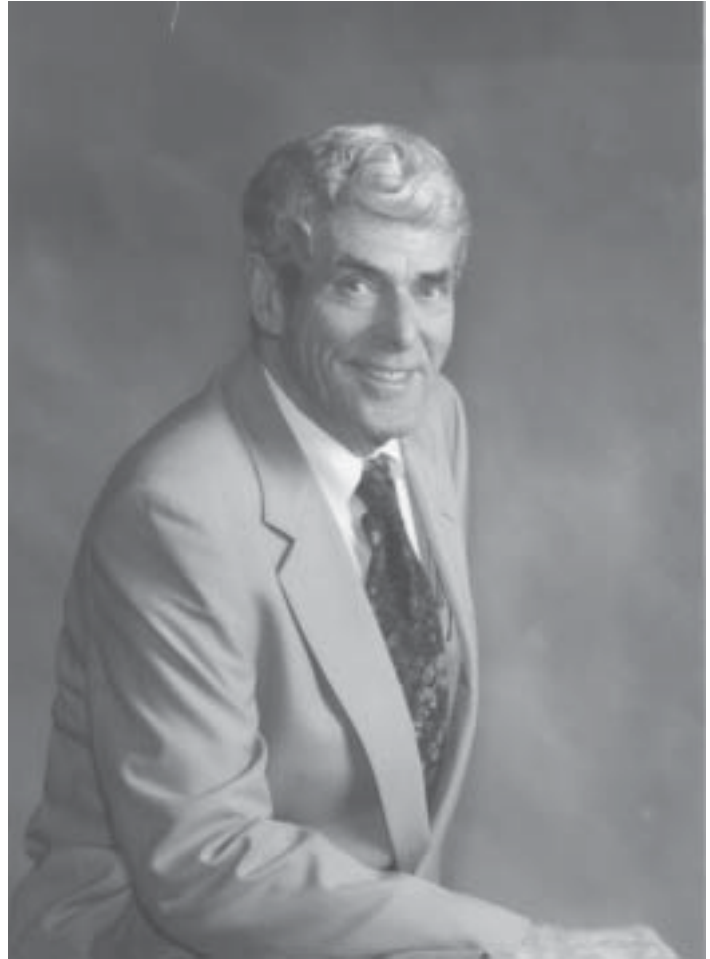
TSSAA Comes Calling in 1955

In 1949, Fuller landed a job with Nashville Electric Service, which would be his workplace for the next 31 years. He was supervisor of meter operations when he decided to take his pension in 1980.

The officiating bug bit Fuller in 1953 when he was asked to referee independent basketball league games. He also played basketball and at one time was a teammate of the now-deceased George L. Rooker, who would later become Circuit Court Clerk and Fuller's employer.

Fuller joined the TSSAA in 1955 and has not shifted into low gear since. His busy schedule takes him to games at all levels--junior and senior high school and little league--and all sports from

PERSONALITY



Ray Fuller: Hall of Famer, Warrant Officer, 79 Years Old

basketball to football to softball. During an applicable season, he will officiate a dozen basketball games and about eight football matches, including both weeknight and Saturday schedules.

From Monday through Friday, he spends his daylight hours carrying out his duties as a traffic warrant officer, a second career job that came along shortly after his retirement from NES 23 years ago.

One Season Ends, Another Begins

While he has earned the respect of those affected by his decisions on the playing fields, Fuller said there will be an occasional flare-up that will result in idle threats being made against him. But Fuller said he takes it all in stride and goes about doing his job on the court as though nothing happened.

Fuller said he seldom has problems with the players. "They know who has the last word and they just want to play ball," he said.

As for Fuller, he just wants to officiate. And he likes the variety. He can hardly wait for one sport's season to end and another to begin. It's an endless chain and Ray Fuller still has it firmly in his grip.

CHEERS...

Talking about your birthday surprises! How about the one **Dawn Martin** got this month? When the deputy general sessions clerk officially turned 28 at 12:01 a.m. on May 6, she was awakened by fiance **Tee Gorham**, who led her to a candle-lit room where he asked her to marry him. "I thought I was dreaming," said Dawn while showing off her stunning diamond engagement ring to fellow office workers. The marriage proposal highlighted a romance that was sparked more than two years ago when the couple was introduced by a co-worker Gorham was representing in a civil case. He is an attorney with the **Spicer, Flynn & Rudstrom** law firm. No wedding date has been set, but if Gorham's penchant for romantic surprises is any indication, it could coincide with some other important occasion.



