



# THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN



"The Watchman Carries a Summary of All The News"

Founded 1832--99th Year

SALISBURY, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1931

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## Negro Confesses Burning Store

### Expect Trade Upturn To Follow Holidays

#### BUSINESS MEN OF SALISBURY ARE OPTIMISTIC

Slow But Definite Improvement During Remaining Winter Months Is Anticipated.

#### BUSINESS HOUSES ENJOYING LARGE CHRISTMAS TRADE

Quality Merchandise Is Being Sold At Lowest Prices In Many Years, Is General Verdict.

Salisbury merchants expect a steady and definite improvement of business conditions in 1932.

This sentiment was revealed in expressions made by a number of local business men when interviewed Tuesday by a representative of The Watchman.

The general opinion was to the effect that business is now on the most stable basis in many months and that it will show a slow but definite increase and improvement after the first of the year.

Prices of food and clothing and quality merchandise—the essentials of life—are the lowest in many years, and their quality is better than ever before.

"Our Christmas business is very good, and although we don't expect January and February to be as good as December, we do expect a good upturn in business in early spring," one leading merchant commented.

"I have never seen prices so low and quality so high," one merchant of 25 years experience said.

One chain store manager stated that he had talked with a large group of other managers of the chain and they were all optimistic over an increase in business in 1932.

"The entire tone of business is better," one banker stated who predicted better business for 1932.

The manager of one local business house said his December business of 1931 already had surpassed that of December 1930 with a week more to go this month.

One textile mill official stated he looked for slow but steady gains in the textile business during 1932.

R. E. L. Niel, secretary of the Salisbury chamber of commerce, expressed confidence that business conditions would show a gradual return to normal prosperity in 1932.

#### APPEAL IS FILED

Winston-Salem—John Moore, negro convicted of first degree burglary, the loot of which consisted of a pair of shoes, has appealed the death sentence imposed upon him by Judge John H. Harwood. The judge, although constrained by the jury verdict to impose the death penalty, wrote to the warden of state's prison asking a thorough examination of the negro's mentality and noting the jury's recommendation for mercy, which under North Carolina law has no legal standing in qualifying a statutory sentence.

#### TWO HOMES BURN

Oxford—Fires of undetermined origin destroyed two residences in the Enon section near Oxford recently. The large 11-room residence of Otho Hester was destroyed after the family had retired. Nothing was saved from the burning building, only the occupants escaping. The new bungalow of Jesse Clement, three miles from the home of Hester, burned, a large quantity of silver and valuable furniture being destroyed. It is thought both fires were caused by defective flues.

#### CARVED TERRAPIN FOUND

Asheboro—A pet terrapin was picked up on the streets here by Z. T. Byrd. On the animal's hard back are the following carvings: A. K. V., 1914. W. H. L., 1931.

#### GOOD MORNING

"EVERLASTING MERCY"  
And he who gives a child a treat  
Makes Joy-Bells ring in Heaven's street.

And he who gives a child a home  
Builds Palaces in Kingdom come.  
And she who gives a baby birth,  
Brings Saviour Christ again to earth.  
*John Masfield.*

FATAL REMARK  
He—"You look sweet enough to eat!"  
She—"I do eat. Where shall we go?"

WORK 'EM TO DEATH  
Old Lady (to tramp)—"Why don't you work Hard work never killed any one."  
Tramp—"You're wrong, lady. I lost both of my wives that way."

THEY WON'T KILL  
Willie—Ma, if the baby was to eat tadpoles, would it give him a big bass voice like a frog  
Ma—Good gracious, no! They would kill him.  
Willie—Well, . . . they didn't.

SYMPATHY  
"I went to a fortune teller's last week."  
"Yes; what did he say?"  
"Nothing. He looked in my hand, coughed, and then gave me my money back."  
—Hummel, Hamburg.

THE WORLD PROGRESSES  
Maizie: "Is your boy friend a one-arm driver?"  
Mamie: "Not him. He takes a taxi and uses both arms."—R. R. Magazine.

