

THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 27

Published Mondays and Thursdays

NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C., MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1934

\$1.00 IN THE STATE—\$1.50 OUT OF THE STATE

Disastrous Fire Occurs; Horton's Store Is Burned

Stock Of Drug Store Is Almost Total Loss; Doctor's Office Damaged

LOSS MAY BE \$18,000.00

Blue Ridge Studio And The Pool Room Are Also Damaged Some by Water

Fire presumably starting between the ceiling of the first story and the floor of the second story played havoc with the Horton Drug Store building, located in the heart of the North Wilkesboro business district, early Sunday morning.

The stock of the drug store, together with all furniture and fixtures, was almost a total loss. The offices of Dr. J. H. McNeill, located on the second floor, were badly damaged and expensive surgical equipment was ruined.

Considerable damage was also suffered by the City Recreation Hall, owned by S. L. Pardue, and the Blue Ridge Studio, located in the adjoining building to the east.

The fire was discovered about 4:30 o'clock by Elisha Bumgarner, who occupied a room on the second floor over the drug store. Mr. Bumgarner was aroused by the smoke and immediately rushed across the hall to the Blue Ridge Studio to awaken Al Johnson, proprietor of the studio. Before he could get back into his own room, the fire had gained such headway that to re-enter might mean death. Mr. Bumgarner lost all his furniture and clothing, being unable to salvage even a pair of shoes.

The fire alarm was turned in and the fire truck was on the scene within five minutes. However, the fire had already done much of its work of disaster. The fire was brought under control within a short time and it was prevented from spreading to the adjoining buildings.

Most of the damage suffered by the Blue Ridge Studio was from water. All the damage to the pool room was from water used in extinguishing the fire. Pool tables were soaked with water and were believed permanently damaged.

Palmer Horton, proprietor of the Horton Drug company, estimated the loss on his stock and building at between \$15,000 and \$18,000.

Clay Pardue, a member of the volunteer fire department, who collapsed from exhaustion and cold while the fire was in progress, was reported as resting satisfactorily this afternoon. His clothes were saturated with water and fear that pneumonia might develop was expressed yesterday.

McNeill is taking care of his patients at his home at 713 Kensington Avenue.

Spicer Indicted On Rape Charge

True Bill Found Against Roaring River Man For Assault On Girl

The grand jury returned a true bill Friday against Will Spicer, Roaring River man, charging him with a criminal assault on Opal Harris, of the same community.

The alleged assault took place on March 5, details of which were known to officers this morning.

Spicer, under bond in other court cases, had not been taken today on the capital charge. Conviction upon the latest charge is a capital offense and punishable by death in the electric chair.

Hackett To Seek Office Of Clerk

Prominent Local Attorney To Make Race For Democratic Nomination

Attorney Frank D. Hackett, prominent member of the local bar and member of a widely known North Carolina family, announced for the Democratic nomination for clerk of Superior court this morning.

Mr. Hackett has served as principal clerk of the House of Representatives and Senate at Raleigh for twenty-five years and is well qualified for the office of

Blue Eagle Exercises



BERMUDA . . . There being no code covering a Blue Eagle on vacation, Miss Dorothy Ford of New York (above) who is "Miss NRA of the U. S. A." felt free to express herself in the way she liked best on the Bermuda beaches, as the photo shows. Miss Ford, model for the best known illustrators of feminine beauty, was chosen "Miss NRA" last fall.

Negro Acquitted In Murder Case

Unwritten Law Helps To Free Armstead Brown Of Killing Tidline

Armstead Brown, aged 58, colored man of the Traphill community, was acquitted in Wilkes Superior court Friday afternoon of the murder of John Tidline, alleged sweetheart of Brown's wife, four years ago last October.

The verdict was returned by the jury at 4 o'clock after five hours of deliberation.

Brown took the stand in his own defense Thursday afternoon and admitted shooting Tidline to death as the man lay on the bed with Brown's two small daughters in the Brown home. He testified that Tidline had been having an affair with his wife and that he had warned the younger negro to stay away from his home.

Brown said he had been working in the coal fields of Pennsylvania 13 months and had been home only a month before the killing. Tidline, he had been told, had frequently visited his home while he was away and continued to call after his return. On Sunday before the killing early Tuesday morning, Brown said he told the deceased to stay away from his home and declared that he wouldn't stand for him to go on as he had been.

Despite this warning, Tidline returned on Monday evening, the evidence disclosed. After asking him to leave early in the evening, Brown said Tidline told him he couldn't leave because he had no lights on his car. Brown then furnished a lantern and thinking, the negro would leave, he went to bed. Brown testified he was awakened by a chair falling early next morning and went into the room occupied by his two small children and found Tidline stretched across the bed. When he entered, the defendant said Tidline reached as if to get a gun, which he had been in the habit of carrying, and in defense of himself and his home, he shot Tidline in the side, fatally wounding him.

