

## OPEN FORUM

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## C. R. McLAIN WRITES

Moline, Ill.  
102 19 Avenue  
April 18, 1940

Editor Journal-Patriot:

I am inclosing \$2.00 for the good old paper another year. Sorry for the delay in sending it in. You will see by my address that I have moved back to Moline, Ill., from Cut Knife, Sask., Canada. We will make our home in Moline now. Best regards to you and your paper. It was wonderful to have it coming twice a week for the twenty-two years that we spent in Canada. We will be looking forward to have it coming to our new address.

Yours very truly,  
CHAS. R. McLAIN.

## JUDGE MARTIN WRITES

Editor, Journal-Patriot:

Perhaps a few lines from one who can justly claim to be one of the real "old timers" of Wilkes, as well as of many other places, may be of interest to many friends and relatives, descendants of real old timers, who still reside there and most of whom are regular readers of The Journal-Patriot. I was born there, in Ansoch township on October 1st, 1832. So I am now 87 1-2 years old.

Through the long vista of the fleeting years, at the annual arrival of the present month of April, memory recalls the scenes and events which, as a twelve

year old boy, I witnessed and bore a part in during the month of April 1865.

An army of several thousand Union cavalry, commanded by General Stoneman made a raid through that country as far east as Salisbury, living on the country as they passed, while, at the same time, all semblance of law and order disappeared from the country. A rapid succession of events during the same fateful month of April—the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox, of Johnson's army in N. C., the final collapse of the Southern Confederacy all together brought about conditions simply impossible to describe in a manner to be intelligible to people of the present generation. Actual starvation and great destitution and suffering prevailed for several months until supplies were sent in from the outside. An incident of those days, which I still vividly recall, is that of being sent to a small country mill with corn which my father had saved by hiding it in the woods, and circling around with it, through the woods and thickets, to avoid meeting hungry people who would forcibly take it from me.

I also recall that the first school I ever attended was at a place near my father's residence, called Eglantine, then located in a dense forest, now a cultivated field. I sat on a bench made of a slab with pins set in auger holes, and conned the alphabet from an old time "Webster blue-back." The teacher was familiarly called "old Uncle Billy Mastin" and perhaps his own education did not extend much beyond the "Webster blue-back." Later, I attended a small country school at Oak Forest, now Dellaplaine, and had as school mates two who are now still living—the Misses Ida and Lulu Parks.

However nearly all the "school education" I ever received was under the ministrations of the Rev. R. W. Barber, the old time Episcopal minister and a man of sainted memory to nearly all the old time residents. I attended his school, taught in one of his old time negro cabins, which he had converted into a school room, three five months terms during the years 1867-1868 and 1869. Of those who attended his school at the time I last attended in 1869, I believe I am the sole survivor. The Finleys—Ed and George; the Rousseaus, Julius and Jas. P., also two girls of the Adison Rousseau family; John O. and two sisters, Florence and Edwina, of the Adolphus Rousseau family. Also the Welborns, Jim, Ike, Monte, and John; Will Barber and sister, Miss Mamie; Ed Hackett, Tom Powers and Mitch Vannoy who afterwards became sheriff. Others whose names I fail to recall. A short visit I made to the Episcopal and Presbyterian cemeteries at old Wilkesboro disclosed to me many names of those who have "gone before." I was last there in April, 1937. I left that country in April, 1870, along with a Caldwell boy named Millroy Estes who joined me at Statesville. Statesville was then

## Asking Scrutiny Of Applications For Beer License

Raleigh.—The Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee today requested city and county officials of Wilkes county to scrutinize carefully "all applications for retail beer licenses to the end that the industry may be purged of illegal or undesirable outlets."

Edgar H. Bain of Goldsboro, State Director in charge of the beer industry's "clean up or close up" campaign in North Carolina, cited the 1939 statute which prohibits the issuance of retail beer licenses to persons guilty of liquor law violations "within the last two years prior to the filing of the application." He reminded that the new tax year for beer licenses begins May 1.

"In venturing to call this section to your attention," Colonel Bain wrote city and county officials, "we courteously and respectfully urge you to refuse licenses to all dealers who can not comply with the law."

"In our investigation of beer dealers in North Carolina, we have found several instances where dealers convicted of liquor law violations in 1938 were re-licensed in 1939. We hope that all such dealers will be eliminated in 1940 for the welfare both of the communities and of the beer industry, which contributes more than ten million dollars annually in taxes and wages in this state."

