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THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT

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Vol. 41, No. 75 Published Mondays and Thursdays NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C., Monday, Jan. 20, 1947 Make North Wilkesboro Your Shopping Center

LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ANNUAL MEETING; DIRECTORS FOR ENSUING YEAR ARE ELECTED

Membership of the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce in annual meeting Friday night heard reports of the first year of operation, received the report of the elections committee, and heard a most interesting address by Thomas L. Carroll, of Winston-Salem, personnel director of the Wachovia Bank and Trust company.

President J. B. Williams opened the meeting and called on Richard Johnston to give his report as treasurer. He referred to the detailed financial statement furnished each member and remarked that 73 new members had been obtained for 1947 and that many others are expected.

D. E. Elledge, chairman of the elections committee, gave a report on the results of the election for directors. A ballot containing the names of 36 nominees for the board of directors was mailed each member with instructions to vote for 18. The six receiving the highest number of votes were elected for three years, the second highest six for two and the third highest six for one year. Those elected follow:

Three years—J. B. Williams, Richard Johnston, Dr. Fred Hubbard, J. B. Carter, D. V. Deal and W. O. Absher.

Two years—R. G. Finley, C. J. Swoford, E. F. Gardner, W. K. Sturdivant, J. R. Hix and Russell Gray, Jr.

One year—Paul Osborne, L. S. Spainhour, N. S. Forester, W. G. Gabriel, W. D. Halfacre, Eugene Trivette.

The board is composed of five manufacturers, five merchants and eight in service business and professional vocations.

President Williams spoke

P.-T. A. Endorses Over 20% Increase For N. C. Teachers

At the January meeting of the North Wilkesboro Parent-Teacher association held in the school auditorium Thursday night at 7:30 o'clock, a legislative committee was appointed to bring all pressure possible to secure a more than 20 per cent salary increase for N. C. teachers. Following a report from this committee, namely, Arthur Venable, chairman, Weaver Starr and Paul Cashion, a telegram was sent Saturday morning addressed to T. E. Story, House of Representatives, Raleigh, which stated: "North Wilkesboro P.-T. A. in meeting last night voted unanimously to support request for more than 20 per cent increase for teachers," signed Mrs. C. Arthur Venable, president.

The guest speaker for the evening was John V. Bowers, local attorney, who was introduced by Paul Cashion. Mr. Bowers gave an interesting account of how a law is actually passed. During his talk he stated that in his opinion if the teachers didn't get a large increase in salary now, it would be a long time before they could.

Miss Dorothy Gabriel rendered a solo, "God Bless America." This was followed by a duet, "Mighty Lak a Rose," sung by Miss Dorothy Powell and Miss Gabriel. They were accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Robert Gibbs. A devotional on the theme of the program "Citizenship" was given by Miss Jo Lassiter, Educational director of the First Methodist church.

During the business session a questionnaire which had been given to each member concerning his or her musical and dramatic interests was collected. Mrs. Gibbs, who is chairman of the music and art committee, spoke briefly about the purpose of the questionnaire and also stated that the National Symphony was to give a concert in Statesville, Feb. 17. She said it was the desire of the committee to see that all students in the band were provided a way to attend this concert. Miss Bingham, band director, was asked to act as chairman in collecting the money from the parents whose children were in the band or from anyone who would like to contribute to this cause.

Mrs. Gilbert Foster, corresponding secretary, read a portion of the new 1947 legislative program of the State Congress of Parents and Teachers concerning the salary increase for teachers. After which Paul Cragan, superintendent of schools, gave the latest developments of the supplementary bill now before the legislature. Following the appointment of a legislative committee, the chairman, Mr. Venable, called a meeting to be held directly following the meeting and asked the superintendent and several others to sit in so that some action could be taken to bring about a more than 20 per cent increase for teachers.

The activities of the standing committees will be reported in a later edition of this paper.

