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Vol. 41, No. 73 Published Mondays and Thursdays NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C., Monday, Jan. 13, 1947 Make North Wilkesboro Your Shopping Center

ABSHER GETS 29-30 YEARS; LITTERAL, BELL ON TRIAL

Guilty Of Murder In Second Degree, Is Jury's Verdict

Judge Sink Passes Sentence On Absher After Commenting on Verdict

Jury in Wilkes court Friday afternoon after two hours deliberation returned a verdict of second degree murder for Claude Absher on his second trial for the fatal shooting of Clyde Watts in downtown North Wilkesboro on the night of April 6.

Judge H. Hoyle Sink, who stated that in his opinion, Absher was guilty of first degree murder, gave the maximum sentence, 29 to 30 years in prison at hard labor.

In further comment before passing sentence, Judge Sink stated that he had no criticism to make of the verdict, saying that it was a rare exception that a defendant in North Carolina is convicted the second time after being granted a new trial by the supreme court.

Absher was convicted and sentenced to death by Judge Don Phillips in the August term of court and won a new trial on error in the charge to the jury. On Friday he remained calm as the jury filed in and gave the verdict which meant he was not to pay with his life for the crime committed. He showed no emotion at any time during the trial, which began Tuesday morning.

State's evidence was that he had a quarrel with Clyde Watts, that he went home in a taxi, returned downtown and shot Watts as he walked toward him on the sidewalk on Ninth street. The evidence also disclosed that the double arose over the fact that Watts had been "going with" Watts' wife for over two years and while Watts was in the army.

Commenting in open court, Judge Sink stated that the fact that the defendant was not convicted would make it extremely difficult to pronounce the death sentence on any unfortunate defendant convicted of first degree murder, and that he was almost persuaded that capital punishment should be abolished.

Lengthy argument by counsel in the case began Thursday morning. Speaking for the prosecution were John R. Jones, W. H. McElwee, J. H. Whicker and Solicitor Avalon E. Hall. Defense attorneys who argued the cases were Kyle Hayes, J. E. Holshouser, Bill Mitchell and Eugene Trivette.

Jurors in the case were Richard Minton, L. A. Blevins, M. N. Adams, R. J. Todder, W. J. Hayes, Tatt Eller, Stacy Pardue, Noah Staley, J. M. Pardue, J. M. Benfield, James H. Adams, George Stroud and J. W. Caudill.

Associational W. M. U. Meet Will Be Held At Reins-Sturdivant Chapel In This City Monday

All officers, leaders, and counselors of the Missionary Societies and Young Peoples' organizations of the Baptist churches together with the pastors are asked to meet for the annual leadership conference in the Reins-Sturdivant chapel on Monday evening, January 20, at seven o'clock.

Mrs. C. N. Myers, Divisional Superintendent, Miss Madge Lewis, Young Peoples' Leader, and associational officers will direct the planning for the year's work. Mrs. Gilbert Foster, associational Superintendent will preside at the conference.

Teachers Millers Creek In Meeting

The teachers of the Millers Creek and Mulberry School Districts met at Millers Creek school Thursday, January 9 for the third of their workshop meetings. Reading was the topic for study. Dr. Lee Reynolds, Education instructor at A. S. T. C., gave a very helpful and inspiring talk on "The Point of View", and

Regular Meeting Veterans Foreign Wars Post Jan. 14

There will be a regular meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in their Club Rooms on "C" street Tuesday night, Jan. 14th. This will be the first meeting in 1947, and all members are requested to attend.

Headquarters For Polio Campaign In Wilkes Established

Moore Chairman; Mrs. O. E. Triplett Secretary For Annual Drive

Larry Moore, local attorney who is chairman of the Infantile Paralysis campaign in Wilkes county for the National Foundation, today said that the organization is being set up to raise the county's quota of \$4,500.

Several means will be used in the campaign, including solicitation by mail and by workers. Campaign headquarters will be at the office of the Wilkes Chamber of Commerce and Mrs. O. E. Triplett, who very successfully carried out the Christmas Seal drive, will be the secretary.

Fred Henderson has accepted the position as leader in the campaign for the town of Wilkesboro. C. O. Faw, Jr., and Shoun Kerbaugh composed the committee to arrange a President's Ball and the Bingo committee is composed of Dorman Payne and Bill Lee. One project now under consideration is the staging of free shows, including a movie, in the central schools of the county.

