WF Man Proposed For Wilkes Judge

By Jesse Poindexter
Staff Reporter

NORTH WILKESBORO — J. Gary Vannoy of North Wilkesboro, a 1964 graduate of Wake Forest College Law School, has been recommended for judge of Wilkes County Court.

E. James Moore, judge of the court since it was established in February 1964, has said he will not accept re-appointment at the end of his two-year term next month.

The appointment will be made by Gov. Dan K. Moore, and Democratic members of the Wilkes County Bar Association have forwarded Vannoy's name to the governor.

The statute under which the county court was set up provides that the judge be appointed by the governor and the solicitor and clerk by the Wilkes Board of Commissioners.

Richard Vestal is solicitor and Wayne Roope is clerk. This means, barring some unforeseen political upheaval in the state and county, that the judge will be a Democrat and the solicitor and clerk will be Republicans.

Vannoy, 25, is a Democrat. Solicitor Vestal and Clerk Roope are Republicans.

The judge appointment, for a two-year term, is expected to be made soon, because the new judge is supposed to preside at the court session of Oct. 7.

Vannoy has been employed by the law firm of McElwee and Hall (W. H. McElwee and John E. Hall) here since he finished college. He is a native of North Wilkesboro.

As judge, he will be barred from criminal practice, but he can perform other legal services. Vannoy said he will establish a private practice in Wilkesboro.

Moore's salary as judge is $5,800 a year.

Vannoy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wrenn Vannoy, now live in Winston-Salem. He attended Wilkes Central High School, Mars Hill College and Wake Forest College.

He married Miss Dee Coleman of Hickory, whom he had known in high school before her family moved from North Wilkesboro. She graduated from UNC-G in 1963, and teaches here.

Since the Wilkes County Court was established in February 1953, it has disposed of about 4,200 cases.

Man Is Bound Over In Wilmington Death

WILMINGTON (AP) — A 42-year-old Wintoon man was bound over to New Hanover Superior Court Thursday after a preliminary hearing on a murder charge in the fatal beating of a 64-year-old Wilmington man.

Harry Eugene Kennedy is charged in the beating death of David Julius Merritt.

Police said Merritt was dead on arrival at a hospital Tuesday night after the men engaged in a fight at a service station.