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FOSTER ACQUITTED IN MIDDLE DISTRICT COURT ON TUESDAY

Found Not Guilty of Soliciting Funds in Postoffices. Cleared on All Counts; Defendant Congratulated by Many Friends After Jury's Verdict is Received. Chairman Duncan Highly Pleased.

Greensboro, N. C.—By virtue of a verdict of not guilty on all of the remaining counts, returned by a jury in United States District Court here Tuesday evening, the cases of W. H. Foster, secretary-treasurer of the Republican State Executive Committee, charged with solicitation of funds for political purposes from Federal office holders in government buildings, were terminated.

The verdict was announced two and one-half hours after the deliberations of the jury began.

Judge Johnson J. Hayes, presiding over the trial, which began Thursday morning, thanked the jurors for their faithful service and directed that they be discharged. Friends of Mr. Foster, waiting with him in the courtroom, pressed forward and shook hands with him.

After court adjourned for the day many others congratulated him upon the result. Among those who were near the defendant were James S. Duncan of Greensboro, chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee, and Mrs. C. B. Winn of Liberty, state vice-chairman.

"The verdict of not guilty was confidently expected by me," said Mr. Foster. "I appreciate the manifestation of confidence in me on the part of thousands of loyal Republicans throughout the State and by others, irrespective of party affiliation. Every ounce of energy that I have will be devoted to steadfast efforts to justify a continuation of confidence."

"I am naturally pleased," said Mr. Duncan, "although I have never had any doubt as to the result. Any investigation of any activities of the Republican party in North Carolina will simply disclose that the organization is using every legitimate and at the same time honorable method to further the interest of the party."

Originally there were 57 counts in the two bills of indictment returned by the Grand Jury last December. Of this number 81 were eliminated last week. Nine of these were dismissed by order of Judge Hayes upon motion of defense counsel on the ground of lack of jurisdiction, the records indicating that the places in which offenses were alleged to have been committed are outside the Middle District. As to 22 of the counts the judge directed a verdict of not guilty last week. In most of those instances there appeared to be a lack of clear evidence that the notices of installments under the terms of "pledge cards" signed by postmasters were received, opened and read in postoffices.

J. B. McCOY NOW IN CHARGE OF HOTEL

Daniel Boone Passes Into New Hands Monday Morning. Lease Closed With Manager Wilkes Hotel Building Refurnished.

Mr. Joe H. McCoy, manager of the Hotel Wilkes since its opening a few years ago, has leased the Daniel Boone Hotel, and the local hostility passed into new hands early Monday morning. Mr. McCoy has had men engaged in thoroughly renovating the building, retouching the wood work and doing odd jobs of painting throughout the building, and will start his career here with the edifice presenting a brand-new appearance.

Mr. McCoy is a hotel man of wide experience. Previous to his coming to North Wilkesboro he managed the Taylorsville Hotel, and was for several years connected with the Selwyn in Charlotte. He will retain the management of Hotel Wilkes, but will move his family here in order that the children may avail themselves of local educational facilities. The directors of the hotel feel fortunate in having been able to secure the services of Mr. McCoy in this connection.

Mr. E. B. Kidd, who for more than a year has managed the Daniel Boone, left for Charlotte Monday, where he has made his home for many years.

Meeting Continues at Blowing Rock Church

Rev. Alex Honeycutt, of Linville, who has been preaching at the Blowing Rock Free Will Baptist Church every evening for the past three months, baptized eighteen new members in a nearby pool last Sunday afternoon. The meeting is drawing large crowds, and despite its lengthy session, interest is still good.

Mr. Honeycutt established the church several years ago, but the membership had dwindled to a mere handful previous to his return in November.

J. B. Horton Kills Tremendous Porker

J. B. Horton, progressive farmer of the Vilas community, has, he believes, killed the largest hog of the season. The porker, which was of the Poland-China variety, tipped the scales at 700 pounds before it was slaughtered, and after dressing netted 634 pounds. It was three years old and had been raised principally on whey which Mr. Horton obtained at a cheese factory which he operates.

Pretty nice pig, says we, but at the same time a report comes from Halifax County that a farmer residing near Scotland Neck has just butchered a Poland-China which on foot weighed 1,136 pounds. After dressing, 1,007 pounds of pork was obtained. Mr. Horton has lots of pigs, and it is our guess that one of these days he will shatter the Halifax man's record.