I am only one,  
But I am one.  
I cannot do every thing  
But I can do something;  
What I can do,  
By the grace of God I will do.  
—Cannon Farrar.

Lady of the House (to applicant for maidship): Do you scrub floors?  
Lily: Yassum.  
Tend baby?  
Yassum.  
Wait on company?  
Yassum; both ways.  
Both ways?  
Yassum; so they'll come again and so they don't!

HE PAYS, AND PAYS, AND PAYS  
Patron—"May I have some stationery?"  
Hotel clerk (haughtily)—"Are you a guest of the house?"  
Patron—"Hell, no. I am paying twenty dollars a day."

FREE MIND  
Doctor. "This is a very sad case. I am afraid your wife's mind is completely gone."  
Husband: "I am not a bit surprised. She has been giving me a piece of it every day for the last 15 years!"

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
I  
Let's throw away our woe  
And say a word or so  
About a Merry Christmas;  
It's not a day to cry,  
You've got no time to die—  
For it's Merry Christmas.

II  
Hang them by the fire,  
Get the old desire  
Of a Merry Christmas;  
Old Santa's almost here  
With sleigh and eight reindeer  
To make a Merry Christmas.

III  
So The Watchman force and me  
We wish you all the glee  
Of a Merry Christmas;  
We hope you're feeling right  
To eat and love a sight,  
On this—A Merry Christmas.  
*Contributed.*

It is a strange desire which men have, to seek power, and lose liberty.

#### Huge Still Captured By Officers; 5200 Gallons Of Beer Poured Out

The fish in the South River are having a merry Christmas.

They should have, at least. For three of Sheriff Cal Miller's force—Deputies Stikeleather, Wike and Sigmon—dumped into the river about 5,200 gallons of beer this morning together with a small quantity of whiskey—just made!

If the fish are the drinking kind—their appetites should be well taken care of.

As a result of a raid, J. H. Browning and James B. Cooley were arrested and placed under bond. A steam liquor-making outfit, with all accessories, was destroyed. Over 5,000 gallons of beer were poured out of the vats.

The officers stated the still had the appearance of having been used for some time and was apparently run for another run at the time the officers arrived.

About five gallons of liquor were also confiscated.

Both men denied any knowledge of the still, beer or liquor.

The still had a daily capacity of 100 gallons of liquor, 9 fermenters, brick-cased, in fact, very much up to date.

The officers found five other places where it appeared a still had been previously operated. The still had the biggest capacity of any outfit captured in Rowan county in years.

While the fish are probably celebrating the occasion in a hilarious fashion, it is observed that many humans will be deprived of similar spirits this holiday season.

What a break!

ENROLLMENT SHOWS GAIN  
Shelby—The Shelby public schools show a large enrollment and excellent attendance at the end of the third month. There are now enrolled in the city schools 3,237 pupils. This is the first month in the history of the school the membership has gone beyond 3,000. The percentage of attendance for the third month for the entire school system was 95.2 per cent.

NEED NEW ORGANIZATIONS  
Raleigh—Cotton producers of this country can depend on no organizations except those of their own to solve their problems and fight their battles, according to U. Benton Blacklock, president of the American Cotton Co-operative association, who bases his statement on 10 years' experience as cotton shipper, 10 years as manager of the North Carolina Cotton Co-operative and a lifetime as a cotton producer.

GOLD MINING RESUMED  
Asheboro—The old Allred Gold Mine 12 miles east of this town has been reopened. The engineer reports finding "extra good quality yellow gold."

PROF. SMITH GETS LEAVE  
Hickory—Prof. Frederick Stanley Smith, dean of the music department of Lenoir Rhyne college, has been granted a leave of absence from his duties for two or three months. Prof. Smith has made arrangements to study at the University of North Carolina with Lamar Stringfield, authority on instrumentation and orchestration. During his absence the work will be carried on at the college here by Prof. Hobart Whiteman of Mitchell college, Statesville.

