

Conviction Record Set by DA's Office

No Felony Case Ends In Acquittal

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade's staff Saturday looked back on the administration's first full term of court and noted that not a single felony case had ended in acquittal in the three months.

There were 901 felony convictions in the three months.

Besides that, the office obtained 627 misdemeanor convictions in County Criminal Court, of which 267 were driving-while-intoxicated convictions. Both of those figures established records for any single court term in Dallas County, said First Asst. Dist. Atty. Gene Bailey.

Bailey's figures showed that twelve DWI convictions were obtained on jury trials in January, February and March. During all of 1950, twelve DWI jury trials were held, five of which ended in acquittals and seven in \$50 fines on conviction.

In 1951 thus far, seventeen DWI cases have been tried before juries. Four defendants were acquitted, and one case ended with a hung jury. The other twelve paid fines ranging from \$50 to \$1,000, and drew jail terms from ten days to the maximum of two years—which several have received. Fines for drunken driving totaled \$23,447.70. Besides that, the misdemeanor court tried three theft cases and an aggravated assault case before juries, and all resulted in conviction.

In the felony courts, two defendants have been found guilty of DWI, second offense, and sentenced to two and two and one-half years in prison—the heaviest such penalties for that offense in more than a decade.

The two regular, and one special, criminal district courts, have tried forty-nine jury cases, of which nineteen were sanity hearings and thirty criminal trials—a record for jury trials in one term. All the felony criminal trials resulted in convictions—something of a record in recent years for one entire term of court.

The felony courts disposed of 379 cases in all. The figure includes seventy-three dismissals, fifteen transfers to County Criminal Court and 242 pleas of guilty.

Heavy penalties were imposed on nearly all defendants tried for major crimes.

These included Morris Tinsley, who got life as an habitual criminal; LeRoy Goss, life for robbery; Tommy Schwartz, ninety-nine years for robbery; Robert Johnson, death for murder; Harry Urban, four years for policy gaming, maximum under the law; Clifford Dan Hendon and Lloyd Edmond Bowles, ten years each for rape, and J. W. Connally, five years for the same offense; Paul Allen Carter, fifteen years for murder; Lester Ray Tucker, life for robbery on a plea of guilty, concurrent with another term assessed last year, and Raymond Alexander Poteet, five years, suspended, for murder without malice.

The office's civil section, under Asst. Dist. Atty. Julian Hyer, prepared fourteen bills to be submitted to the Legislature, mainly concerned with bail bond law revisions and other reforms of the criminal codes.

Asst. Dist. Atty. John Fagan, the bail-bond specialist, obtained final judgments for \$11,136.45 in bond forfeitures, and had many more in the mill Saturday.

And the hot-check section, under Asst. Dist. Atty. Clarence Bentley, collected and turned over to merchants \$21,432.67 for fraudulent checks passed to them.

Twenty-four penitentiary sentences were meted out to forgers and passers of hot checks over \$50 during the 3-month court term; and ninety hot-check passers drew jail terms totaling 7,503 days, and paid \$589 in fines.