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THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT

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ABSHER TRIAL IS NEAR END

Attorneys Arguing Case Before Jury; Ask First Degree

Case Will Reach Jury Late Today or Friday Morning in Wilkes Court

Arguments of counsel and charge to the jury by Judge H. Hoyle Sink today will complete the second trial of Claude Absher for the murder of Clyde Watts here on April 6.

Witnesses in Wilkes court Wednesday related to the jury their accounts of how Claude Absher, of North Wilkesboro, killed Clyde Watts, with a shotgun in North Wilkesboro April 6, 1946.

Testimony was completed Wednesday afternoon in the case, which began Tuesday with selection of a jury from a special venire.

Summary of the testimony offered by Earl Watts, brother of Clyde Jack Anderson, Coy Adkins and others who witnessed the shooting, was that on the evening of April 6 Clyde Watts, a brother and three other young men were on Main street in North Wilkesboro when they met Claude Absher talking to Mrs. Clyde Watts, with whom Absher had been keeping company over a long period of time, including the time Clyde Watts was in service.

At that time Absher and Jack Anderson, an associate of Clyde Watts, had a mid affray. Shortly after that, Absher secured a taxi, went to his home, returned downtown with a single barrel shotgun and shot Clyde Watts as he walked along the sidewalk on Ninth street near Main street. Watts was hit at close range in the abdomen and died a few minutes later at the Wilkes hospital.

Suggestion of a self defense plea was contained in the testimony of two defense witnesses, Mrs. Joe Lane and Mrs. Paul Jenkins, who testified that they heard Clyde Watts say "I'm going to get the son of a bitch." They said they heard that remark about one block from where Absher shot Watts a few minutes later.

Absher did not go on the stand as he did in his first trial in the August term of court when he was convicted and sentenced to death. At that time he stated that he was drunk on the evening of April 6 and knew nothing of what occurred.

At the close of evidence Wednesday afternoon, the state introduced into evidence the typed record of Absher's testimony at the August term of court. Mrs. Faye Hulet, court reporter, was sworn as a witness to identify the record.

Aiding Solicitor Avalon E. Hall in prosecution of the case are Former Solicitor John R. Jones, W. H. McElwee, J. V. Bowers and J. H. Whicker, Sr. Defense counsel is composed of Eugene Trivette, Bill Mitchell, Kyle and Clyde Hayes, of this city, and J. E. Holshouser, of Boone.

USO Campaign Continued Here

Chairman Dickson Urges All To Send In Contributions at Early Date

USO campaign in Wilkes county is being extended into January, Zeb Dickson, campaign chairman, said today.

The quota of \$3,500 for Wilkes county has not been raised, Mr. Dickson said, and cards have been mailed to a large number of people asking that their contributions be forwarded immediately to W. Blair Gwyn, treasurer of the fund, at North Wilkesboro.

Mr. Dickson said that no personal solicitation has been carried out, but that the invitation to help raise the quota has been extended to everybody.

Auxiliary to Meet

Wilkes unit of the American Legion Auxiliary will meet Monday night, eight o'clock, at the home of Mrs. R. B. Church with Mrs. R. G. Finley and Mrs. Carl ... as co-hostesses.

A. R. Miller's Hogs 704, 706, 710 Pounds

A. R. Miller, Wilkes farmer and merchant of the Vannoy community and who always produces big hogs, perhaps could lay claim to the pork producing record in Wilkes this year. Recently Mr. Miller butchered three Ohio Improved Chester hogs at the age of one year. The dressed weights were 704, 706 and 710 pounds each.

Classes In Home Nursing Begun In 2 Communities

Red Cross Chapter Sponsor; Area Nursing School Graduate Instructor

Two classes in home nursing have been started by the Wilkes chapter of the American Red Cross and several others will get under way soon in Wilkes county. It was learned today from Miss Rebecca Moseley, executive secretary of the Wilkes chapter.

Twelve girls in Mountain View high school and 12 members of the home demonstration club at Mountain View composed junior and adult classes which began in that community this week. Twelve members of the Mulberry Home Demonstration club compose the Mulberry class which is also under way.

Other classes are planned for Fairplains, Ferguson, Pores Knob Home Clubs and for Wilkesboro school and if sufficient interest is shown a class will be formed in North Wilkesboro.

Mrs. Estelle Mikell, from the Red Cross area office at Columbia, S. C., is the instructor. Mrs. Mikell holds a B. S. degree from Columbia college, did post graduate work at Columbia university and is a graduate of the Red Cross area school of nursing.

Arlie Foster Is To Resign As Police Chief

Arlie Foster, Wilkesboro police chief for the past several years, will offer his resignation at the next town council meeting, it was learned today.

Mr. Foster recently accepted the position of forest warden in Wilkes county.

