

CHARGE OF ILLEGAL ACTION REFUTED BY DR. A. C. DUNCAN IN STATEMENT

Says Seal and Paraphernalia of Asheville Klan No. 40 Was Placed in His Car By Regular Authorities.

WARRANT FOR LOCAL PHYSICIAN HAS NOT BEEN SERVED

Dr. A. C. Duncan, of Forest City, prominent physician and Great Titan of Province No. 3, Ku Klux Klan, has been given much undesirable publicity in different newspapers of the state, following statements made that a warrant had been issued for him for the alleged unauthorized larceny of robes, hoods and other paraphernalia from the hall of Klan 40 at Asheville, Tuesday night of last week.

Doubtless all of The Courier readers have read some of the charges and counter charges made against Dr. Duncan, all brought about through dissention in Klan 40 and possibly other sources.

Dr. Duncan makes the following signed statement, absolutely denying any guilt in the matter:

The editor of this paper and many of my friends have asked me to make a statement regarding the publicity I have been receiving in several of the daily papers of this State during the past few days.

At first, I hesitated, as I felt that it needed no explanation, especially to those who know me, and since I was born and reared in this county and have practiced my profession here in the county for several years, I am known by the majority of the people of Rutherford county, and hope my actions in the past have not been such as to lead any one to believe me to be so ignorant or unthoughtful as to do the things that the articles in some of the papers might lead you to believe I was guilty of doing.

1. I was invited to Asheville by the officers and members of former Asheville Klan No. 40; was met by a large delegation and received every kindness and courtesy a reasonable man could expect.

2. The seal and paraphernalia of the Klan was carried from the hall by them and placed in my car of their own free will and accord. That was 7:30 p. m. My car was parked in the same block in which the hall is located and I did not leave until 10:45 p. m. If there had been any disgruntled members who wished to see me it appears that they had ample time to do so.

3. If there is a warrant for me it has not been served. If they think my actions gave them cause to warrant an arrest, why don't they have me arrested. They know where I live.

4. Those that are agitating the matter are not members of any Klan, nor have not been members of any Klan in good standing for several months. I could give the reason but it is not necessary.

5. Everything that I did was in due and legal form, according to the by-laws and constitution of the Klan and I hope this explanation is sufficient to get the matter straight in the minds of those who did not understand the details of the situation.

A. C. DUNCAN.

Saturday's Asheville Citizen carried the following article, relating to the removal of paraphernalia from the hall of Klan 40 in that city on Thursday evening:

The robes, hoods, and other lodge paraphernalia that disappeared Thursday night from the hall of Klan 40, parent Klan of the Knights of the Klu Klux Klan here, were turned over legally to Dr. A. C. Duncan, of Forest City, great titan of Province No. 3 according to the opinion of T. D. Grimes, presiding officer, cyclops, of Klan 40, who declared last night that the incident which resulted in a warrant being sworn out for Dr. Duncan by R. W. Henderson, a member, was caused by a misunderstanding by all concerned.

Mr. Grimes declared further that, while the charter of Klan 40 was revoked some time ago, plans are

now under way whereby another charter will be granted and when this is done the property turned over to Dr. Duncan will be returned. He said that this property is only being held in trust by Dr. Duncan pending the granting of a new charter.

According to the cyclops, the custodian, trustees, and the kilgraph-all officers of Klan 40, were present when the property was turned over to Mr. Duncan and under the Klu Klux constitution this made the transfer legal. This was authorized however he said at a regular meeting last Tuesday at which he was not present whereas the meeting held Wednesday night when the action of Tuesday night was repudiated was not a called meeting by him and would not be legal from a Klan standpoint.

"At a conference last night of those who initiated the warrant charging larceny against Dr. Duncan, including Mr. Henderson, it was declared by those present that the transfer of the property was not legal and that Dr. Duncan, assisted by seven other members of Klan 40, went to the hall over Smith's Drug store unauthorized and took the robes, hoods, seals and filing cabinet. The robes and hoods, they claim, belong to members individually and not to the imperial office acting through Judge Grady, grand dragon of the State.

