

Pennies saved earn pilot jail time till bills come in for Pine Lake fine

BYLINE: WARLICK, DEBRA SHEPARD, BEVERLY Debra Warlick and Beverly Shepard
STAFF WRITERS STAFF

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When Scott Quamme tried to pay his traffic **fine in Pine Lake**, he ended up **in jail**. He found that the tiny DeKalb County town doesn't accept change easily; it rejected the 9,900 pennies the 29-year-old commercial **pilot** offered up **in** the city's traffic court Monday.

"I gave them the coins, most of it rolled, and the judge said they accept cash only. They just don't take pennies **in Pine Lake**," said the Marietta resident.

While pennies are legal tender, it's up to a judge to decide whether to accept them **for** fines.

Even so, Judge Alan Mullinax said he would have accepted Mr. Quamme's pennies - had he offered them **in** bank rolls.

"He had, at most, \$20 worth of pennies rolled," the judge said. The rest he brought over to the clerk's desk **in** two large, cloth sacks and **in** a box.

"Here we were having court, and he just drops them on her desk. Real loud. Kerplunk!"

Mr. Quamme was ticketed **for** running a light at Rockbridge and Spring roads about a month ago. He says he's innocent, but was prepared to pay the \$99 **fine**. Why pennies? "I wasn't guilty, and I'm a smart aleck. If you talk to my wife, I'm an idiot."

The judge said Mr. Quamme had his checkbook, but refused to use it. "**In** 18 years of practicing law, I have . . . never seen it," the judge said. ". . . He was the author of his own misfortune."

Mr. Quamme was held **in** DeKalb County **Jail** until about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, when his wife paid the **fine - in bills**.