Support the Y. M. C. A.

AUSSIE WAR BRIDE WILL TAKE LEND-LEASE HUBBY BACK HOME

Mrs. Olive Hampton Nichols, Australian war bride now on an extended honeymoon in the U. S. A., is well pleased with almost everything about America, including her "lend-lease" husband, Wm. Arthur Nichols, former marine corps sergeant.

That "lend-lease" expression was a carryover from war times, when the former Miss Hampton said that Australia was getting so many things by lend-lease from America that she might as well get a husband.

The marriage of Miss Hampton to Sgt. Nichols at King George hotel chapel in San Francisco, Calif., on November 15 was the climax of a story-book romance and engagement made necessarily long by the long arm of Uncle Sam.

Sgt. Nichols, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Nichols, of Purlear, entered the marine corps in 1940. Assigned to the first division, he fought through the memorable Guadalcanal campaign, after which his division had a well earned rest in Australia. It was while there that he met, loved and became engaged to Miss Hampton, who, with her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. James Hampton, operated shops selling ladies accessories, millinery and notions in Melbourne. After nine months in Australia, Sgt. Nichols took sorrowful leave of Melbourne and his lady love, because the first division was ordered to New Guinea on September 26, 1943. After a stay in New Guinea was the Cape Gloucester campaign.

Following the Cape Gloucester firework, Sgt. Nichols had become impatient to see his fiancée again and he put in his commanding officer two major requests—for a leave to Australia and permission to get married. In due time, ironically enough,

Spears Sentenced 15 Months To 2 Years Penitentiary

Entered Plea Manslaughter For Death of Harrison Jennings In Jail

Claude Leslie Spears young man of the Parsonville community, was sentenced in Wilkes court Monday afternoon to serve from 15 months to two years in the state penitentiary for the death of Harrison Jennings in the North Wilkesboro jail.

Judge H. Hoyle Sink passed sentence after the state had accepted a manslaughter verdict during the process of trial.

Evidence disclosed that Jennings, 55-year-old citizen of the Fairplains community, was lodged in North Wilkesboro jail on charge of being drunk and that Spears was jailed on the same charge that night. While in the jail together Spears, who was drunk, beat Jennings so severely that he later died of the injuries inflicted by Spears.

In passing sentence Judge Sink ordered a physical and mental examination of Spears and stipulated that he be assigned to such labor as he is capable of performing while in prison.

Officers Installed In Junior Council

North Wilkesboro council of the Junior Order this week installed the following officers to serve until July 1 this year:

Earl Anderson, councilor; Barney Harrold, vice councilor; C. A. Canter, recording secretary; B. F. Bentley, assistant recording secretary; Bradley Danvers, financial secretary; Northwestern Bank, treasurer; Allen Phillips, conductor; A. G. Anderson, warden; Woodruff Wallace, inside sentinel; Richard Byrd, outside sentinel; R. C. Goodwin, Junior past councilor; Wade Wallace, J. M. Eller and Clay Pardue, trustees; R. B. Church, B. F. Bentley and Charles Leckie, representatives to state council; H. L. Mechem, chaplain; Clap Pardue, assistant chaplain.

Mr. Jay Anderson has returned to Westminster Choir College at Princeton, N. J., after spending the holiday season here with his mother, Mrs. Annie Anderson.

LOCALS

Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Stallings, of Forest City, visited here last week-end in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Miller. Attorney Milton Cooper, of Elkin, was in the Wilkesboro Tuesday looking after professional business matters.

Little Miss Sarah Meadows, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Meadows, of Pores Knob, has been ill with an infected leg. Mrs. P. N. Cloats, Mrs. Nell Hogan, and Mrs. Jake Cloats, of Morganton, spent Tuesday in Wilkesboro as guests of Mrs. James Lowe.

Mr. Henry Mack Church, of Moravian Falls, was injured in a fall last week at Oak Furniture company and is a patient at the Wilkes hospital. Friends wish for him a rapid recovery.

Mr. Don Culler, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Culler, who was discharged from service last April, has entered the National Business College at Roanoke, Va., since the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Quinn and their son, Mr. Mike Quinn, have returned to their home at Chattanooga, Tenn., after a visit here in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Kilby, and with other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Wellborn returned Saturday to Cincinnati, Ohio, after spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. G. G. Wellborn, of Wilkesboro, and Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Nichols, of North Wilkesboro.

Joe Mac and Gwyn McCutchen, of Wytheville, Va., have been spending a few days here with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Finley, while their parents, Rev. and Mrs. Chalmers McCutchen, are on a trip to Sanford.

Mrs. Dexter Chadwick, of Charlotte, and a former resident of this city, is spending the week here in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Presley Myers, and Mr. and Mrs. James Marvel at Oakwoods. Mrs. Chadwick is a sister of Mrs. Marvel.

