

# Society

MISS MAMIE SOCKWELL, Editor  
Telephone 218

## Mrs. A. C. Chamberlain Is Hostess At Dinner-Bridge

Mrs. A. C. Chamberlain was hostess at a charming dinner-bridge at her home on C Street Thursday evening, having guests sufficient for four tables of bridge after the dinner. A two course dinner was served at seven o'clock at which time the hostess was assisted by Mrs. H. G. Tucker. Mixed garden flowers, with the colors of yellow and red predominating, made a pretty setting for the guests.

In the bridge game the high and low score prizes were awarded to Mrs. Katharine Lott and Mrs. R. G. Hodges. Mrs. John U. Tait and Mrs. Guy Lillard, both June brides, were presented linen towels by Mrs. Chamberlain and to Mrs. W. M. McCulley, of Salisbury, who was here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Eller, she gave a linen bridge set. Mrs. Tait is the former Miss Louise Vyne and Mrs. Lillard, Miss Clyde Scroggs, both of North Wilkesboro.

## Wilkesboro Woman's Club Met Friday Afternoon

The July meeting of the Wilkesboro Woman's club was held Friday afternoon at the Community House with Mrs. H. A. Cranor, Mrs. C. H. Cowles, and Mrs. W. W. Barber as associate hostesses. The program for the afternoon consisted of an interesting talk given by J. M. Smith, the NYA supervisor.

Mrs. J. B. Henderson, the president, presided for the usual routine of business. At the close of the afternoon a social hour and refreshments were enjoyed by those attending the meeting.

## Mrs. Ingle, Miss Duncan Gave A Series of Parties

A series of interesting parties were given by Mrs. Carlyle Ingle and Miss Anne Duncan at the home of Mrs. Ingle on Trogon Street, during which time beautiful roses were used for decorations. The first party which was given Wednesday afternoon honored Mrs. Isaac Duncan, who prior to her marriage was Miss Anne Hartley. Six tables were arranged for bridge with the high score prize going to Mrs. Henry Moore. Sharing honors with Mrs. Duncan was Mrs. Joseph Whicker, Jr., the former Miss Miriam Durrett, of Greenwood. Miss. To each of the brides the hostesses presented gifts and also remembered Mrs. W. M. McCulley, of Salisbury, who was here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Eller.

On Wednesday evening six tables were made up again for bridge at which time Mrs. Ivey Moore won the top score prize. Honor guests this time being Mrs. John U. Tait and Mrs. Guy Lillard, both recent brides. At the close of each party a salad and a sweet course was served by the hostesses.

Four tables of bridge were in play at the party Thursday evening, and the count of scores gave Mrs. D. J. Carter the award for the highest number of points. Refreshments in two courses followed play.

The hostesses entertained at a dessert-noon Friday evening having guests sufficient for four tables. Those receiving prizes were Mrs. J. M. Crawford for high score, Mrs. A. B. Johnston, the low score while the honor award went to Mrs. Ira Payne.

## FALL SEEDING

After planting lespedeza sericea at different seasons for the past several years, Emmett Davis, a demonstration farmer of Marshall, Madison county, says he secures the best stands from fall seedings.

## Raddy Remarks



It costs half again as much to fill the market basket as it did two years ago. Lady, suppose I increased the cost of my services that way!

Duke Power Co.

## Social Calendar

The Methodist circles are meeting as follows Tuesday.

Mary Brame at the home of Mrs. Walter Newton with Mrs. E. W. Trogon as co-hostess. 8:30 p. m.

Emma Horton at the home of Mrs. R. G. Hodges, 8:30 p. m.

Frank Smoot will have a picnic at the home of Mrs. Frank Johnson at 5:30 p. m.

The Gardner circle will meet for a picnic with Mrs. W. M. Newton at Dr. Hubbard's cottage on the Brushy Mountain.

The annual picnic of the Franklin circle, and the Young Ladies Bible class, which is to be held later, will take the place of the regular meeting of the Franklin circle.

The Episcopal Auxiliary will meet Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Hill Carlton.

The Missionary Society of the First Baptist church will meet at the church Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Circle No. 6 of the First Baptist church will meet Monday evening at 7:45 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Dan Hudson.

The Presbyterian circles are meeting as follows on Tuesday.

No. 1, Mrs. W. J. Bason, 8 p. m.

No. 2, Misses Frances and Margaret McNeil, 8 p. m.

No. 3, Miss Margaret Faw, 8 p. m.

No. 4, with Mrs. J. B. McCoy at Montreat, 8:30 p. m.