SCHOOL PROBLEM CITED  
Wake Forest—The real school problem in North Carolina is not differences between the equalization board and the special charter systems, which will, in time, be satisfactorily adjusted, but rather where the money is coming from in case the next legislature decides to drop the 15 cent state wide ad valorem tax, said Jule B. Warren, secretary of the North Carolina Educational association, in an address here before the Wake Forest College chapter of Kappa Phi Kappa, national educational fraternity.

INSPECTIONS ARE MADE  
Wadesboro—Under the auspices of the county welfare department, Miss Cleone Hobbs, school nurse from the state board of health, spent this week inspecting the schools from the sanitary standpoint and conducting health examinations of the school children in the first three grades. While clinics were not held at this time, children in need of dental and medical attention were cited to their parents and to the school authorities.

ATTORNEY FILES SUIT  
Lumberton—Suit has been filed in superior court of Robeson county by George L. Grantham, Fairmont attorney, against L. M. Jones, operator of fish trucks out of Morehead City for recovery of \$50,585 damages for injuries to Mr. Grantham and damage to his car in a collision which a truck alleged to be operated by the defendant had with Mr. Grantham's automobile near Florence, S. C., September 12.

NEW COURT HOUSE FAVORED  
Morganton—Judge Walter E. Moore presiding over the December term of Burke superior court, now in session here, commended highly the report of the grand jury in which the recommendation was made that the people of Burke county vote on the proposition of building a new courthouse. The matter is one that recurs at each succeeding term of court, but no board of commissioners has yet taken definite action.

### Who's Who In Rowan

ROWAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Officers.  
B. D. McCubbins, president.  
Mrs. Edwin C. Gregory vice-president.  
Wm. D. Kizziah, secretary and treasurer.

Executive Committee.  
W. H. Woodson.  
J. M. McCorkle.  
B. D. McCubbins.  
Mrs. E. C. Gregory.  
Wm. D. Kizziah.

Members.  
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W. H. Woodson.  
J. M. McCorkle.  
Dr. Archibald Henderson.  
Kerr Craig.  
C. L. Coggin.  
Mrs. Q. B. Scott.

#### NORTH CAROLINA NEWS IN BRIEF

NEGROES MUST DIE  
Greensboro—Nord Donnell and LeRoy Lee, 24-year-old negroes, convicted in superior court of first degree murder in connection with the death of R. B. Andrew, Sedalia merchant and postmaster, were sentenced to die February 19 for their crime. Their attorney filed notice of an appeal.

GAS STATION BLOWN UP  
Liberty—W. G. Altizer, 60, operator of a gas station near here, suffered when unidentified persons wrecked his place with some sort of bomb or dynamite. Mr. Altizer, standing on the porch of his home near the scene, was injured by flying timbers after the explosion.

72 KILLED IN WRECKS  
Raleigh—Seventy-two persons were killed in automobile mishaps in North Carolina during November. Other deaths from violence were listed as follows: Suicides, 32; homicides, 24; accidental shootings, 19; burns, 17; railroad accidents, 9; drowning, 9; lightning, 2; airplanes, 1. The bureau also reported 427 infants under one-year of age died last month, as compared with 421 in 1930.

FIRE LOSS \$444,431  
Raleigh—Albemarle was one of a half dozen North Carolina towns to be placed on the "honor roll" of towns with no fires during the month of November. Damage from 293 fires in North Carolina during November totaled \$444,431 as compared with a total of 444,832 from 288 fires the same month last year.

102 GALLONS LIQUOR  
Newton—An 18-year-old white boy, Harry Yates, of Charlotte, and a light coach fully equipped with a smoke screen appliance, were seized by federal prohibition officers near here. The car contained 102 gallons of liquor.

SAYS DEMOCRATS WILL WIN  
Greensboro—Juett Shouse, chairman of the Democratic national executive committee, says the party has made great gains and should prepare to take control of the government in 1932. He believes the party could better conditions under which American people are living.

