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Selma Man Honored By American Legion

Showing their appreciation for the many outstanding services as a member of the Selma Post of the American Legion, the town of Selma and to the community as a whole, Selma Post No. 141, American Legion paid honor to Adjutant R. A. Jones on last Friday evening when a barbecue dinner was given by members of the local post at the American Legion Hut here.

The occasion was prompted by the fact that Adjutant Jones was scheduled to leave the following Monday for re-entrance for active duty in the United States Navy. Mr. Jones was appointed by President Roosevelt in 1937 as lieutenant on the retired list, an honorary rating for previous service as commission officer during World War No. One. A few weeks ago Lieutenant Jones received notice to report for duty in the Navy.

Participating in the farewell dinner Friday evening were more than 30 members of the American Legion, together with a number of invited guests, totaling around 40 in all. Dr. E. N. Booker acted as toastmaster for the occasion. Brief talks were made by Mayor B. A. Henry, W. W. Hare, J. C. Avery, M. L. Stencil, John C. Diehl, Hunter Price, Ed Creech, C. A. Bailey, and others. All who spoke were high in their praise of the life of and the services rendered to the community by Mr. Jones, who predicted that he would serve his country to an even greater advantage in whatever capacity he may be called to serve.

Climaxing the program of speech-making, E. C. Perry presented the guest of honor. In his presentation speech Mr. Perry said he hoped those present would not forget the other noble young men who have gone from the community into the service of their country. He said he believed the honor guest would be glad to have those present convey through him their high regards and best wishes. Lieutenant Jones expressed his appreciation for the many nice things said about him, and in speaking of his earlier experience in military training, he said he had always wanted to have some part in promoting the military interests of America.

It was evident throughout the program of the evening that all felt very keenly the loss which the community will sustain in the leaving of Mr. Jones, who had become a part of almost every outstanding organization, whether civic, educational or religious. For a number of years Mr. Jones served as town commissioner, a post he resigned only a few days ago. He made one of the best commissioners the town ever had. He also served as a member of the Board of Stewards of the Methodist church for several years, and this was another place where his ability was evidenced in no small way. He was active in all branches of church work.

Order Eastern Star Installs Officers

At the regular meeting of Selma Chapter No. 209, O. E. S., held Tuesday evening, officers were installed for the ensuing year.

Installation officer for the occasion was Mrs. Nannie Woodard, past matron of Selma chapter. Those assisting in the installation services were Mrs. Iva Mae Etheridge, acting grand marshal; Mrs. Ida E. O'Neal, acting grand chaplain; Miss E. Frances Brown, of New Hampshire, acting grand organist, and Walter E. Price, acting grand warden.

Mrs. Velma Peedin was installed Worthy Matron of Selma Chapter 209 O. E. S., for the coming year. After the installation a very impressive floral ceremony was conducted by the appointed marshal and star points of the chapter, pledging their support to the worthy matron during the year. Mrs. Edna Boney also honored the newly installed worthy matron by presenting her with a gift.

Other officers installed were: W. D. Perkins, worthy patron; Mrs. Nancy White, associate matron; W. S. Earp, associate patron; Mrs. Mary G. Price, conductress; Mrs. Catherine Price, associate conductress; Mrs. Hattie M. Perkins, secretary; Mrs. Iva Mae Etheridge, treasurer; Mrs. Rachel Harris, chairman; Mrs. Mozelle Bailey, marshal; Miss Evelyn Spencer, organist; Mrs. Margaret Spencer, as Adah; Mrs. Ila Adams, as Ruth; Mrs. Nannie Woodard, as Esther; Mrs. Elizabeth Creech, as Martha; Mrs. Willie C. Wright, as Electa; Mrs. Roxie Creech, warden; Mrs. Claudia Jones, sentinel.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served to all present.

The Rev. and Mrs. D. M. Clemmons and daughter, Elaine, visited friends in Fayetteville Friday. Mr. Clemmons also attended a Kiwanis meeting while there.

LAWYERS VISIT WASHINGTON IN EXPLOSION MATTER

Congressman Harold D. Cooley and Senator Josiah W. Bailey expressed themselves to attorneys William I. Godwin of Selma, and Norman C. Shepard, of Smithfield, as being sympathetically interested in the plight of the victims of the tragic explosion near Selma on March 7th.