Mr. Bill Gardner has returned to the McCauley School at Chattanooga, Tenn., to resume his studies there after spending the holidays here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed F. Gardner. He spent the week-end in Greensboro on his way to Chattanooga with one of his roommates, Mr. Freddy Stafford, who visited here in the Gardner home during the holidays. Mr. Noel Hardy, of Nashville, Tenn., also a roommate of the younger Mr. Gardner, was a guest of the Gardners while Mr. Stafford was here.

Miss Jackie Frazier has resumed her studies at Juilliard institute of music in New York City after spending the holidays here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Frazier. Miss Frazier, a second year student at the institute, is making an excellent record and has appeared on a number of widely publicized programs in New York City.

Mr. Jay Anderson has returned to Westminster Choir College at Princeton, N. J., after spending the holiday season here with his mother, Mrs. Annie Anderson.

Annual Meeting Chamber Of Commerce Will Be Jan. 17th

Western Piedmont Safety Council To Meet Here Friday

The first meeting of the recently organized Western Piedmont Safety Council will be held in the Town Hall auditorium at North Wilkesboro at seven o'clock on Friday night, January 10th. Col. H. J. Hatcher, Commander of the State Highway Patrol will be the speaker. The theme of the meeting will be "Highway Safety." Representatives of all organizations are cordially invited to attend.

The council will include as members industrial concerns, businesses and individuals from the eight counties of Avery, Ashe, Alleghany, Catawba, Alexander, Caldwell, Watauga and Wilkes. Regular meetings will be held quarterly in the larger communities in the eight counties. Every individual or concern in the area interested in the promotion of safety is urged to become a member of the council and to assist in this very important work. Membership dues are very nominal and are only to defray incidental operating expenses of the council.

F. D. Meserve is on the membership committee as a representative from this immediate area and will appreciate anything to aid in the work of the Western Piedmont Safety Council and especially attendance at this first meeting in North Wilkesboro.

Mrs. Rhoades Dies

Funeral service will be held Friday, 11 a. m., at Bethel Church for Mrs. Sallie Matilda Rhoades, 48-year-old resident of Matberry township, who died Wednesday at her home.

Mr. Bill Gardner has returned to the McCauley School at Chattanooga, Tenn., to resume his studies there after spending the holidays here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed F. Gardner. He spent the week-end in Greensboro on his way to Chattanooga with one of his roommates, Mr. Freddy Stafford, who visited here in the Gardner home during the holidays. Mr. Noel Hardy, of Nashville, Tenn., also a roommate of the younger Mr. Gardner, was a guest of the Gardners while Mr. Stafford was here.

Mrs. Rachel Adelaide Triplett, 85, member of one of Wilkes county's best known families, died Wednesday night, eight o'clock, at her home in Lewis Fork township.

Mrs. Triplett was a daughter of the late Jonathan and Rachel Eller Stout, and was the wife of late A. M. Triplett, of Purlear. She is survived by the following sons and daughters: Dr. W. R. Triplett and A. L. Triplett, Purlear; B. H. Triplett, North Wilkesboro; A. E. and S. W. Triplett, Purlear; Mrs. S. J. Adams, North Wilkesboro; Mrs. W. E. Johnson, Misses Rachel and Norabelle Triplett, Purlear.

Funeral service will be held Friday, two p. m., at Lewis Fork Baptist church. Rev. A. W. Eller and Rev. Levi Greene will conduct the service.

Mr. J. B. Henderson, Jr., of Wilmington, is here this week visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Henderson, of Wilkesboro, and other relatives in the county. Mrs. Henderson, who has been visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Jarvis, in Antioch township, will return to Wilmington with him in a few days.

V. F. W. To Sponsor Baby Contest And Local Talent Play Here

Veterans of Foreign Wars will present the three act local talent comedy "Cornasoppin" at the North Wilkesboro High School Auditorium on Friday and Saturday nights, January 17-18. The proceeds from this presentation will go toward the erection of a Memorial Clubhouse in memory of those who failed to return from World War 1 and 2.

License to Wed

License to wed were issued during the past week by Register of Deeds Troy C. Foster to the following: Cameron M. Miller and June Lorane Donovan, both of Cricket; Leavil L. Wilmouth and Viola K. Money, both of Elkin; James H. Blevins, Crumpler, and Ceara Younce, West Jefferson; Guy C. Collins, Glade Valley, and Hettie Higgins, Ennice; Cam Hill and Georgia Bell, both of Sparta; James Dyson, Boomer, and Matorna Gragg, Gragg.