STORE IS ROBBED  
Burlington—The Piedmont store, corner James and Mebane streets was entered and robbed here recently by an unidentified person or persons who climbed a lock from a door to gain entrance. Tobaccos, hosiery and other items of merchandise were stolen, the value of which officials had not been able to fix definitely.

INDICTMENTS QUASHED  
Raleigh—Three members of the state corporation commission and John Mitchell, former chief state bank examiner, who were recently indicted in Buncombe county for malfeasance in office, were discharged from their bonds today after the indictment was quashed.

WINS \$550 VERDICT  
Asheboro—A two-week term of Randolph Superior court closed in Asheboro Saturday. The last week was taken up with civil cases and was presided over by Judge P. A. McElroy, of Marshall. The principal case of the week and one that consumed several days, drawing a large number of people from Liberty, was that of S. C. Frazier, former register of deeds of Randolph, against the town of Liberty. The complaint was for recovery of damages for failure of the town of Liberty to construct proper sewerage across the property of Mr. Frazier. The defense was represented by Attorney J. A. Spence, while A. I. Ferree and B. F. Brittain handled the defense. The result was a verdict of \$550 for Mr. Frazier. Notice of appeal was given.

SAFE BLOWN OPEN  
Burlington—Blown open and robbed, a safe removed from the filling station of Mann and Hackney, at the intersection of highway 93 and the Saxapahaw road, was recovered near Mount Harmon church, miles from the scene of the robbery.

STUDENTS ON VACATION  
Hickory—Students at Lenoir Rhyne college are enjoying the Christmas holiday period. They return to classes January 4. Hickory schools are also closed. Class work in the city schools and those in the rural sections will be resumed December 30.

PATROLMEN BUSY  
Raleigh—As a result of work of patrolmen in North Carolina during the month motorists were taxed \$15,099.02 in fines. Fifteen stolen cars valued at \$4,850 were recovered.

#### ROBBED STORE AT BEAR POPLAR AND THEN SET ON FIRE

Morris Kerr, Young Negro, Makes Confession After Officers Probe Incendiary Blaze.

#### STORE WAS OWNED AND OPERATED BY MR. R. L. STEELE

#### Negro Is Held Without Bond; Whether He Had Associates Has Not Been Ascertained.

Morris Kerr, 20-year old negro, has confessed that he robbed and burned the store of R. L. Steele, at Bear Poplar several weeks ago. It has not been determined whether or not he had associates with him in the commission of the crime.

This confession was made to Deputies Luther Stikeleather and Dave Graham, of Sheriff Cal Miller's force, some time after they had taken him into custody for investigation.

Kerr is being held without bond in jail. The officers did not divulge in which jail he had been placed but stated he had been removed from the Rowan County Jail.

Mr. Steele's store was the largest in Bear Poplar and handled groceries, dry-goods and general merchandise. The store was burned late one night during the first part of the month.

For a short time before the crime was committed, Kerr had been a day laborer for Orph Poole, letter carrier, who resides about two miles beyond Bear Poplar. The negro has lived in and around Bear Poplar for some time.

Officers had only a slim clue on which to begin this investigation. They located a new knife which the negro had sold to another party. Kerr was then apprehended. When Kerr was questioned as to where he purchased the knife, he stated he had bought it in Salisbury. Later, he said he purchased it from a hobo. Finally, he made the statement he had bought it from a store in Mooresville. Officers took the negro to Mooresville where he pointed out a jewelry store as the place where he had made the purchase.

The owner of the store was shown the knife and stated his company had never sold knives of that type; selling only knives which go with watch chains.

Kerr then confessed. He had entered the store by breaking open a window. After taking what articles he desired, he tore up a cracker box, set fire to it and fled.

Mr. Steele has positively identified the knife as coming from his stock of goods. Another knife of similar type was found on Kerr.

FARMERS GET LESS  
Raleigh—North Carolina tobacco producers received \$21,747.33 less for their 1931 crop marketed up to December 1 than they did for the tobacco they carried to market up to this same date last year. The amount marketed this year was larger by \$6,199,385, but the price average was smaller.

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