There was strong evidence of the unwritten law which doubtless aided in the acquittal of Brown.

Brown was ably represented by Attorney F. J. McDuffie who won a great victory in clearing his man. Attorney J. H. Whicker prosecuted the case for the state in the absence of Solicitor Jones who was ill.

County Teachers Meet Called Off

The scheduled meeting Saturday of the teachers was called off on account of illness in the family of County Superintendent C. B. Eller. No new date has been set for the meeting, but it will be announced in the near future.

RETURN TO CITY FROM HOT SPRINGS

Messrs. S. V. Tomlinson, T. C. Caudill and A. E. Wingler returned Thursday from Hot Springs, Ark. where they spent three weeks. Members of the party said they were greatly benefited by the hot baths taken there and advertised Hot Springs as a wonderful health resort.

Ralph Bingham, Local Attorney, Dies In Raleigh

Prominent Lawyer Stricken While There On Business With Supreme Court

FUNERAL ON SATURDAY

He Was Former Assistant District Attorney; Was Staunch Republican

Ralph G. Bingham, former assistant district attorney and a prominent North Wilkesboro attorney, died at his room in the Carolina Hotel in Raleigh almost suddenly Thursday between 12:30 and 1 p. m.

Mr. Bingham and Attorney J. M. Brown went to Raleigh Wednesday to make oral arguments in cases which they had before the Supreme court and remained over until Thursday to look after some other business. They had appeared before the pardon commissioner Thursday morning and completed their business just before noon. They had just returned to their room to pack up to return home when the local attorney was stricken.

Clutching at his heart, Mr. Bingham said, "Mack, I'm sick," and lay down on the bed. A physician was called, but Mr. Bingham was dead before he arrived. Death was due to acute dilation of the heart.

The body was brought to the Bingham home in the east end of Wilkesboro Thursday evening. Ralph Gray Bingham was 35 years of age on February 9. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bingham, of Watauga county.

Mr. Bingham had practiced law in North Wilkesboro for a little more than seven years, having offices in the Bank of North Wilkesboro building. He came here soon after retiring as assistant district attorney under the late Frank A. Linney, of Boone. Mr. Bingham served in that capacity for two years.

Prior to receiving his law license in 1925, Mr. Bingham had served as a federal prohibition officer under the late Benjamin Tharp.

The local attorney had long been active in the Republican party. He had been mentioned frequently as a potential candidate for the Republican nomination for solicitor and more recently had been talked for county chairman. He was ever loyal to his party and stood high in the councils of the Republican organizations, both county and state.

Mr. Bingham had practiced law in the counties of Wilkes and Watauga and surrounding counties. For sometime he was a member of the law firm of Linney, Bingham and Bingham, his partners being his brother, T. E. Bingham and Baxter F. Linney. Offices were located here and at Boone. The local attorney was a member of Wilkesboro Methodist

(Continued on page eight)

Post Office Examination At Champion Is Called

The United States Civil Service commission announced last week that applications for postmaster at Champion will be accepted until March 23. The office pays a salary of approximately \$600, this estimate being based on the compensation for the past fiscal year. The examination will be held here soon after the close of receipt of applications.

COOKING SCHOOL TO BE CONDUCTED BY MISS LORETTA GRAY HERE ON FRIDAY

Everything is in readiness for the cooking school which will be conducted here Friday under the sponsorship of North Wilkesboro merchants in co-operation with Chas. F. Smith, of Greensboro, distributor of Pyrofax gas and Magic Chef ranges.

The school will be conducted in the Call Hotel building and Miss Loretta Gray, New York dietitian, will be in charge.

The first class will begin at 2 p. m. Friday and the second class will be conducted at 7:30 p. m. Miss Gray will show the advantages of modern science in cooking and furnish a number of recipes for those who attend.

The famous instructor welcomes a large class and hundreds of housewives of this section are expected to attend. They are urged to bring their husbands with them to the evening session.

To stimulate interest in the

Traphill Man Is Shot And Killed In Pistol Battle

Marvin Holbrook, 26, Dies From Injuries 15 Minutes After Shooting

ILL-FEELING IS CAUSE

Recovery Of His Assailant Is Doubtful; Occurred Near Doughton

Elkin, March 10.—Marvin Holbrook, about 26, was shot to death and Ralph Holbrook, 27, was perhaps fatally wounded in a pistol battle last night at Doughton. Marvin lived hardly 15 minutes after the shooting. Ralph was brought to Hugh Chatham Memorial hospital here. The shooting occurred at the home of Mrs. Amanda Holbrook.

The gun battle last night is said to have been the revival of ill-feeling of a number of years. A knife battle occurring on October 21, last, sent Marvin Holbrook to the hospital here for treatment.