This letter to city and county officials was the latest move in the committee's fight against the small minority of beer dealers who violate the law and public decency, Colonel Bain said. He reminded that the committee had secured the revocation of 67 licenses since September. In addition, the committee has petitioned for revocation of 26 licenses in eight other counties, and has warned 97 dealers in 57 counties to "clean up" or face more drastic action.

our nearest railroad point and it had then its terminus at Morganton. I walked most of the distance from the old home to Statesville. But here I am entering upon too great an amount of detail for this article. Suffice to say that I arrived at Denver, Colorado Territory, April 19th, 1870. A green country lad who was singularly unfitted for the strenuous kind of a life which lay ahead. I "beat about" and "rough-toughed" in Colorado for seven years and then went to Arizona, then the land of the Apache Indians and also of impenetrable deserts, as well as rattlesnakes, stinging lizards, cactus, prickly pear and porcupines. I travelled and prospected in many localities and went through all phases of life that are connected with the traditions of the "wild and woolly West." The wild buffalo by thousands roamed the plains of Western Kansas and Colorado when I was there, and in Arizona, especially in the northern part, all kinds of wild game were so plentiful that it was not real sport to kill them. But I did not set out to write too much of a personal autobiography.

I returned to old Wilkes in June, 1880, and lived there until June 1883. Wilkes county was then known distinctly and mainly as "the land of Tyre York and corn liquor." It really seemed as though the greatest interest there was "corn liquor." I came from there to Idaho Territory in 1883 and have been a resident of Idaho ever since. But I have been writing of things which really belonged to a different world from that which exists today.

I made short visits to that country in the years 1893, 1913, 1923 and 1937. When I was last there I was simply amazed at the great changes which had taken place in everything pertaining to human progress. The present inhabitants really do not seem to realize what has happened and what changes are taking place in their own old time neighborhoods. I have lived in this—the Lost River valley ever since the year 1884. I have outlived nearly all the old timers who came here when I did. It is a good country which has been singularly unfortunate. I am referring particularly to this section of the state—Butte and Custer counties.

We have had droughts, crop failures, a cycle of dry years which, together with the failure of a Cary act irrigation project, has caused the loss of over half of our population within the past twenty years and we have not more than one-third of the land in cultivation that we had twenty years ago. Notwithstanding all this, however, I am thinking that we will yet "come out of it all" and am contemplating the sale of my property here and cherishing the hope of seeing old Wilkes again before my final "drop off."

JAS. D. MARTIN,  
Arco, Idaho, April 15, 1940.

## "Two Girls on Broadway," Musical, to Open at the Liberty on Thursday

With "Dancing Co-Ed" Lana Turner and "Broadway Melody" George Murphy heralded as setting a new pace for the last word in dance teams, and Joan Blondell in an entirely new sort of role, the streamlined musical, "Two Girls on Broadway" opens Thursday at the Liberty Theatre for an engagement of two days. While both Miss Turner and Murphy have displayed their dancing prowess on the screen before, the new musical marks the first occasion in which they are seen as a dancing team.

With the three stars as its principals, "Two Girls on Broadway" is described as a dramatic story with a musical background. Opening in a small town in Indiana, its action proceeds to New York where the adventures of its key characters, Molly and Pat Mahoney, are traced. The theme centers about the love of the two girls for the same boy, played by Murphy, and the sacrifice of the older of the two so that her "kid sister" might find happiness.

In addition to the stellar threesome, the cast of "two G's on

Broadway" includes Kent Taylor, last seen with Spencer Tracy and Hedy Lamarr in "I Take This Woman," Richard Lane, Pallace Ford, Otto Hahn, Lloyd Corrigan, Don Wilson and Charles Wagonheim.

S. Sylvan Simon, filmdom's youngest director, makes this the third of a series of films in which he has directed Lana Turner, the others having been "These Glamour Girls" and "Dancing Co-Ed." It was Simon's idea to take a dramatic story and set it against a musical background and the result is hailed as the first time such a combination has been 100 per cent successful in Hollywood.

Jack Cummings, responsible for such musical successes as the recent "Broadway Melody of 1940," starring Fred Astaire and Eleanor Powell, produced "Two Girls on Broadway."

Among new songs heard in the production are "My Wonderful One Let's Dance" and "Broadway's Still Broadway."

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SHERIFF OF WILKES COUNTY

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## Beer License Renewals

May is the month when city and county authorities have the responsibility of passing on yearly applications for beer licenses.

It is the hope of the Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee that local authorities will scrutinize the record of each applicant, and will deny renewals to the few who have abused the privilege of a license.

Careful selection of licensees fosters better law observance, requiring a smaller expenditure for enforcement and allowing larger sums for welfare and school purposes.

Brewers and North Carolina Beer Distributors Committee

EDGAR H. BAIN, State Director

SUITE 512-17 COMMERCIAL BUILDING RALEIGH, N. C.