Klan 40 has been torn with dissenion and factionalism for several years and about a year ago severe friction arose, resulting in the charter being withdrawn and another Klan, known as Buncombe Klan 151 being organized here. Klan 40 continued to function however, and, according to its members, was promised another charter, on surrender of the old one which was turned in at the time. No new charter has been forthcoming, the members in last night's conference said, and at times there have been repeated requests to turn over the Klan property to the great titan, representing the imperial office, and the state organization headed by Judge Grady.

This week at a regular meeting by 13 members it was voted to turn over the property, and later in the week, last Wednesday, 25 of the members met and rescinded the previous action, notifying the great titan of this action. On Thursday night several of the members claimed to have seen Dr. Duncan and others take the property from the hall and disappear in an automobile with it and the warrant against the great titan was then sworn out before Magistrate L. L. Froneberger. It has been forwarded to Forest City, the great titan's home, for service.

Dr. Duncan in a formal statement yesterday denied that he had taken the Klan property illegally or in a raid on the hall, saying it was turned over to him by the legal officers. He declares he is ready to face the charge brought by Mr. Henderson in the magistrate's court and will accept service of the warrant at his home when it reaches that place.

A. & P. BANQUET

Mr. W. P. Chaney, local manager of the A. & P. Store, was a guest at a banquet given by the company at Hotel Charlotte, Tuesday evening. He reports the occasion a most enjoyable one. With a large and enthusiastic attendance of A. & P. managers.

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., is celebrating "Founder's Week," and according to their ad in today's Courier, are making the occasion one of great value giving to their customers.

Mr. Chaney has just recently taken charge of the local store, and is making a splendid showing in his new location.



PROF. KAUFMAN

\$100 REWARD FOR A SMILE

Prof. Kaufman to Give Interesting Exhibition at Sinkoe's Friday and Saturday

Prof. Kaufman, world's famous mechanical man, who is conducting a February Clearance Sale at the Sinkoe's Department Store, will be seen demonstrating his ability as a wax figure Friday 3:30 to 4:30 and Saturday 3 to 6 p. m. in the window of Sinkoe's Department Store. He is offering \$100.00 reward to any one who can make him smile during his demonstration in the window.

Newspaper clippings from most all large cities show that Mr. Kaufman was formerly moving picture stuntman, magician, hypnotist, and claims he is the only man, who has perfect control of the beating of his heart making it appear on either side of his body at will. As the mechanical figure is the first time on exhibition in our city, a large crowd will be expected, to gain the \$100.00 he is offering.

RUTHERFORDTON WOMAN'S CLUB TO GIVE PLAY

Member of the Rutherfordton Woman's Club will present the play: "Cupid up-to-date" on Tuesday night, February 22, beginning at 8:00 o'clock. The play is supported by a strong cast of Rutherfordton people, twelve in number, beside thirty children and chorus girls.

SPINDALE FIRE TRUCK ARRIVES

Volunteer Fire Department to Be Organized Soon. Will Build Fire Department and Police Headquarters

Spindale, Feb. 16.—The Chevrolet fire truck, recently ordered by the town, arrived yesterday. It was purchased through the Lake Chevrolet Company, of Rutherfordton, and is equipped with Boyer fire apparatus.

The fire department will be organized at an early date. It will be organized on a volunteer basis, and will be under supervision of chief of police Yates Duncan.

A building will be erected soon for housing the truck, and for use as police headquarters. It will likely be built close to the Spindale House. Plans for this building are not complete, it is understood, however it is expected that definite steps will be taken in reference to the matter this week.

The Spindale Girls Basketball team defeated the Ellenboro girls team in a game played on the Spindale House court here Tuesday evening. The final score was 22-24 in favor of Spindale. The Spindale lineup was Clarke, Shropshire, Freeman, Keeter, Setzer and Green. The Ellenboro girls playing were Bean, Wright, Jamrick, Culbreth, Philbeck and Bailey.