Knights of Pythias Again Sponsoring Speaking Contest

The Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias is sponsoring a Public Speaking Contest again this year. The subject selected for this year is: "Juvenile Delinquency, Its Cause and Care."

The contest is open to all boys and girls who were born on or after September 1, 1928 and to all regularly enrolled students in high schools or preparatory schools of high rank without regard to age, except first prize winners in previous finals.

To the winner of first place in the final contest there will be awarded out of the income of the Supreme Lodge Foundation a scholarship of \$750.00 at any college or university to be selected by the winner.

Second prize will be a \$500.00 scholarship. Third prize will be a \$300.00 scholarship. Fourth prize will be a \$200.00 scholarship.

The local lodge is offering the following prizes for the Wilkes County winners. First prize, \$25.00. Second prize, \$15.00. Third prize, \$10.00.

Afterwards gave the teachers a chance to ask questions. Mr. Eller briefly outlined Governor Cherry's address to the General Assembly.

Now In Manila



T-5 G. R. Eller, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Eller, of Wilkesboro, Route 1, entered the army January 22, 1946. G. R. took his training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, before going overseas. He is now serving with the 86th Division on Luzon Island in Manila. In a letter received recently by his parents he stated that he was getting along fine and hoped to be home in the Spring.

Representative Story Is On 12 Committees

Representative T. E. Story, serving his 4th term as Wilkes' representative in the house of representatives of the General Assembly, is a member of 12 committees in the present session.

Committees of which Representative Story is a member are: Appropriations, Congressional Districts, Constitutional Amendments, Counties Cities and Towns, Courts and Judicial Districts, Education, Elections and Election Laws, Health, Higher Education, Insurance, Judicial No. 1, Trustees of the University.

Eligible Veterans May Buy Surplus

Edmund P. Robinson, Assistant State Service Officer, Veterans Commission, for Elkin Area announced today that representatives of the Veterans Division, War Assets Administration will be at his office on January 14, 1947, to confer with and arrange for certification of all eligible Veterans of World War 2 who are interested in buying Government Surplus War Commodities.

"I am quite pleased that WAA is arranging this special service to Veterans," said Mr. Robinson. There are certain requirements of the Surplus Property Act that must be met before Veterans can be certified—which will be fully explained by the WAA representatives.

Under the present regulations Veterans Preference Certificates are issued solely to enable eligible Veterans to purchase any type of Surplus Property for use in his own business, which includes professional or agricultural enterprises.

"Veterans are urged to visit my office on January 14, so full advantage can be taken of this Special Service by War Assets Administration. Fact Sheets covering all phases of Veterans Preference are in my office—which if possible should be studied prior to January 14," Mr. Robinson said.

Recreation Party At Ferguson Held

A large crowd attended the Recreation Party held Saturday night at Ferguson school. Squares dancing, games and other recreational activities made the evening most enjoyable. Many were present from outside the community, including those from Lenoir, Mount Pleasant, Boone and Moravian Falls.

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY SAFETY COUNCIL HERE FRIDAY; COL. HATCHER SPEAKS

Initial meeting of the newly organized Western Piedmont Safety Council was held in North Wilkesboro Friday night with a representative attendance from the eight counties included in the area served by the organization.

Theme of the meeting here Friday night was "Highway Safety" and Col. H. J. Hatcher, commander of the State Highway Patrol, was the principal speaker. Col. Hatcher, pointing out that 100 are killed and about 2,000 are injured each month on North Carolina highways, criticized the courts for laxity in punishment of highway law violators.

To remove unsafe cars from highways, Col. Hatcher recommended that all cars be inspected twice yearly. Another major recommendation was that all driver license expire in three years and that to renew a driver license that the driver must pass a test to determine his fitness and ability to drive. Other recommendations included doubling of the personnel of the State Highway Patrol, traffic education for boys and girls in high school, and that traffic courts be established.

The Safety Council in meeting voted to endorse these recommendations to the legislature now in session at Raleigh asking that remedial legislation be enacted at this session. Copies of the resolutions passed by the meeting were mailed by Cecil Adamson, secretary, to state representatives and senators of the eight counties, Wilkes, Avery, Ashe, Alleghany, Catawba, Alexander, Caldwell and Watauga.