MAN HUNT OF 29 YEARS BROUGHT TO CLOSE FRIDAY

Man Wanted by Mitchell County Authorities for Murder in 1903 is Captured in State of Missouri. Requisition Papers Will Be Forwarded to Middle Western Town Some Time This Week.

Bakersville, N. C.—A 29-year search for a man wanted for murder here in 1903 ended Friday when Columbia, Mo., authorities telegraphed Mitchell County officers they had captured George Presnell, alias George Miller, charged with the slaying of Louis Buchanan.

Present authorities here were unable to deliver a complete account of Buchanan's murder since it occurred so long ago. G. A. Ramsey, clerk of the Superior Court, stated Buchanan was stabbed in an artery and bled to death as a result of the injury.

Presnell and Buchanan were farmers in Mitchell County at that time, Ramsey said he understood, and that a few words passed between them before the alleged fatal encounter.

The county solicitor was working Saturday on requisition papers to send Missouri authorities for the return of Presnell to this village in the Western North Carolina mountains.

Ramsey said local authorities had sought Presnell ever since Buchanan was murdered.

According to reports, Presnell had been living in the vicinity of Columbia, Mo., for more than a year. For the past five months he has operated a mine near Prathersville. He is 59 years old.

Appalachia Wins from Milligan in Court Game

In a fast game of basket ball the Appalachian girls' team made it eight victories in a row by defeating the Milligan College outfit by a 30-23 score last Saturday night.

The local girls got off to a fast start and in the first five minutes ran up a ten-point lead; but the visitors, led by the flashy Dyer, staged a quick comeback and held the Black and Gold to an 18-12 score at the half. Dyer was the "big shot" of the Milligan attack, this little forward scoring all but eight of her team's points. Her free throw record was almost perfect, since she rung the bell with nine goals out of eleven tries.

Better team work on the part of Betty Crow Cushing's outfit was the deciding factor in the game; but in spite of the passing and goal shooting of the forwards, honors were to the little red-headed captain-guard of Appalachia—Della Paulas. She, with Mary Baker and Nan Lingle, put up a defensive wall that the Milligan forwards could not pierce. The Appalachian State guards allowed only six field goals to the visitors.

The Appalachian girls have only two more games on their schedule, one with Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory next Saturday night, and one with Wingate here on the night of February 24th. The line-up of last Saturday's game follows:

Milligan	A. S. T. C.
Dyer (15)	Crisp (4)
Walker (2)	Austin
Holly (3)	Preston (22)
Cross	Paulas
Cresbtree	Lingle
Loveless	Baker, Mary

Milligan substitutes, 3 points; A. S. T. C. substitutes, 4 points.

HOLIDAY MONDAY

Both Boone Banks, the Watauga County and Peoples Industrial, will observe Washington's Birthday Monday, and will not be open for business. Other Boone institutions will continue business as usual.

ATTEMPTED BREAK OF COUNTY JAIL IS FOILED BY KEEPER

Hole in Masonry Discovered by Jailer Norris Early Friday Evening. Griffin and Presnell Confined in Cell Room. First Attempt to Escape from New Bastille. Presnell Said to Have Previous Record.

An attempted break of the county jail was foiled early Friday night, when Jailer Clint Norris, returning from his duties as local police officer, discovered a stream of light coming through the brick wall beside a window frame on the north side of the building. Going immediately to the second story, Mr. Norris found that the two inmates of that particular cell room, Bill Griffin and Johnnie Presnell, had twisted a pipe from the shower bath and drilled through the masonry. The hole had been stuffed with a blanket, was almost large enough to permit the passage of a body, and doubtless the two men would have made their escape within an hour.

Griffin and Presnell were removed to the main cell block, and Saturday repairs were made on the building. This is the first time that a break of the jail has been attempted since it was built several years ago.

Griffin, who will face trial at the Spring term of Court on a charge of assault with intent to kill, is a native of Asheville who for several months was an employe of the Champion Fibre Company on Grandfather Mountain. So far as local authorities know, he has no previous criminal record. Presnell is a native of the Beech Creek section and is said to have engineered a jail break at Newland several years ago when fourteen prisoners escaped. He is being held on a charge of store-breaking. Had the two men made good their attempt Friday night, none of the other thirteen inmates of the bastille would have been liberated.