Attorneys who have investigated all the surrounding circumstances have reached the conclusion that the only remedy available to those who were damaged by the explosion is by an act of Congress. Both Senator Bailey and Congressman Cooley indicated their willingness to introduce the proper legislation and attempt to secure its passage.

Mr. Godwin and Mr. Shepard went to Washington after making an appointment, on last Friday and after lengthy conference with the Senator and Congressman, will attempt to prepare the necessary data for formal submission. Any legislation passed should include all claims arising from the explosion whether represented by attorneys or not.

Some method of determining the amount and extent of damage is now under consideration by Honorable J. Melville Broughton, Governor of North Carolina, and arrangements will undoubtedly be made to provide for the filing and proving of claims by those who are not represented by attorneys. Announcement of the plan decided upon will probably be made by the Governor in Raleigh.

Mother Mrs. Claude C. Canaday Dies In Benson

Funeral services for Mrs. Sarah Duncan, 89, mother of Mrs. Claude C. Canaday, of Benson, who died at the home of her daughter Friday afternoon, were held from the Benson Baptist church Sunday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. Forest L. Young, pastor. Burial took place in the Benson cemetery.

Mrs. Duncan, the oldest resident of Benson, was a charter member of the Benson Baptist Church. A native of Franklin County, she had resided in Benson for the past 55 years.

Surviving are six children, Mrs. Ora Marshburn of Rocky Mount, Mrs. E. L. Hall of Fayetteville, Mrs. J. E. Wall and Mrs. C. C. Canaday of Benson, Darius of Raleigh, and Norman L. Duncan of Benson.

Junior Woman's Club Entertain Soldiers

Honoring 50 members of the 79th Division of Fort Bragg the Junior Woman's club, of Selma, gave a dance Friday evening at the Woman's club building. The building was artistically decorated carrying out a color scheme of red, white and blue.

Music for the occasion was furnished by an all colored band of the 41st Engineers from Fort Bragg. Several of the soldiers in the band were originally with Cab Calloway's orchestra.

Special entertainment was given the soldiers by Miss Annie Hood Hughes, who sang "The Father of the Land We Love," and rendered several tap dance numbers. A jigsaw contest was then held, Sergeant Fred Case, of Fort Bragg, and Miss Rosabelle George, were declared winners and awarded prizes.

Prizes were also awarded Lieutenant Tyree and Miss Martha Nelson as the most graceful couple on the floor.

After the contest the chaperones were introduced by Miss Cassie Abdalla. They were Mrs. C. E. Kornegay, Mrs. J. V. Chamblee, Mrs. R. G. Lewis, Mrs. Mildred P. Spencer, Mrs. R. A. Stevens, Mrs. A. Z. Thompson, Sr., and the club sponsor, Mrs. R. D. Oliver.

Dr. Carter To Address Johnston Federation

The Johnston County Federation of Churches, originally scheduled to be held in Carters Chapel Baptist church Sunday night, March 29th, has been moved to the Pleasant Plain Free Will Baptist Church, it was announced by the Rev. E. G. Holland, president of the organization. The Pleasant Plain church is larger and a large crowd is expected.

The principal address will be delivered by Dr. William Howard Carter, pastor of the large Tabernacle church in Goldsboro, and a native son of Selma. Dr. Carter is expected to speak at 8:30 EWT Sunday night.

Others appearing on the program include the Rev. J. H. Worley, who licensed Dr. Carter to preach when Dr. Carter was only 13 years of age.

Rev. Mr. Holland extends a special invitation to all singing groups in Johnston county and to all ministers and their members.

Flag officers of the U. S. Navy have the rank of rear-admiral.

Coroner's Jury Recommends Munitions Convoy; Probe Ends

EXPLOSION VICTIM



BOBBY RAY LEWIS, 4-year-old son of Odie Lewis, of Raleigh—He is recovering in Johnston County Hospital from wounds received in explosion. His left leg was broken. Bobby Ray's mother, Mrs. Minnie Lewis, was killed.

The jury empanelled by County Coroner E. N. Booker to hear evidence in the matter of a collision between an automobile and a munitions truck, and the subsequent explosion of the munitions truck on the morning of March 7, was discharged from further duties Wednesday afternoon after it had finished its deliberations and turned in a verdict in the matter.

This concludes one of the most important inquests ever rendered by a coroner's jury in Johnston county, it having to do with a matter that cost the lives of at least seven people and was responsible for the destruction of much property effecting an area of several miles wide.

