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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Monday, March 27, 1950



J. R. Finley

One of northwestern North Carolina's most outstanding citizens completed his long and useful career here Saturday morning.

J. R. Finley was for many decades a man whose name was synonymous with integrity, fairness and leadership in community progress.

The life and career of Bob Finley dates back before there was a North Wilkesboro. He pioneered business on the site that is North Wilkesboro when he and his brother established a mercantile business. At that time this area that now composes a metropolis was woods and pasture.

When North Wilkesboro became a village in 1890 and a postoffice was established Mr. Finley was the first postmaster.

He was a pioneer again when in 1901 he and associates organized Forest Furniture company, which he served as secretary-treasurer until his death. That was the beginning of our now great furniture industry here, which every year contributes greatly to the economic well being of this entire community and county.

Mr. Finley was again a builder when he

was a charter member of the First Presbyterian church here and served the church faithfully in many positions of leadership through many years.

In civic life he enlisted with the North Wilkesboro Kiwanis club at its beginning. Members there know of his untiring efforts in behalf of community improvement long before a chamber of commerce or any concerted and unified plan of action was formed.

Associates of his will long remember his continued and lasting efforts for better roads. Mr. Finley was so closely associated with efforts to have highway 421 constructed that he became known as "Boone Trail Bob." His efforts met with success and no doubt in later years he was gratified to see the highway system grow and increase in usefulness.

A public spirited and industrious citizen of Mr. Finley's calibre is a great asset to any community. His life was full and successful and many of the things he worked for so earnestly came into being. His influence and good works will live long in the city he helped to build.

Bankers Interested In Conserving Soil

"North Carolina farmers are just as poor as their soil is, and bankers, being sensitive to economic conditions, encourage conserving the soil and giving it an opportunity to achieve full production," G. Harold Myrick, Lincolnton banker and chairman of the agriculture committee of the North Carolina Bankers Association, said this week.

Explaining why the Bankers Association sponsors an annual soil conservation speaking contest for high school students, Myrick said bankers are "keenly aware of the value of agriculture to the State as it relates to the whole economy and recognize that agriculture is the major base in such economy."

"In the speaking contests," he asserted, "we have stressed the techniques of soil conservation, its economic values to the State, and this year we emphasized soil wastage and its social aspects. The bankers of North Carolina will continue to boost every phase of economic development to the end that our great State will rate second to none in economic stability, prosperity, and financial leadership. This can be accomplished only through better farming, the very foundation of our economy."

CRASH KILLS AMBASSADOR; TAR HEEL SOLE SURVIVOR

Ramsayville, Ont., March 28—A flaming U. S. embassy plane broke apart with an explosion like dynamite in a crash today which killed American Ambassador Laurence A. Steinhardt, three U. S. Air Force men, and the son of the American minister to Canada.

The explosion and the fact that the crash occurred in clear weather immediately raised rumors of sabotage. The Royal Canadian Air Force launched an investigation at the request of American authorities.

There was a possibility that the lone survivor, M-Sgt. Gwyn A. Long, 35, of Yonny, N. C., U. S. Air Force crew chief, might have information of importance.

Long, who parachuted from the plane at 700 feet, was taken to the Royal Canadian Air Force hospital at Rockcliff Airport suffering leg injuries and shock. He was closely guarded from questioners.

An embassy official quoted Long as saying: "We went down in flames."

Most eyewitnesses, including a crew of five electricians and a 12-year-old schoolboy, said the plane "blew apart in the air" about 50 feet above the ground. Air force officials on the spot agreed this probably was true.

Had Parachute Harness On Steinhardt's burning body was dragged from the tail of the plane. He had his parachute harness on.

The plane was flying at about 3,000 feet when it caught fire.

The 57-year-old Steinhardt, a lawyer and director in numerous corporations who adopted a diplomatic career in 1933, had served as the chief of diplomatic missions in Sweden, Peru, Russia, Turkey, and Czechoslovakia at critical periods before, during, and after the war. Since 1948, he had been ambassador to Canada.