School Faculty At Wilkesboro Asks Over 20%

Faculty of Wilkesboro school, largest in the Wilkes system, Friday rose up in indignation over the bill for increase in teacher's salaries as originally introduced in the state legislature.

At the request of various teachers a meeting was immediately called to protest the "so-called 20 per cent increase" of the overwhelming opinion as expressed in the meeting was that the proposed increase is entirely inadequate in the present emergency.

A voluntary contribution was made to help defray expense of opposing passage of the 20 per cent proposal in the general assembly. The group elected a legislative chairman to represent them and voted to send telegrams to Governor Cherry and members of the general assembly, registering their protest in strong terms.

A copy of the telegram follows: "Wilkesboro teachers strongly protest action of legislature which we consider a mere gesture in an attempt to pacify teachers. We will not be thus pacified."

Deadline Set For AAA Farmers On '46 Farm Program

Information has been received from the county AAA office that there are approximately 2500 farmers who, according to the records on file in that office, are eligible to receive payment on the 1946 AAA program.

A deadline has been set as February 15, according to the State committee that all applications for payment on this program must be filed. The county committee states that it is urgent that all farmers who think that they might receive a payment on the program should go by the county office and sign their applications for payment at the earliest possible date and definitely before February 15, 1947.

18 Are Killed In Airliner Crash

Winston-Salem. — A Miami-bound Eastern Air Lines passenger plane out of Detroit crashed in the hills 85 miles northwest of here, near Fries, Va., at 1:40 a. m. yesterday during a driving rainstorm, carrying 18 of its 19 passengers and crew to a flaming death.

John C. Critcher Is Not Injured When Plane Is Destroyed

Three North Carolinians one of them John C. Critcher, of Asheville, formerly of Moravian Falls, were among the 41 persons who escaped unharmed Monday when a Northwest Airlines DC4 plane bound from Minneapolis to Chicago burst into flames after a crash landing at the Chicago municipal airport.

Mr. Critcher, son of Mrs. J. C. Critcher, Sr., of Moravian Falls, is a farm machinery and truck dealer at Asheville. The plane and baggage were destroyed by the fire, after 37 passengers and four crew members descended safely.

Wilkes District Of Boy Scouts Been Organized For '47

Organization of the Wilkes district of Boy Scouts has been completed for 1947. Gordon Finley is again commissioner for the district, L. M. Nelson is chairman and James M. Anderson is district vice chairman.

Neighborhood commissioners are Carl E. Vandeman, Shoun Kerbaugh, H. P. Bell, Forrest Meserve, Boyd Stout and Harvel Howell. The committees are as follows: Leadership and Training—Cecil Adamson, chairman, T. E. Story, Paul S. Cragan and W. D. Halfacre.

Organization and Extension—Robert S. Gibbs, chairman, G. R. Andrews and C. E. Eller. Camping and Activities—W. F. Absher, chairman, Jack Swafford, W. J. Jester and R. I. Moore.

Health and Safety—John W. Leysion, chairman, John Walker, Dr. H. B. Smith and A. F. Kilby. Advancement—Paul Osborne, chairman, Richard Johnston, R. M. Brame, Jr., J. B. Carter, W. C. McNeil, J. B. McCoy, E. G. Finley and Rev. H. M. Wellman.

Finance—R. E. Gibbs, chairman. Publicity—Forrest E. Jones, chairman. A program of Boy Scout expansion is planned for the year, with new troops to be formed and an expanded program of activities among present troops.

Baptist Pastors To Meet On Monday

Wilkes County Baptist Pastors Conference will meet Monday, January 20, in Reins-Sturdivant chapel. The program will open at ten a. m. with devotional by Rev. L. T. Younger. The business session will follow.

Sermon at eleven a. m. will be by Rev. A. W. Eller. Subjects to be discussed: 1. What does the tearing down of the Altar of God, by Baal, and the re-building by Elijah, mean to us today? By Rev. Charlie Roole.