DAWN MARTIN

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Speaking of engagements, deputy circuit court clerk **Christine Strassner's** promise to marry longtime beau **Chris Jennings** will become a reality on June 7. The couple made it official on April 19 after three years of courtship while Christine was in Pensacola where Jennings is stationed with the United States Navy. Following the wedding ceremony in Nashville, the couple will make their "temporary" home in Athens, Georgia where the new groom has been assigned for a six-month stint beginning in July.

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Joanie Young of our traffic warrant office would like to know how many other employees have relatives serving in the war in Iraq. Her son **James Nathan Lassiter**, a six-year Air Force veteran, is currently on assignment in Kuwait with the 35th Civil Engineering Squadron of the 35th Fighter Wing. If you, too, have a family member serving in Iraq, notify this publication for recognition in the next issue.

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Belated congratulations to **Linda Hoffman**, longtime secretary to Criminal Court Judge **Randall Wyatt**, who retired at the end of March. Linda's many years of dedicated service endeared her to judicial patrons, many of whom were on hand at a retirement luncheon in her honor.

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Welcome back to employees who had been on the ailing list, among them **Glenn Balletto** of the circuit court clerk's office, and **Tom Brown** of the probate clerk's office. Also, Chief Administrative Assistant **Karen Rooker** delivered good news after her father underwent successful triple heart bypass surgery on April 21. Our concern now is with deputy probate clerk **Phil York**, who is recovering from surgery to correct a colon perforation brought on by diverticulosis.

...TEARS

Our thoughts are with Chancery Clerk & Master **Claudia Bonnyman** in the April 23 death of her father **Paul Capps**, who passed away in Morristown following a bout with cancer.

Deepest sympathy also to trial court administrative assistant **Sandy Smith**, who lost her father **Lloyd Stiles** on April 27.

A reminder: Supreme Court Rule 36 regarding letter size paper (8.5x11) goes into effect on July 1.

BIRTHDAYS JUNE

Circuit Court Clerk

- 2 Dan Vincent
- 17 Debbie Butzler
- Mary Stephens
- 24 Ronnell Griffin

General Sessions

- 3 Sandra Perryman
- 14 Kim Clary

Traffic Violations

- 6 Ron Sarver
- 8 Stacey Plummer
- 26 Rachel Downey
- Daniel Pigue
- 27 Joanie Young
- 29 Teresa Johnson

Probate Clerk

None



Court Scenes



Top & Left:
Long lines await traffic bureau cashiers
Center:
Filing a case in sessions civil office

Employees Challenged to Make Donations

Second Harvest Food Drive Scheduled for June 2-6

Metro employees are being challenged to donate at least one pound of food to the annual Second Harvest Food Drive, scheduled for June 2-6.

Workers are asked to bring non-perishable items to the job place where donor barrels will be available to accept the food.

Circuit Court Clerk Richard Rooker said barrels would be accessible in each of the buildings housing his departments. He encouraged all of his employees to participate in the drive.

Second Harvest provides their most needed items, such as canned fruit, canned vegetables, beans and rice, macaroni and cheese, and peanut butter.

Metro's Human Resources Department has provided 10,000 pounds of barrels for the long drive.



JURY TRIAL VERDICTS

ABBREVIATIONS:

P	PLAINTIFF	CP	COUNTER PLAINTIFF
D	DEFENDANT	CD	COUNTER DEFENDANT
PPD	PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY	GSA	GENERAL SESSIONS APPEAL
ST	SOFT TISSUE	PUN	PUNITIVE

APPEALS

Week of April 7

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
01C-2445	SLIP/FALL	5TH	DEFENDANT			
01C-3425	AUTO ACCIDENT	3RD*	\$16,500	(D2, 51%, D3, 49%)		

*JURY WAIVED

Soft Tissue

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
01C-2182	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	8TH	\$125,000	\$9,847			

Criminal Cases in Circuit

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	PRAYER	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
2002-T-400	DUI/CRIMINAL	8TH		G-IMPLIED CONSENT			
2002-T-400	DUI/CRIMINAL	8TH		DISMISSED -OWNER			
2002-T-114	DUI/CRIMINAL	8TH		CT.1--NOT GUILTY; CT. 2--UNDER ADVISEMENT			