The two Holbrook's are distantly related and their wives are first cousins, it was learned. Marvin Holbrook is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Minton Holbrook, near Traphill, who survive him. His widow, Mrs. Leota Owens Holbrook, two small sons, Fred, three years of age, and Sonny, a two-months-old infant, one brother and two sisters, Clyde Holbrook, Mrs. Ira Dowell and Mrs. Bud Holbrook, of Traphill, survive.

The body was removed from a local undertaker's this morning to the home near Traphill to await the final rites to be conducted from Round Hill Baptist church, three miles south of Traphill, tomorrow.

Ralph Holbrook, whose recovery is doubtful, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Holbrook, of the Traphill community. He has a wife and two children.

Business Meeting Is Held By Lions

They Urge That Black Walnut And Chestnut Be Used In C. C. Forestry Work

A business meeting for the purpose of outlining plans for more effective work was held by the Lions Club Thursday evening at Hotel Wilkes. The matter of bringing back into the club several former members and increasing the attendance received attention at the meeting.

Lions stood in silence for 30 seconds as an expression of sympathy for Lion F. P. Blair, Jr., into whose home tragedy entered several days ago.

The activities committee reported that letters asking that black walnut and chestnut be used in the forestry work done by members of the C. C. C. instead of poplar and white pine had been written to Representative Lambeth and Doughton and other officials at Washington. This request was made because it is generally believed that black walnut and chestnut would be far more beneficial in Wilkes.

Dowd Takes Office

W. T. Dowd, successor to Watt H. Gragg, was sworn in as United States Marshal for the middle federal district at Greensboro Saturday. Jim Rivers, of Boone, who has been offered the post of chief deputy, did not enter upon his duties Saturday, but is expected to go in soon.



MISS LORETTA GRAY New York Dietitian

Attendance at the school is without cost and entails no obligation whatever. Miss Gray is a most competent instructor and housewives will find the school really worth their time as well as having a chance at one of the prizes. Attention is called to the date—Friday, March 16—and to the two classes which will be conducted. Among those who will be here for the school in addition to Miss Gray and Mr. Smith are: Fay Grow, of New York City, representing the American Store company, makers of Magic Chef ranges; Jack Hickman, of New York City, representing Carbide and Carbon Chemical company, distributors of Pyrofax gas, and Frank Knudson, of Evansville, on away at the school. Mr. Smith will give away a Magic Chef range as the grand prize. However, local merchants have donated a number of attractive prizes which will be given

New King and Queen of the Belgians



BRUSSELS, Belgium . . . His supreme hour of being declared "Leopold III, King of the Belgians," tempered by an agonizing grief at the sudden and tragic death of his father, Albert I, killed in a mountain fall, has further endeared the former Crown Prince to his people and today he has an entire nation's sympathy and support. Top photo, a most recent picture of the new King, Leopold III and his Queen, who was Crown Princess Astrid. Insert; the late King, Albert I and portrait of Leopold III.

Halfacre Speaks To Kiwanis Club

Superintendent Of City Schools Heard In An Excellent Address

Picturing the people of today in somewhat the same light as the immortal character in John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" who in the midst of trials and conflicts and confusion struggled toward the light, Prof. W. D. Halfacre, superintendent of the city school system, delivered an inspiring address at the luncheon of the Kiwanis Club Friday at Hotel Wilkes.

The responsibility of the home, the church, the school and the civic organization in aiding youth to find the light was dealt with in a splendid manner by the local educator.

Mr. Halfacre was presented by D. J. Carter who had charge of the program.

Guests for the day were: H. H. Morehouse, guest of Genio Cardwell; Charles McNeill, county welfare officer, and J. L. Hemphill, clerk to board of education, guests of County Superintendent C. B. Eller; T. H. Andrews, of Greensboro, guest of J. R. Finley, Judge Wilson Warlick, guest of Attorney J. H. Whicker, and W. C. Jenkins, of Concord, N. H., guest of his brother, Dr. W. A. Jenkins.

Reports from J. D. Moore and E. G. Finley, both of whom were absent from the meeting on account of illness, were made at the meeting.

Called upon for a talk, Judge Warlick responded with an expression of pleasure at the activity of Kiwanis and a word of approval for Mr. Halfacre's address.

Rev. C. W. Robinson expressed himself as so strongly impressed with Mr. Halfacre's message that he thought the entire speech should be published in the newspapers. In response to this request and the request of a number of Kiwanians, The Journal-Patriot has secured the address for publication Thursday.

Mrs. J. R. Marlow and son, Mr. Bill Marlow visited Mr. and Mrs. Barnes Campbell in Taylorsville Sunday afternoon.

Court Enters On 2nd Week Today

Term Robbed Of Its Glamor By Postponement Of Childs Trial

Robbed of much of its glamor by the postponement of the Childs-Tilley trial, Superior court entered upon its second week this morning.