The material damage to the immediate community has been roughly estimated at half a million dollars.

The verdict of the jury reads as follows:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF JOHNSTON.

In the Matter of the Death of George Stroupe, Cecil E. Propst, Mrs. Minnie Lewis, Claude Mitchell, Mrs. R. L. Holleman, Willie Howell, and Miss Jessie Holloway.

Be it remembered, that on the 7th day of March, 1942, I, E. N. Booker, Coroner of Johnston County, attended by a jury of good and lawful men composed of M. L. Stencil, Jack B. Wooten, John O. Ellington, G. Ira Ford, J. N. Wiggs and H. B. Marrow, by me summoned for the purpose, according to law, and after being by me duly sworn and empanelled, at Smithfield, in Smithfield Township, Johnston County, did view the remains of George Stroupe, Cecil E. Propst, Claude Mitchell, Mrs. Minnie Lewis (Mrs. Odie Lewis) and the bones in the ashes of the fire from the Hotel Talton that were presumed to be the bones of Willie Howell and Miss Jessie Holloway; the jury did not view the remains of Mrs. R. L. Holleman, who did not die until March 10, 1942. The jury was duly instructed by the coroner as to its duties.

The jury and the coroner duly reconvened again on March 17 and March 20 at which times it examined all persons known to have evidence bearing on the deaths under investigation.

From all of the evidence it appeared that the following persons are known to be dead:

- GEORGE STROUPE
- CECIL E. PROBST
- MRS. MINNIE LEWIS
- CLAUDE MITCHELL
- MRS. R. L. HOLLEMAN
- WILLIE HOWELL
- MISS JESSIE HOLLOWAY

We find that the decedents, with the exception of Mrs. Minnie Lewis, (Continued on page eight)

J. V. Chamblee's Father Dies Following Stroke

Funeral services for Junius P. Chamblee, 74, father of J. V. Chamblee, superintendent of the water and light department of Selma, who died at Rex hospital, Raleigh, at 8 o'clock Saturday morning, were conducted at the home in Middlesex Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Burial took place at Brantley cemetery, near Samaria church in Nash county, of which county the deceased was a native. A stroke of paralysis some time ago was the cause of death.

Surviving are three sons, A. P. Chamblee and U. V. Chamblee, of Middlesex, and J. V. Chamblee, of Selma; two daughters, Mrs. Odie Whitley, of Middlesex, and Mrs. Mordecai Brantley, of Spring Hope; two brothers, J. M. Chamblee, of Raleigh, and J. R. Chamblee, of Zebulon, Route 2; two sisters, Mrs. S. V. Brantley, of Zebulon, Route 2, and Mrs. W. H. Wagner, of Middlesex, Route 1, and eleven grandchildren.

Little River Baptist Union To Meet Sunday

The Little River Baptist Union will be held with Antioch Baptist church on March 29, 1942, and the following program will be given:

- 11:00 a. m.—Union Sunday School.
- 11:50 a. m.—Song service, led by Dr. R. E. Earp.
- 12:00 p. m.—Words of Welcome, by A. A. O'Neal.
- 12:05 p. m.—Business of Union; Roll Call; Reading of Previous Minutes; Appointment of Committees; Collection for Expenses of Union and Orphanage. Special Music by Mrs. W. T. Durham and children.
- 12:20 p. m.—Sermon, by Rev. D. M. Clemmons, of Selma.
- 1:00 p. m.—Announcements, by W. O. Hocutt.
- 2:30 p. m.—Devotional, by Rev. C. S. Creech. Special Music.
- 2:45 p. m.—Address—"He Will Direct Thy Paths"—by Rev. G. J. Griffin, of Zebulon.
- 3:20 p. m.—Address—"Needs For Christianity"—by Rev. Preston Parsons of Wilson.
- Song and Report of Committee on place for next Union.
- 4:00 p. m.—Adjournment.

Pre-Easter Services At Methodist Church Here

The pre-Easter services will begin at the Edgerton Memorial Methodist church Sunday. There will be special music and messages at both of the worship services at 11 o'clock in the morning and at 7:30 in the evening.

Services will be held Monday through Friday. There will be two services daily. Morning services will be held at 8:15 and the evening services at 8 o'clock. The morning services will be twenty minutes long, so that families and friends may attend before they go to school and to work.