Christmas Seal Total To Date Is Listed at \$1,370

Since the official close of the 1946 Christmas Seal Sale December 25, contributions of \$91.57 have been received, according to an announcement made last night by Mrs. O. E. Triplett, campaign chairman. These late returns, she said, bring the total received to date to \$1,370.99.

"The late returns are from persons who forgot to send in their checks when they received their Seals in the mail a month ago," she said. "We are grateful to them for acknowledging the Seals now and we hope that any other residents who may not have yet made their returns will do so promptly."

"A new year is upon us and the Wilkes County Tuberculosis Association, which depends entirely upon Seal Sale receipts to support its health program, is ready to launch its 1947 campaign which kills more young people between 15 and 35 than any other disease. With the backing of the people of this county, the association expects to make great progress in the coming year. It is grateful to the people who have responded to its appeal and hopes that those who, for one reason or another, have neglected to make their returns, will try to do so immediately."

Mrs. Rachel Triplett Is Claimed By Death

Mrs. Rachel Adelaide Triplett, 85, member of one of Wilkes county's best known families, died Wednesday night, eight o'clock, at her home in Lewis Fork township.

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Harry Krusz Will Be the Principal Speaker At Meet

Meeting Will Be Held At North Wilkesboro Town Hall, Beginning 7:30

Officials of the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce announced today that the annual meeting of the chamber would be held on Friday, January 17, 1947, at the North Wilkesboro City Hall. Mr. Harry Krusz, General Manager of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce will be the speaker for the evening. President J. B. Williams and Secretary Forrest E. Jones will make reports of their year's terms of office, and the election judges D. E. Eledge, F. D. Meserve, and Larry Moore will announce the results of the balloting for the members of the chamber Board of Directors.

The annual meeting will be open to the public, and will start promptly at 7:30 o'clock. All members of the chamber of commerce and others interested in the progress of Wilkes County are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

With two more days remaining in the allotted time for balloting of Wilkes Chamber of Commerce directors, a total of 185 ballots has been returned to the election judges out of the 326 ballots mailed from the chamber. Secretary Jones has asked The Journal-Patriot to remind those members of the chamber who have not yet mailed their ballots to do so as soon as possible. The judges will receive them by noon on Saturday, January 11.

The theme of the annual meeting will be the progress made during the first year of the chamber's operation with emphasis on the Program of Work for the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce for the coming year.

List Tax Listing Appointments Are In This Newspaper

Tax listing will get under way in Wilkes county on Monday, January 13.

J. C. Grayson, Wilkes county tax supervisor, lists in an announcement elsewhere in this newspaper the tax listing appointments to be filled by the tax listers for the various townships in the county.

Tax listers are urged to read the announcement and to meet their respective listers at the earliest and most convenient appointments listed. Attention is called to the fact that the law requires that property be listed for taxes as of January 1 in the period prescribed for listing and that penalties can be taxed against those who fail to list as provided.

Tax listing for the town of North Wilkesboro will also begin on Monday with W. P. Kelly as tax lister. He, with the county list taker for North Wilkesboro township, will be at the North Wilkesboro town hall.

W. P. Kelly, North Wilkesboro list taker and city clerk, said today that the office of the clerk will be closed each day between 12 and one o'clock.



MR. AND MRS. WM. ARTHUR NICHOLS

half of his requests was granted. They O. K.'d his request to get married, but turned down his plea for a furlough. He didn't want a native bride from the Russell Islands.

The Pelelu campaign was the last action for Sgt. Nichols, who was sent home on 30-day leave in January, 1945, and assigned to the postoffice at Parris Island, S. C. The war ended but that didn't mean a thing to the eager fiance, because his two-year extension period in the regular marine corps did not run out until November 21 this year. However, he did get out on terminal leave several weeks earlier and had planned to go immediately to Australia.

been disappointed a number of times after booking passage to America, finally had better luck and obtained passage on the good ship Monterey. Sgt. Nichols met her in San Francisco on November 14 and on the following day they were married in the service chapel of the hotel with Rev. A. B. Swan officiating. They were witnesses to the marriage of Miss Meredith Bedford, of Sydney, Australia, to Mr. Pat Bryant, of Middlefield, Mass., and vice versa. Then followed a honeymoon in Hollywood and the trip to North Carolina via the southern route.

Contrary to the usual procedure, in this war marriage the bride is taking the groom back to her home. On March 20 they will sail for Melbourne, Australia.

But Miss Hampton, who had

those attending the play will be amply repaid with two hours of good entertainment in addition to helping a worthwhile cause. Watch this paper for further news and announcements about "Cornasoppin". In conjunction with the play, "Cornasoppin", there will be a popularity contest for babies under six years of age. This contest will start on Friday, Jan. 10th, and close on Friday, Jan. 17th. For further information call Miss Metcalfe at Hotel Wilkes.