Litteral And Bell Sentenced To Die

JURY RETURNS VERDICT AFTER BEING OUT FIFTEEN MINUTES; MARCH 15 IS EXECUTION DATE

SENSATIONAL TRIAL ENDED SATURDAY EVENING WITH DEATH SENTENCE BEING PRONOUNCED BY JUDGE HOYLE H. SINK

Ralph Vernon Litteral and Marvin Claude Bell in Wilkes county Saturday evening were sentenced by Judge H. Hoyle Sink to die in the gas chamber at the state penitentiary for rape of Peggy Ruth Shore, pretty 16-year-old school girl whose home is in the Pleasant Hill community just west of Elkin on the Trap Hill road.

The jury, which had been selected from a venire of 150 Caldwell county citizens Monday and Tuesday, had been out of the courtroom only 13 minutes when the officer was informed that they were ready to return their verdict, which carried a mandatory death sentence.

Early Decision

Reaching a unanimous decision of the first ballot, the jury did not hesitate long in giving their verdict which showed they believed Peggy Shore's coherent story of being kidnaped by Litteral and Bell, whom she said criminally assaulted her four times during a terror-filled automobile ride from Elkin into Tennessee on August 23, 1946.

Before the jury foreman said only one word and the defendant, Litteral, charged in the bill of indictment, Judge Sink ordered that they be taken to the room, after which they returned and the foreman, L. H. Jessup, said for each defendant: "Guilty of rape as charged in the bill of indictment."

Appeal Notices Given

Counsel for both defendants made motion to set aside the verdict and for a new trial, and both motions were denied. Appeal notices to the supreme court were posted by both defendants.

Counsel for the defendants were given 60 days in which to file case on appeal and the state 60 days to file counter-case, making a total of four months in which to prepare the lengthy case for review of the Supreme Court of North Carolina. Appeal automatically will stay execution of the death sentence.

Comments To Jury

Commenting to the jury following their verdict, Judge Sink said: "The manner of performance of your duty is in keeping with the dignity of the manhood of the state of North Carolina. If the virtue of womanhood and the sacredness of the home are destroyed, there is nothing left to live for."

Bell's Face Tear-Stained

When the jury first filed in with their verdict, Bell, a 24-year-old resident of the Roaring River community of Wilkes county, sobbed inaudibly on the shoulder of his wife, who had been with him throughout the trial.

Litteral, tall and dark Winston-Salem man for whom a plea of insanity failed, remained calm, smoked and chatted with his mother and sister in the interim between the verdict and death sentence.

When asked by the court if they had anything to say before sentence was pronounced, Litteral and Bell each replied, "No sir."

Peggy Shore Relieved

Peggy Shore, the prosecutrix whose story of being the object of bestial assaults by Litteral and Bell was never contradicted during the trial, waited in the Wilkes health department offices near the courtroom for the end of the trial. The girl for whom the ordeal of the week long trial had been so great that she collapsed on the witness stand and fainted a number of other times, merely said "I'm relieved."

On Thursday afternoon the prosecution rested in offering testimony and Fred Hutchins, counsel for Litteral, put on the stand Dr. Douglas Kelly, of Bowman Gray School of Medicine. Dr. Kelly, in introductory testimony, stated that he was

SENTENCED TO DIE FOR RAPE OF GIRL



RALPH VERNON LITTERAL



MARVIN CLAUDE BELL

The Northwestern Bank In Session Here On Tuesday

Good Year Reported By President Dougherty; Five Directors Added

Stockholders of the Northwestern Bank, which has home office here and branches in many northwestern North Carolina cities and towns, in annual meeting here increased the membership on the board of directors to 20. The directors re-elected Dr. B. B. Dougherty, head of Appalachian State Teachers' College, Boone, as president of the bank, and all other officers were re-elected.

The directors for 1947 are: N. B. Smithey, Ralph Duncan and C. O. McNeil, North Wilkesboro; R. L. Doughton and J. C. Duncan, Sparta; M. A. Higgins, Ennice; M. E. Reeves, Laurel Springs; W. D. Farthing, Boone; Gordon H. Winkler, Boone; W. W. Mast, Valle Crucis; W. C. Berry and W. F. Hughes, Bakersville; John C. McBea, Sr., Spruce Pine; J. D. Brinkley, Valdese; Henry C. Cline and C. L. Whisman, Hickory; Wade H. Shuford, Hickory and Newton; H. M. Yount, Newton; B. E. Penland, Burnsville. The last five named are new members on the board.