No. 5, Mrs. A. E. Snelson, 8:30 p. m.

No. 6, Mrs. Ruth Holder, 8:30 p. m.

## OPEN FORUM

This is a column open to the public for free expression. THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT does not assume any responsibility for articles printed under this heading, and neither endorses nor condemns them. Please be as brief as possible.

## Walsh Citizen Explains Wilkesboro School Situation

Editor The Journal-Patriot, North Wilkesboro, N. C.

Please allow me space in your paper to say a few words about the Wilkesboro school disturbance. I have read so much in your paper about the Wilkesboro school that I decided to investigate and see just what was done at the meetings of the Wilkesboro Central District Committee. The following is what I found:

On April 14th, the board met and elected Professor T. E. Story unanimously and all of the old teachers except six. Professor Story and two of the members of the committee, Mr. Smoak and Mr. Lowe, protested the non-election of the six teachers that were not elected, and petitioned the School Board for relief. The school board met and rescinded all that the committee had done at the meeting on the 14th of April.

The Central District committee met again on April 20th and tried to come to some agreement. Mr. J. T. Pevette tendered the resignation of his daughter, Cynthia, and withdrew the application of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bill Pevette. Then, Pevette, Brookshire, and Foster agreed to put back Miss Tuttle and Miss Bostick, high school teachers, two of the old teachers that were not elected on April 14th. Mr. Smoak and Mr. Lowe said, "No, that they would not agree to anything except to elect all of the old teachers," so no agreement was reached. Then, on April 24th the District Committee met and recessed until May 23rd.

I have been reliably informed that Professor Story was approached by different parties with the idea in view to see what he would do in a "give and take" proposition. His answer was that the only thing he knew could be done was for Pevette, Brookshire, and Foster to come into a board meeting and acknowledge that they had done wrong and, then, elect all of the old teachers back. I suppose the majority committee did not think they could do that, so on May 23rd, Mr. Hawfield was elected Principal and all the teachers were fully elected. I have been told that Mr. Hawfield was one of the most

outstanding school men in the State of North Carolina, but for some reason beyond my knowledge, he refused to accept.

A meeting of the present committee was held on June 15th with all the members present at which time Professor Wm. T. Long was elected principal unopposed. Mr. Long also, comes highly recommended as an educational leader. Anyone truly wishing to know the facts about the Wilkesboro school disturbance and will make investigation as I have will find the above statement correct, and that the Central District Committee did not oust Mr. Story but that he and his would-be friends were the ones that were responsible for his not being re-elected. It looks to me very much like Mr. Story (poor fellow) was being used by politicians to make campaign thunder for next election.

We need to continue to improve our schools, and uphold our teachers in the great work they are doing, but I think one of the greatest needs of Wilkes county is newspaper that will print true facts unbiased by any personal feelings.

Yours truly,  
H. H. BESHEARS,  
Walsh, N. C.

## Mrs. Duncan Thinks Wilkesboro School Badly Damaged

Editor The Journal-Patriot:

There is a thoroughly aroused public sentiment regarding our school situation, and incidentally a certain amount of muck raking. Family skeletons that have collected dust for generations have been dragged from their places of seclusion and paraded up and down the avenues of public gossip; dainty morsels of scandal have been banded back and forth across back fences; old friendships have been broken and new ones made; unorganized boycotts, on the one hand, and increased adoration, on the other, have shifted centers of trade; local civic and religious organizations have been crippled by the personal antagonisms of their members; but worst of all, the Wilkesboro school has been irreparably damaged for this and possibly for years to come. It is unfortunate that purely personal matters have been dragged in and that public opinion has been influenced by these, but, like cement, beliefs have "set" and no amount of last minute "fixing" and futile hoping can stem the tide of public indignation.

With the exception of a small group of neutral citizens, chiefly professional people, the public is divided into two factions. These I shall designate as the Montagues and the Capulets, after rival groups in Shakespeare's "The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet."

The Montagues represent the citizens and patrons that are fighting the domination of the local board. They have set forth their purposes in a meeting and newspapers. Briefly, they protest the discharge of Superintendent Story and six other teachers, condemn the part politics has played, ask for the resignation of all officials who were a part in raising campaign funds from teachers and pledge a continued and constant effort to put the "interests of the school children" above any other interest. (Journal-Patriot, June 26, 1939). This group numbers over 80 per cent, probably 90 per cent of the citizens and patrons of the district. A petition bearing over 1,000 names and asking for the re-election of discharged teachers was published in full (J-P, May 22, 1939) and bitterly assailed by Pevette, Foster and Brookshire as being "melancholically misleading." (Charlotte Observer, May 25, 1939). A few timid Montagues, whose relatives stood a fair chance to lose WPA jobs, were silenced, and a few of the opposing faction crossed over to the increasingly popular opponents. Otherwise the membership has remained about the same.