Bound to Court for Robbing Hen House

George Brown, Roy Brown and Jim Brown, all residents of the Rich Mountain section, were arrested Friday by county officers on a warrant charging the burglary of a hen house at the home of Mrs. Clo Love, who resides in the Oak Grove section just west of Boone. It is alleged that the trio stole twelve chickens from the lady early last week and marketed them at local stores.

George and Roy Brown, the former a married man who has been estranged from his wife for several months, and the latter a 17-year-old son of W. E. Brown, waived examination when brought before Justice Hahn Monday and gave bond for their appearance at the Spring Term of Superior Court. Jim Brown, who is only 15 years of age, was hailed before Juvenile Judge A. E. South for trial, but judgment was withheld pending the outcome of the other cases. It is understood that he confessed to a part in the theft.

For the past several weeks farmers of the western section of Watauga have been harassed by chicken thieves and hundreds of birds have been stolen.

Twenty-Six Wataugans Attend Lincoln Dinner

Twenty-six Watauga County Republicans attended the Lincoln Day Dinner held at the King Cotton Hotel in Greensboro last Friday evening. Senator Daniel O. Hastings, of Wilmington, Delaware, was the chief speaker, and members of the local group state that he delivered a most eloquent address, stressing the necessity of standing behind the administration, and working for the re-election of President Hoover this fall. He was introduced by Attorney Baxter M. Linney of Boone and Lenoir.

More than six hundred party men and women from all over the State were present.

LEES-McRAE BOYS DEFEAT FRESHMEN FROM A. S. T. C.

The Lees-McRae quintet took a close game of basket ball from the Appalachian freshmen here Monday night, to give the visitors four victories in succession in the past week. The Presbyterian boys began the season rather slowly, due to new players who make up the regular squad, but Monday night exhibited a flashy brand of ball.

MISS WHITENER TO BECOME BRIDE OF MR. JURNERY

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Karl Whitener, of Gastonia, N. C., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ruth Sumpter, to William Howard Journery of Raleigh. The wedding will take place in March.

Mr. Journery is a grandson of Mrs. J. W. Farthing of Route 1 and a nephew of R. C. Rivers. At present he is an instructor in mathematics at North Carolina State College.

OGDEN MILLS NEW TREASURY HEAD



Ogden L. Mills, left, assistant Secretary of the Treasury, has been elevated to the secretaryship to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of Andrew Mellon, right, who has been designated by President Herbert Hoover as Ambassador to Great Britain.



Kuester Congratulates Harris Brothers on Ad.

The Democrat is in receipt of a letter from C. O. Kuester, business manager of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, in which he calls attention to a double page ad run in this paper by Harris Brothers Department Store. Mr. Kuester says:

"Tell your merchant up there who runs the double-page spread he has the right idea. Advertising in good times is an opportunity, and advertising in times like we are now going through is a necessity. When he runs a double-page spread he is using powerful good judgment."

PROMINENT MEN TO SPEAK AT BANNER ELK CONFERENCE

Third Annual Personality Meeting to Be Addressed by Eminent Educators. Seventeen High Schools Will Send Delegations. Banquet to Be Given Saturday Night. Conferences Have Been Most Helpful.

Banner Elk, N. C.—The Third Annual Personality Conference, to be held at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, Friday and Saturday, March 4th and 5th, will have the following eminent speakers:

Friday evening Dr. H. E. Rondthaler, president of Salem College, will speak on "What Is Personality?" On Saturday afternoon Dr. A. Monroe Stowe, professor of Education at Randolph-Macon College, will deliver an address on "Creative Thinking in Personality," and in the evening Mr. Victor M. Davis, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A., University of Tennessee, will make the closing address, his subject to be "Buck Passing."

The previous conferences have been so helpful and inspiring that the invitations this year cover a wider range of territory. Seventeen high schools in Avery, Watauga and Ashe counties, North Carolina, and one in Tennessee have been invited and are expected to send delegates.

Beside the speakers there will be group conferences of leaders, personality diagnosis in group conferences, a tea on Friday afternoon for claret cups and group counselors in the Lees-McRae library, and a banquet on Saturday evening in the college dining hall.

HUNTING SEASON CLOSED MONDAY

Sportsmen Warned to Refrain from Gunning Until Next Fall. Unusual Amount of Game Left. Fishing Opens in April.

Monday, February 15th, was the last day of the hunting season, and sportsmen are warned by local game officials to refrain from gunning, except for outwaded birds and animals, until next fall. The season closes this year, it is said, with more game left in the fields and woods than ever before, especially quail, squirrel and ruffed grouse.