2. What does it take to constitute salvation? By Rev. A. B. Hayes. Guests Friday were: Palmer Horton with J. B. Carter, H. S. Bancroft with Forrest Jones, Paul Gabriel with W. G. Gabriel, George Webber with C. A. Venable, E. T. Hackney with Dr. W. K. Newton, Russell G. Hodges with P. W. Eshelman, Clay Elledge with D. E. Elledge.

Millions of farm people, in the first year after V-J Day, called upon workers of the Extension Service for facts, new ideas and skills to help make the adjustment to sound peacetime farming, according to M. L. Wilson, director of Extension Work for the Department of Agriculture.

Fla., was dragged screaming from the flaming wreckage by two mountain wood cutters of the community. He was carried to Galax hospital for treatment of burns and cuts and later was reported in satisfactory condition.

Sensational Case Against Two Men Is Started Today

Pair Are Charged With Rape Of 15-Year-Old Girl After Kidnaping

In what is expected to be one of the most sensational trials in many years in northwestern North Carolina, Ralph Vernon Litteral and Marvin Claude Bell went on trial in the special term of Wilkes court today for the alleged rape and kidnaping of pretty Peggy Shore, 15-year-old Elkin girl, on August 23.

In court today counsel for both defendants entered a motion for abatement of indictment on grounds that the alleged offense, if committed, was not committed in Wilkes county. The motion was denied by Judge Sink.

After the motion was denied, the task of selecting a jury was begun. Of the 150 men summoned from Caldwell county, 149 answered in court. Sheriff Marcus Greer, of Lenoir, accompanied the veniremen to Wilkes. It was expected that selection of a jury will extend into tomorrow.

Judge Sink deemed it expedient and in the interest of justice to secure a jury from outside of Wilkes, where the crime was alleged to have been committed and where the case has been widely discussed.

When arraigned in court last week both defendants entered pleas of not guilty, and in addition a plea of insanity was entered for Litteral by his counsel. Solicitor Avalon E. Hall, aided in prosecution by T. R. Bryan of Wilkesboro, and Folger Townsend of Lenoir, said state would attempt to prove that Litteral, a Winston-Salem man, with Marvin Claude Bell, of Wilkes, followed Peggy Shore after she had alighted from a bus west of Elkin on way to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Shore. The assault victim told officers they threw her into the car and raped her two times each while carrying her into Tennessee, where she was thrown from the car. She returned home by bus after resting a short time at a farm house, and spent some time at the hospital in Elkin. Testimony of physicians, Solicitor Hall, said, would corroborate the girl's assault charge.

There will be over 30 witnesses for the prosecution, including FBI agents who secured evidence in the case and charged Litteral and Bell with kidnaping in federal court before they were transferred to state court for trial on the capital charge of rape.

First witnesses for the state is expected to be the victim of the alleged assault. Fred Hutchins, of Winston-Salem, is counsel for Litteral, whom officers said has a criminal record. Bell is represented by Eugene Trivette, Bill Mitchell, Kyle and Clyde Hayes, of North Wilkesboro, J. E. Holshouser, of Boone, and Buford Williams, of Lenoir.

The trial is expected to consume the entire week, and could possibly extend into the next week, court officials said.

Enlisted Men Vets To Meet Jan. 15th

There was not a very large attendance at the American Confederation of Enlisted Men, Inc. meeting at the courthouse in Wilkesboro, Jan. 8, but all those present were deeply interested and were unanimous in their endorsement of the organization.

They agreed among themselves that they would do some personal advertising and that they would meet at the courthouse again at 7 o'clock, January 15, and set up a local unit of the organization. All ex-enlisted men are invited to attend.

The American Confederation of Enlisted Men, Inc. is the only veterans organization in America in which an officer can never become a member. Fiber flax improvement work has brought out a new disease-resistant variety that is an outstanding yielder.

Important Notice All Subscribers

When making a request for change of address it is earnestly requested that the old address be stated as well as the new and correct address.

Attention is also called to the fact that subscriptions are not accepted for less than six months, unless there is special reason for a shorter subscription. The rate of \$2.00 per year applies in Wilkes and all counties adjoining Wilkes. Rates elsewhere are \$3.00 per year.

Date of subscription expiration is with the name on the address label of each paper. If 2-47 appears with the name, the subscription will expire February 1 and will be stopped then if not renewed.