The Capulets represent the Pevette, Foster, Brookshire combine, and are backed by the county board of education and the county superintendent. In strength of numbers they are decidedly in the minority. In the first stages of trouble the county superintendent gave the impression that he would use his influence to settle the matter satisfactorily to the patrons and citizens of the school district, but his soothing promises to several individuals he found more difficult to fulfill than to make. Consequently, when the top rail dividing the two groups became uncomfortable, he climbed down on the side of the Capulets, and has there remained ignoring invitations to attend the mass meeting called to straighten out the affair.

This faction has an obsession that the tempest will soon blow over. In the words of a town wag, thus individuals dash out of their holes every few minutes to gaze at the sky and run back, nodding to one another and whispering the assurance, "Yes, it's going to blow over." Their philosophy, in their points of view could be thus

and the like. Above all he should not forget that his predecessor was fired for rank insubordination. Success for the Capulets will be to see the booted and spurred principal mount the bucking bronco of public opinion, and success for the Montagues will be to see him bite the dust. Won't we have a grand "Old Frontier's Day," a first class rodeo right here in Wilkesboro?

With anything unmet at Wilkesboro, Millers Creek, Roaring River, and Mount Pleasant, to mention only the larger troubled areas, and repeated demands for a county mass meeting, it is impossible for opposition to vanish in thin air. It cuts into every religious civic and other organization in the community and into many of county-wide scope. When oppression became unbearable to English subjects in the thirteenth century, the mighty barons took old King John to Runnymede and there made him sign the now famous historical document known as the Magna Charta, in which he granted freedom from those oppressions and was held to his promises by a clause providing for an enforcement committee of 25. Just a few days ago Congress passed the Hatch bill, designed to curb the political activities of Federal employees. With these precedents, one ancient and the other current, before us, I am making a few suggestions which I hope will help in wresting our school from the grasp of political greed. Ironical as it may seem, I am now fighting certain evils resulting from an educational reorganization, which, as a former principal, I fought to bring about. I know that our profession, unlike the medical, had no Hippocratic oath to define its ethical standards, but at that time I did not foresee that a pythonic monster—politics—would rush in and crush in its folds the right of taxpaying citizens to run their schools for the benefit of their children. I have not consulted my former professors of education and sociology at Woman's College (Lindeman, Cook, Highsmith), Columbia University (Bagley, Pintner, Dunn, McCall), the University of Southern California (Stormzand, Raubenhelmer, Young, Case, Bogardus, Hull), and the University of North Carolina (Trabue, Odum, Groves, Bernard), nor anybody for that matter, but I believe they would approve in general my suggestions.

1. We should have for our county superintendent and board of education men who are outstanding in the county, well educated, genuinely interested in our schools as institutions of learning, unimpeachable in integrity, and courageous enough to keep our schools out of politics.

2. These should appoint as

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school committee prominent men and women of their communities, preferably parents, who are well educated, legally competent, moral, sober, and free from political putrefaction.

3. These in turn should select as principals and teachers men and women, unrelated to any local or county official, who have had college training, hold a high grade certificate, display sound qualities of intelligence, and possess a well balanced personality free from neurotic tendencies and hereditary mental defects.

4. Patrons and citizens should have a direct part in the selection of all teachers and in the management of the school, and should have the privilege of voicing their sentiments by petition or otherwise to the local and county officials in person.

5. The county superintendent and the various boards should make and execute some very def-

inite plans to raise Wilkesboro schools from their low state in the ladder of educational progress in the state, and they should stir themselves to enrich the curriculum for the benefit of the youth desiring to study agriculture and commercial subjects. Little Alexander county offers them an example with its excellent departments in these fields.

WINNIE LEACH DUNCAN,  
Wilkesboro, N. C.

## Infant Son Of Former Wilkes Resident Dies

Martin Van Buren, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Von S. Shatley, of Canton, Texas, born and died July 18th. Funeral services were held at the home of J. F. Stout, the former father-in-law with Rev. J. I. Heddin, of Edgewood, in charge. Burial was in old Beth-el cemetery.

Surviving are his parents, and one half sister, Jessie Frank Hall.

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Tuesday Only

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"THE MAN FROM TEXAS"

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Night ..... 25c-35c  
Children ..... 10c

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