Dr. Dougherty in his address to the stockholders reported that the capital structure of the bank had been increased by \$455,752.64 during the past year, bringing the total to \$1,367,861.61. The increase, Dr. Dougherty said, added much to the degree of protection to depositors and stockholders. During the year total resources of the bank increased from \$27,798,367.03 to \$32,348,224.72, an increase of more than five million.

During the year the bank established new branches at Hickory and Newton and a teller's window at Maiden.

In the stockholders meeting a portrait of the late president of the bank, R. A. Doughton, was unveiled and placed in the directors' room. The stockholder gave a rising vote of appreciation to officers and employees for their services during the year.

Officers re-elected by the directors were: Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president; Edwin Duncan, executive vice president; W. B. Greene, Wade H. Shuford and W. B. Austin, vice presidents; D. V. Deal, secretary. All other officers and employees were also re-elected.

Reports of the bank showed that 1946 was a most successful year and the opinion was expressed that the ensuing year will be equally good.

A pigeon post system, in which the birds were used as messengers, was established by the Sultan of Baghdad in 1150 A. D., according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Bank Of North Wilkesboro Has Annual Meeting

Report of President Hix Indicates Excellent Business During Year

The Bank of North Wilkesboro, largest single unit bank in this section of the state, had a very successful year in 1946, the report of J. R. Hix, president, to the stockholders in annual meeting showed.

In the stockholders meeting, which was well attended, the directors, E. M. Blackburn, Ralph Duncan, R. G. Finley, R. W. Gwyn, W. D. Halfacre, J. R. Hix and John E. Justice, Jr., were re-elected. Worth Tomlinson was also elected a director, succeeding his father, S. V. Tomlinson, who died several weeks ago.

The directors re-elected the officers as follows: J. R. Hix, president; W. D. Halfacre, executive vice president; R. W. Gwyn, cashier; W. W. Starr, J. G. McNeil, J. T. Brame and W. Blair Gwyn, assistant cashiers. Officers and employees of the bank were highly commended for their services during the year.

Capital funds of the bank were increased during the year in the amount of \$38,504.61, and now total \$386,737.03. The permanent surplus account was increased by \$50,000 to the present total of \$250,000.

Reflecting greater business activity, loans more than doubled during the year, reaching a total of \$1,759,733.07 as compared to \$792,762.10 at the close of 1945. Commercial and individual deposits for the year showed an increase of \$1,181,291.02 and the year ended with total deposits of \$9,234,603.28. Relative to savings deposits, Mr. Hix's report said: "The patronage of our savings department has continued to show a steady increase. The total deposits in savings now is \$3,697,016.77. This not only speaks well for the thriftiness of the people of our community, but indicates their desire to safeguard the earnings."

The stockholders meeting was well attended and a high degree of satisfaction was expressed with the bank's progress and business record for the year.

DR. DEARSTYNE SAYS WILKES CAN BE OUTSTANDING POULTRY PRODUCING COUNTY IN SOUTH

Dr. Roy S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry department at North Carolina State College, told North Wilkesboro civic clubs that Wilkes is in position to become the outstanding poultry production center of the entire south.

Dr. Dearstyne spoke at the noon luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis club and in the evening before the Lions club.

Speaking of the poultry industry in the state, Dr. Dearstyne said there was a gross income in 1945 of over \$85,000,000 and that poultry was second only to tobacco as the state's leading industry. He stated that there are 300,000 poultry producing units in the state, with 10,000 full time producers, 14,000 full time

BRINGING SUBJECT CLOSER HOME, DR. DEARSTYNE SAID THAT WILKES PRODUCED 1,776,000 CHICKENS IN 1945.

employees and hundreds of thousands of part time workers.

Bringing the subject closer home, Dr. Dearstyne said that Wilkes produced 1,776,000 chickens in 1945.