The Department of Conservation and Development is very much pleased with the co-operation that sportsmen of Watauga and Ashe counties have given the game wardens during the past year, and are hopeful that the pleasant relations may continue.

While it is permissible to fish for suckers and carp at this season of the year in New River, Watauga River and the power dam on the Blowing Rock Highway, the trout fishing season does not open until April 15th. Those wishing to fish for suckers and carp are required by law to have licenses, which are now on sale at the Farmers Hardware Store and at the Clerk's office in the courthouse.

Farmers in sixteen communities of Craven County will plant 200 acres of cucumbers for market this spring.

VARIED PROGRAM IS DRAFTED FOR FARM INSTITUTE

Third Annual Farm School in Session at Courthouse Thursday, Under Auspices of Civitan Club. Local and Foreign Authorities Will Discuss Approved Farm Topics. Large Crowds Expected.

The third annual Farmers Institute for Watauga County is to be held in the courthouse at Boone on Thursday of this week, beginning at 9:30, and indications are that a large crowd of agrarians from all sections of the county will gather to take part in the meeting, and to receive the valuable and pertinent information which will be tendered by visitors as well as local farm authorities. Officials of the Boone Civitan Club, under whose auspices this year's farm event will be staged, released a completed program the first of the week, and those who have followed the institutes carefully since their inception are of the opinion that the current "farm school" will be fully the equal, if not superior, to its two predecessors, from point of both entertainment features and educational value.

Following a number by the American Legion Band, the institute proper gets under way at 9:30 with an address by H. R. Niswonger, State Horticulturist, which is to be followed by general talks on farm products and methods, including a brief period for questions and answers.

Addresses by W. H. Walker, instructor in the agricultural department of the Cove Creek High School, and Professor B. B. Dougherty of Boone will complete the program until the noon hour. The latter will center his discourse about the improvement of the soil and home methods.

At 1:45 the sessions will open again with numbers by the Legion Band and perhaps the high spot of the session will be the address by Mr. Bruce Webb, of the Asheville Citizen, upon the subject of the 5 to 10-year plan for Western North Carolina farmers. Mr. Webb will go into the details of the plan which his newspaper has inaugurated for the benefit of mountain farmers, and following his discourse, a space has been allotted for asking questions, and the speaker will give any information required on his subject. Mr. Webb will also be a special guest of the Boone Civitan Club at its regular Sunday session.

The program will be concluded with an address by County Superintendent Smith Hagaman, who will outline a program for Watauga farmers for the year 1932.

REV. MILLER OPENS REVIVAL MEETING

Evangelist of the Christian Church to Deliver Series of Sermons at Episcopal Chapel. Has Been in Ministry for Years.

The Rev. Martin B. Miller, First District of Tennessee evangelist of the Christian Church, began an evangelistic meeting at the Episcopal Church on Main Street Tuesday night.

This meeting will run for two weeks or longer and should be of great interest to the people of this section, because of the ability of Mr. Miller as a speaker, and because of his father, Elder Jonathan P. Miller, who was a minister in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina for fifty years, and is remembered by many of the older inhabitants of this county.

Mr. Miller, whose last pastorate was at the Tabernacle Church, Columbus, Indiana, a church of 1,800 members—comes to Boone with years of experience in the ministry to assure his success. Mrs. Miller will assist her husband by furnishing the music for the meeting.

A few of the topics on which Mr. Miller will preach are: Wednesday night, "Sails and Souls"; Thursday night, "What Time Is It?"; Friday night, "The Two Ways"; Saturday night, "Is There Another Way?"

MAN IS SHOT IN GUN FIGHT WITH PROHIBITION FORCE

Taylorsville, N. C.—M. A. Baker of Mount Holly was shot in the shoulder and another man named Tolvin was arrested with him, when two Federal prohibition officers captured their car and a load of liquor near here Friday night after a chase that started in Wilkes County.

Officers Abernathy and Gilliam are said to have fired at the car after Tolvin shot at them. Baker was carried to a Statesville hospital and Tolvin is held in jail here. Sixty-five gallons of liquor was confiscated. Tolvin is said to be from Mount Holly.

Mrs. Tom Cushing returned Sunday evening from the Campbell Hospital in Johnson City, Tenn., where on Friday she underwent a minor operation to the ear.