Others Killed

Killed with him were: Alan C. Harrington, 20, son of Julian Harrington, the U. S. minister in Ottawa.

Capt. Thomas G. Archibald, 34, of Union Springs, Ala., pilot of the plane and assistant air attaché.

Lt. Col. Wayne F. Trueblood, 35, Kansas City, Kan., attached to Royal Canadian Air Force as an exchange officer.

Lt. Marcel (Mark) Belanger, 29, of New Bedford, Mass., former air attaché and now an

Macedonia News

(By MRS. W. F. THARPE, Reporter).

We had a good attendance for church and Sunday school Sunday. Rev. J. F. Woodruff filled his regular appointments.

Guests in the L. G. Hurt home Sunday were Rev. J. F. Woodruff, of Mt. Airy, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Ray, of Winston-Salem, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Key, Miss Marjorie Key, and Miss Patsy Hemric, Mrs. Couch Wagoner, Mrs. Crawford Holcomb, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Byrd and son, Dwight, Miss Jennie Faw, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Settle, of North Wilkesboro; C. A. Burchette, Mr. and Mrs. Lee W. Settle. Thomas Hurt returned home Sunday after a two-weeks visit with his sister, Mrs. T. H. Wall, and Mr. Wall at St. Petersburg, Florida.

Theo, Bill, Cleo, Archie Tharpe and sister, Grace, of Bel Air, Md., visited their aunt Jane Tharpe Saturday afternoon. Dinner guests in the home were Mr. and Mrs. Eudaly Tharpe and son, of Fairfax, Va., and their daughter, Mrs. Beulah Baine, of Washington, D. C., Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Settle and three children, of near Benham.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Williams and daughters, Carol Ann and Loretta, spent the week-end with their cousin, Mrs. W. F. Tharpe and family.

Mrs. Carl Lomax, of Roaring River, visited in the C. E. Tharpe home Friday and Saturday.

Mr. J. H. Tharpe, of Charlotte, and Mr. D. A. Tharpe, of Columbia, S. C., spent the week-end with their mother, Mrs. D. F. Tharpe, and family.

Mrs. L. G. Hurt and Myrtle Hurt are sick at their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Gravey Chick and children of Roaring River, spent the week-end in South Carolina.

Mr. Glenn Bradley spent the week-end in Winston-Salem.

Man, 73, Carries Wife From Burning House

Baldenboro — A 73-year-old man carried his invalid wife safely from their blazing home near here early yesterday.

It was believed the fire started when Mrs. Donnie F. Phillips dropped a kerosene lamp. Phillips re-entered the home after carrying his wife to safety. He sustained burns on the left arm while removing furniture.

exchange officer with the RCAF. Back To School Harrington was returning to school in Virginia after a holiday in Ottawa with his parents. The crash occurred a few minutes after Steinhardt and his party left Rockcliff Airport at Ottawa at 8:20 a. m. on a business mission to New York.

The plane buried its flaming nose and part of its fuselage in a snow-covered field three miles southeast of Ramsayville and about 11 miles from Ottawa.

Shook House Clem Scharfe said he and his son, Russell, heard an explosion that sounded "like dynamite" that shook their house 400 yards away. They ran out to the wreckage.

"The whole thing was burning," said Scharfe. "When we got near we could smell burning bodies. The plane was all dismembered, and two bodies were lying in it, burning and open to view. We grabbed them, pulled them out, and threw snow on them to put out the fire. Two other bodies were lying 100 feet away. They were not burning. They had ap-

parently been thrown free. "We saw one man apparently alive lying in the snow about 100 feet in the other direction. He said he had parachuted."

Scattered Golf Clubs Other witnesses came running and stumbling through snow patches and mud puddles. Scattered about were golf clubs, a scarcely

damaged briefcase, and a partly burned parachute.

A crew of five electricians said they saw the plane flying and observed a "small bright light" on the middle of the fuselage which they first thought was a reflection of the sun. But then one of the engines began to spurt smoke and the light turned to a flame.

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