In order to have a better balanced poultry industry, there is great need for greater production of poultry feed ingredients, especially grain, in North Carolina. Citing Wilkes production figures, it was found that more wheat is used for poultry feed in Wilkes than is produced in the county. There is also need for greater production of corn and oats.

Dr. Dearstyne asked cooperation of business for expansion of the poultry industry in the state.

M. M. Brame Manager Of Wilkes Drug Store

M. M. Brame has assumed his duties as manager of Wilkes Drug Store in this city.

Mr. Brame is a registered pharmacist, having graduated at the University of North Carolina in 1934. For some time he held a position at Duke Hospital in Durham and served in the army medical corps in Europe. He came here from High Point, where he was connected with Ekerds Drug company. Mr. Brame is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Brame, of Winston-Salem and is a nephew of P. J. Brame and a cousin of the other members of the Brame family here.

At Wilkes Drug Store Mr. Brame succeeds P. J. Brame, who retired January 1 after 50 years in the drug business, including 27 years in North Wilkesboro.

Mr. M. M. Brame and his wife and five-months-old son will make their home in this city.

Fire On Friday At Bill Lambert's Store

The fire department Friday answered a call to Bill Lambert's store in the woodlawn community. Fire which had made some headway behind shelves in the store had been practically extinguished by Mr. Lambert before firemen arrived.

Kiwanians Have Interesting Meet

The address of Roy S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry department at North Carolina State College, featured the meeting of the North Wilkesboro Kiwanis club Friday.

Wm. A. Stroud was program chairman for the day and he asked W. D. Jester to present the speaker. Account of his address is contained elsewhere in this newspaper.

Attendance prize Friday was given by Rev. H. M. Wellman to J. B. McCoy. Guests were as follows: Agnes Elledge with D. E. Elledge; T. L. Blalock with J. B. Williams; Murphy Williams with Pat Williams; Andy Borders, of Hickory, was a visiting Kiwanian.

Lions Club Asks Greater Increase In Teacher's Pay

Resolution Passed In Meeting Friday For Over 20 Per Cent Pay Raise

North Wilkesboro Lions Club in meeting Friday evening passed a resolution asking that the legislature grant the school teachers of North Carolina a salary increase of more than 20 per cent.

The proposal was put before the club by President W. O. Absher and after some discussion a motion was passed but with no definite percentage of increase asked, except that it be more than 20 per cent.

The program, which consisted of a splendid address by Dr. Roy S. Dearstyne, of State College, was arranged by Dr. J. W. Willis, Wm. A. Hardister and Bill Absher. Edward McIntire presented the speaker.

Edward Bell of the Northwestern Bank, was inducted into membership by Attorney J. H. Whicker, Jr.

Guests were: Fred Emerson with Rufus Church; Bill Moore with Wm. A. Hardister; Jimmie Allen with Blair Gwyn; Robert Bowman with Edward Finley; Buford Williams, of Lenoir, with J. H. Whicker, Jr. Arrangements were made during the meeting for the club to operate the dime board for the polio fund.

Polio Dance On Jan. 31 Planned

Annual Presidents Ball for the Infantile Paralysis fund in Wilkes will be held on the night of January 31st at the Legion and Auxiliary clubhouse, C. C. Faw, Jr., Lions Club dance chairman for the fund, announced today.

In order that all proceeds may go into the fund, music will be from records and tickets will be \$1.00 per couple, Mr. Faw said.

The Papuans, a tribe of New Guinea, believe that souls of dead people return and may even marry mortals, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

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Lions Sponsor Of Polio Bingo Party

Will Be Held Saturday, Day and Night, Next to Town Hall Here

For the benefit of the Infantile Paralysis campaign now in progress, the Lions club will sponsor a bingo party to be held Saturday, January 25, in the building next to the city hall on Main Street.

Bill Lee and Dorman Payne, Lions committee handling the project, stated that the game will be in progress all day and at night until nine p. m. Many attractive and useful prizes will be given and everybody is invited to attend and patronize the game.

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