Miss Mellie McConnell has returned from a visit to her home in Kingtree, S. C.

MRS. THOS. BRYANT DIES AT UNION MILLS SUNDAY MORNING

Funeral Services for Young Woman, Formerly Miss Lucile Tate, Held at Brittain Tuesday

Union Mills, Feb. 16.—Mrs. Thomas Bryant, age 22 years, wife of Rev. Thomas C. Bryant, of Mullins, S. C., died at the home of her parents here, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tate, Sunday morning at 6:45, of complications. She had been in ill health since November.

Mrs. Bryant had only been married four months, and was formerly Miss Lucile Tate.

Mrs. Bryant was a graduate of Flora McDonald College and was popular and universally loved by all who knew her.

The funeral was conducted from Brittain Presbyterian church Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Baker, her pastor being in charge, assisted by Dr. Cook and her father-in-law, Rev. Bryant.

Her husband is pastor of the Presbyterian church in Mullins, S. C., and Mrs. Bryant had been living there since her marriage in November.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Thos. Bryant, of Mullins, S. C., father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tate, of Union Mills; two sisters, Miss Margaret Tate, teacher in Spindale elementary school and Miss Mary Willie Tate, teacher at Gastonia, two brothers, Mr. Holt Tate, of Erwin, Tenn., and Harvey Tate, of Arizona. The latter was unable to attend the funeral.

The large crowd that attended the funeral and the huge bank of flowers attested the high regard in which she was held.

The supreme tragedy of life is death. Leave-taking is inexpressibly tragic when the friend overtaken is on the threshold of young womanhood and is looking forward by all laws of probability to maturing years of happiness and usefulness.

The tragedy of departed youth is all the more overwhelming when the dead was a young person, high of character and full of radiant promise. Providence then places man's ability to sustain bereavement to the severest test.

Speaking from his pinnacle of years Dr. Cook offered consolation to the bereaved when he said that the best was yet to be.

BUGGY CAUSE OF SERIOUS CRASH

Forest City Woman Injured When Cars Collide Near Harris Oil Company Friday Night

Mrs. Jonathan P. Whitesides of Forest City, who was seriously injured in an automobile wreck midway between Spindale and Forest City last Friday night about 7 o'clock when the sedan in which she and Will Owens were riding collided with a car driven by a Mr. Hobbs of Charlotte, was reported in a critical condition at the Rutherford Hospital Monday.

The Owens sedan was going towards Rutherfordton and met a buggy with no lights. Mr. Owens did not see the buggy until he was close to it. When he turned to miss the buggy, he met the Hobbs car in a head on collision. The Hobbs car was going toward Charlotte and only had one occupant. Mrs. Whitesides went through the glass of the door and lost several teeth. She suffered a compound fracture of the jaw and lacerations of the arm. She was unconscious all Friday night but rallied Saturday and continues to improve. Physicians say she has chance of recovery.

She is 30 years old and is the mother of two children. The other occupants of the car were unharmed, save for minor injuries. Both cars were badly damaged.

The wreck occurred directly in front of the residence of Mr. T. J. Cole, between the Harris Oil Company and West End.



J. A. WILKIE

TO BUILD NEW SUB-DIVISION

J. A. Wilkie Begins Preliminary Work on New Development For Forest City

Knowing real estate values in Forest City as well, and perhaps better, than any one whom we could name, The Courier is pleased to announce that Mr. J. A. Wilkie, well known developer and senior member of the Cyclone Auction Co., has begun the preliminary work on a handsome new sub-division for Forest City.

A saw mill is now busily cutting timber on his thirty-acre tract, north side of Caroleen road and opposite his former residence here. At once the work of grading, laying out streets and other work will be gotten under way. Provision will be made for water, lights, sewerage and all city conveniences, and the work rushed to enable the opening of this splendid sub-division at an early date.

Mr. Wilkie will begin the construction of several real nice five and six room houses in a short time, and expects to follow with others.