Much progress is being made and indications are that more than 75 per cent of the cases on the calendar will be disposed of during the term.

Fashion Show At Liberty Theatre

Merchants Showing Newest Styles At Local Theatre Today And Tomorrow

The fashion show, sponsored by merchants of the city, started at the Liberty Theatre this afternoon at the matinee performance.

The fashion show, revealing the new spring styles in men's and ladies' feminine apparel, is in addition to the regular attractions at the theatre. Harry Shannon's vaudeville troupe will be models for the fashion show and also give a remarkable vaudeville show. On the screen will be "Going Hollywood."

The show lasts for two days with showings both in the afternoon and the evening.

R. E. Hoke Again At Barber Shop

Popular Local Barber Goes Back To Chair In Wilkes Barber Shop Here

R. E. Hoke, who served on the city police force during the absence of Chief J. M. Anderson, returned to his chair in the Wilkes Barber Shop today. His services with the police department ended Saturday.

Mr. Hoke has been connected with the local shop for many years and is one of the most popular barbers in the city. He will be delighted to have all his former customers call in to see him.

Tom McNeill Is Given Promotion

Is Transferred From Store At War, W. Va. To Larger Store At Welch

Tom McNeill, manager of an A. & P. company store at War, W. Va. for nearly four years, has been transferred to Welch, W. Va. and made manager of a new store opened by the company in that city. The transfer is considered a distinct promotion for the young man.

Mr. McNeill is the son of Mr. I. H. McNeill, prominent local grocerman.

Mount Pleasant Teams Win From Roaring River

Mt. Pleasant high school teams won a doubleheader from Roaring River high school Thursday. The boys won 23 to 8, while the girls were victorious 7 to 5.

Tilley Trial Is Continued Until Some Other Term

Counsel For Defense And State Consent To Postponement Of Case

FIVE ARE ARRAIGNED

Judge Wilson Warlick Says He Recommends Special Term To Try Case

The five members of the Tilley family under indictment for the alleged murder of Leoda Childress at the Tilley home near Benham on December 20 will not be tried at this term of Wilkes Superior court, it was announced Friday afternoon following formal arraignment of the quintet.

This action was forecast by The Journal-Patriot several days ago when a glance at the calendar disclosed the crowded condition of the docket.

Three bills or indictments charging the five Tilleys with murder, conspiracy to commit murder and accessory before and after the fact, were returned by the grand jury Thursday morning. Quite a number of witnesses was examined by the grand jury.

Solicitor John R. Jones, who spent most of the week at his home with a deep cold, came into court Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock to arraign the Tilleys. All five defendants were brought into court. They were arraigned under the names of W. W. Tilley, Della Tilley, Luther Tilley, Minerva Tilley and Clyde Tilley. To Solicitor Jones' query as to their plea, each defendant replied, "not guilty."

Questioning whether the case could be tried in five days and the wisdom of continuing the numerous cases on the docket, Judge Wilson Warlick indicated his preference for a continuance immediately after the arraignment. There was some discussion pro and con, the state insisting on trial and the defense, led by A. T. Grant, of Mocksville, doubting whether it would be possible to complete the trial in five days. For a moment it appeared that the trial would be set to start this morning and that a special venire would be ordered from Caldwell county, but the excitement ended with both sides on record as consenting to a postponement.

Judge Warlick said he would recommend a special court to try the case in June or at the earliest date that could be arranged. If not tried at a special term, the case goes over to the August term.

The question of bail for the defendants was not disposed of, Solicitor Jones declining to agree to release the Tilleys. It was indicated that habeas corpus proceedings will be instituted by defense counsel.

Solicitor Jones, J. H. Whicker, J. A. Rousseau and Parks Hampton, the latter of Elkin, are appearing for the state. All the Tilleys, with the exception of Mrs. Luther Tilley, are represented by Mr. Grant and J. Hayden Burke, of Taylorsville. Eugene Trivette and J. F. Jordan appear for Mrs. Luther Tilley.

Vannetta To Be Here This Week

State Master Of Grange To Visit Local Granges Last Of The Week

State Master E. S. Vannetta, of Orange county, will spend the last three days of the week in the county in the interest of the Grange organization.

Mr. Vannetta's schedule follows: Little Mountain, Thursday, 7:30 p. m.; Boomer, Friday, 7:30 p. m.; Mount Pleasant, Friday, 7:30 p. m.; general mass meeting at courthouse Saturday at 1:30 p. m.

Legion To Hold Meet On Thursday Evening

Wilkes County Post No. 125, American Legion, North Wilkesboro, will hold a special meeting in the American Legion Hut, North Wilkesboro, at 7:30 p. m. Thursday, March 15. This special meeting is held to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the American Legion. Fifteen years ago, in Paris, France, on March 15, the American Legion was born. A large attendance of the members is expected. A program will be given.