The special music for the services will be under the direction of Mrs. W. H. Call, Mrs. M. R. Wall, and Miss Etheridge.

The special Easter project will be the restoration of our beautiful stained glass windows, which were shattered by the explosion of March 7, about a mile from the town of Selma. The committee is composed of C. A. Bailey, chairman; J. C. Diehl, W. L. Etheridge, O. L. Hathaway, and W. H. Call, Treasurer. Contributions have begun to come in to help us with our work for which we are indeed thankful.

Boy Falls From Tree Breaking His Arm

George Kerney Driver, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Driver, who live two miles north of Selma on Highway 301, fell from a tree on his father's farm a few days ago breaking both bones in his right arm. The young man was taken to the Johnston County Hospital, where Dr. Davidian "set" the broken bones. He missed school only two days, his father said, and they were the only days he missed since he started to school.

NEW HOUSING PLAN WILL HELP FARMERS

If you are a farmer and own some land on which to build a house, and need help to finance a building program, you should get in touch with W. T. Woodard, Jr., county welfare supervisor in Smithfield.

After Mr. Woodard has outlined the new housing plan to you it may sound too good to be true, but you would at least enjoy the story.

Former Selma Resident Meets Accidental Death

Mr. William Wright Tucker, who had charge of the pumping station for the Atlantic Coast Line railroad in Selma, before going to Fayetteville, where he held a similar position, was accidentally killed Thursday of last week, when a heavy steel door fell on him at the pumping station.

Funeral services were held for the 61-year-old man at the home of Bruce Costin, in Warsaw, Friday afternoon. The Rev. G. Van Stevens, pastor of the Warsaw Baptist church, was in charge of the services. Interment followed in the Warsaw cemetery.

Former Selma Lady Dies In Richmond

Mrs. E. R. Walthall, 28, who was the former Miss Margaret Straughan of Selma, died in Grace Hospital, Richmond, Va., on Saturday, March 21, following an operation for appendicitis.

Funeral services were held from the Birely Funeral Home in Richmond Monday afternoon. Burial took place in Maury Cemetery.

Surviving besides her husband, are one brother, J. R. Straughan of Richmond, Va.; and two sisters, Mrs. J. F. Ellington and Mrs. N. P. Alexander, both of Durham.

Mrs. Walthall was married to her last husband on November 15, 1940, and they were making their home in Richmond, Va., where they were reported to be living happily together.

Corinth-Holder People To Hear Dr. Watson

On Thursday, April 2, 1942, the Corinth-Holder school faculty, Zebulon, N. C., will have as their guest, Dr. James Watson. Dr. Watson, Director of Mental Hygiene State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, is very well known for his outstanding work in mental hygiene and we feel that we are fortunate in having him with us. We also feel that Dr. Watson's lectures will be beneficial in helping us to counteract the emotional and mental strain we are all experiencing during these trying times.

Seen and Heard Along THE MAINDRAG

By H. H. L.

MR. AND MRS. ZIT YOUNGER bicycling down the Southern railroad tracks—TAM CORBETT going by on his new wheel—MR. AND MRS. WALTER PRICE are seen on the Maindrag daily on their new bikes—in fact, about everybody is bicycling these days, which shows their patriotism—glad to see our good friend, BILL NORDAN on the Maindrag after having been confined to home limits for some time by illness—TROY HENRY, also of the firm of HENRY & NORDAN, has been on the sick list for several days—glad these gentlemen are improving—OTHO DAVIS and PARSON CLEMMONS are about the happiest men in town—the large windows in the Baptist church, blown out by the explosion, have been replaced—these Baptist leaders didn't rest until they got the funds and the windows—congratulations—the Methodist boys are not idle, either, the loss at the local church was immense, around \$10,000 worth of glass broken—it is hoped they will soon be replaced—hundreds of windows in the town are still minus glass—it'll be a long time before the old town will be back to normalcy—MATT WALL has to burn lights in his office all day since all the large plate glass windows in the town office were knocked out—around 175 in the entire building will have to be replaced—L. GURKIN is still doing business at the old stand—a roof has been put on his garage and his cottages repaired—you can't keep a good man down—his loss was heavier than any other individual—LAWYER HOBBS was in the state capital on Tuesday and paid his respects to North Carolina's Governor—American Legion Auxiliary's cake sale will be at Selma Drug Company Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock—better buy your cake then—sugar getting higher and scarcer all the time.