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

Week of April 28

CIRCUIT COURT

GENERAL SESSIONS

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT	JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
02C-3601	GSA/PERSONAL INJURY	6TH	DEFENDANT		DEFENDANT	PLAINTIFF
02C-1686	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST	PENDING		P-\$472	DEFENDANT
99C-3270	DAMAGES	5TH	\$75,000			
02C-3600	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH	\$4,103		P-\$3,773	DEFENDANT
02C-3450	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH	DEFENDANT			TRANSFERRED
02C-1970	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST	\$8,000		P-\$11,808	DEFENDANT
02C-2891	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH	\$350 + COSTS		DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
00C-2229	WORKERS COMPENSATION	6TH	PPD--40%			
02C-3598	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH	\$1,821		P-\$1,242	DEFENDANT
02C-2451	GSA/TCPA	8TH	\$1,307		P-\$2,500	DEFENDANT
02C-2812	WORKERS COMPENSATION	1ST	\$92,825 + COSTS			
02C-2453	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH	DEFENDANT		DEFENDANT	PLAINTIFF
03C-12	GSA/AUTO	6TH	\$13,843		P-\$10,343	DEFENDANT

ROOKER REPORT



ADA coordinator, Gene Baker (880-3309)

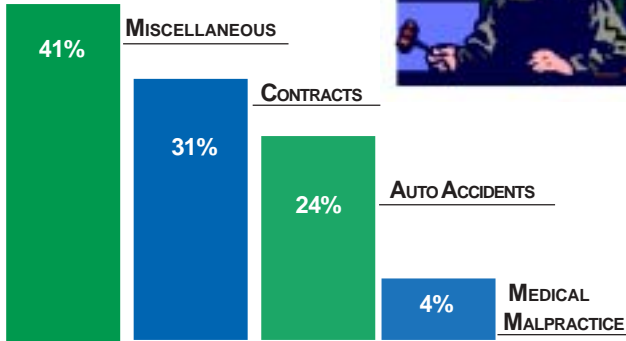
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(Circuit Court Clerk, 1968-1993)

Richard R. Rooker Circuit Court Clerk
Gene Baker Editor

TRENDS

CIVIL TRIALS BY CLASS



CASE ANALYSES

AUTO ACCIDENTS

PLAINTIFFS 14
DEFENDANTS 1

RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 14-1

MONTH-BY-MONTH

MONTH	TOTALS	JURY	NON-JURY	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	3	2	1	3	0	0
FEBRUARY	4	3	1	2	1	1
MARCH	7	6	1	6	0	1
APRIL	3	2	1	3	0	0

JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	19,098	9,098-10,000	N/A
FEBRUARY	14,291	2,000-12,291	N/A
MARCH	239,801	2,952-165,382	17,866
APRIL	141,500	16,500-125,000	N/A

NON-JURY AWARDS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	5,770	N/A	N/A
FEBRUARY	NONE	N/A	N/A
MARCH	800	N/A	N/A
APRIL	13,843	N/A	N/A

SOFT TISSUE CASES

MONTH	\$TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	NONE	N/A	N/A
FEBRUARY	14,291	2,000-12,291	N/A
MARCH	67,597	9,847-26,155	15,797
APRIL	125,000	N/A	N/A

*GENERAL SESSIONS APPEALS

MONTH	\$TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY	24,798	3	0	0
FEBRUARY	NONE	0	0	1
MARCH	3,752	2	0	0
APRIL	13,843	1	0	0

Holiday Planning

Judicial offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays during the remainder of this year:

Friday, July 4--Independence Day.

Monday, Sept. 1--Labor Day

Tuesday, Nov. 11--Veterans Day

Thursday-Friday, Nov. 27-28--Thanksgiving

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday, Dec. 24-26--Christmas



DATA BANK

Statistics compiled for the month of April

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

(March)

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	271
JURY	118
NON-JURY	153
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	289
JURY	164
NON-JURY	125
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	255
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	213

(April)

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	267
JURY	120
NON-JURY	147
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	222
JURY	139
NON-JURY	83
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	250
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	178

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	2,893
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	2,495
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	3,526
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$586,937
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	251

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	131
CASES CLOSED	193

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	25,610
PARKING VIOLATIONS	6,806
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$293,282
NULLIFICATIONS	2,147
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$25,761

Other Classes



CONTRACTS YTD PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS NO VERDICT

22 14 5 3

APRIL AWARDS: \$14,274--TOTAL AWARDS TO DATE: \$267,001

MISCELLANEOUS

30

PLAINTIFFS 17
DEFENDANTS 8
NO VERDICT 5



MALPRACTICE

3

PLAINTIFFS 1
DEFENDANTS 2
NO VERDICT 0