Aside from its splendid location, the new sub-division will lay claim to one of the finest mineral springs in the state, where, doubtless a hotel will be erected later on. The property is located close in and in close proximity to the Graded School. It should prove a most desirable residence location and should develop rapidly, thereby taking care of the city's fast growing population. Lots in this desirable location will be placed on sale at an early date.

Mr. Wilkie has done a great work in past years in developing our city, and his latest enterprise will receive hearty encouragement from all sides. The city is fortunate in having men of this type investing in our community, while the successful development of this property means that Mr. Wilkie will be ready and able to take up some other project in the upbuilding of our city.

MR. WALTER MOORE NOW WITH F. C. MOTOR CO.

Mr. Walter Moore, well known automobile salesman, and one of Forest City's foremost young business men, has accepted a position with the Forest City Motor Company and began on his new duties last week. His many friends are delighted that he has made this connection in his home town.

In January, 1925, Mr. Moore became associated with Tate's Garage, Rutherfordton, since which time he has made rapid strides in the automobile business, being rated as one of the foremost and most popular salesmen in the county. His friends expect him to make a great record in handling the well known and popular Buick.

CAR STOLEN

A Ford touring car, belonging to Mr. B. D. Calhoun, of Avondale, was stolen from him late Friday afternoon, February 11th at Avondale. The car was a 1925 model, and when stolen carried a state license tag number X-3. It was equipped with Diamond cords on the rear wheels and Goodrich tires on the front, and the fenders on the left side were new. Mr. Calhoun is offering a reward of \$25.00 for the recovery of the car.

COUNTY CLUB HAS GOOD MEETING AT SPINDALE HOUSE

Judge Raymond Parker of Winston-Salem, Addressed Club at February Meeting

Spindale, Feb. 15.—The February meeting of the Rutherford County Club was held at the Spindale House, Spindale, Tuesday noon. About sixty members were present. An excellent luncheon was served by the ladies of the First Baptist Church.

Invocation was by Rev. T. C. Jordan. Several vocal selections were rendered by Messrs. G. E. Howard, D. C. Cole, J. W. Starnes and T. O. Hendrix, as a quartette.

Dr. E. C. Branson was unable to attend the meeting, as announced, and Judge Raymond Parker, now holding court at Rutherfordton, brought to the club an inspiring and beneficial message on the tax situation in North Carolina. Consolidation of government departments and agencies and co-operation between those same bodies will remedy the situation, says Judge Parker. By way of illustration Judge Parker said that of the dozen or more of state departments, one would ask for an appropriation which might not necessarily be needed, yet other departments would lend their assistance to the passage of the proposition in exchange for the influence of the first department in having some special measure pertaining to the others passed. Another example is the recent "swapping" of votes in Legislature, in which eastern Carolina statesmen offered to vote for the National Park measure if the western Carolina solons would vote for the extension of the bridge system of Eastern Carolina.

This is deplorable situation, as what will benefit one section of the state benefits all sections, and the members of the Legislature should keep in mind the importance of the bill and vote accordingly. All of these measures require money, and the only method of securing this money is by taxation. If sectionalism is eliminated and the departments and agencies of the government consolidated or were put on a cooperative basis, it would mean that a big step had been taken in remedying the tax situation, in the opinion of Judge Parker.

Mr. James G. K. McClure made a short talk on the work of the Farmers Federation. He stated that \$13,200 of the \$31,000 stock in the Federation in this county had been raised, and made a plea for the members of the club to subscribe this week for the remainder.

Mr. B. A. Buff stated that Mr. O. J. Holler was willing to present, through the club, a purebred Jersey calf, to the farmer that won in a contest in planting legume crops, details to be given later. The matter was referred to Messrs. B. A. Buff, O. J. Holler and County Agent F. E. Patton, as a committee.

A proposition in reference to a state railroad was brought before the club for endorsement, and referred to a committee.

Mr. G. W. Rollins was elected sergeant-at-arms to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of Mr. C. D. Geer.

MISS LOUISE WILKIE MADE ASSISTANT ORGANIST

Miss Louise Wilkie, of Charlotte, formerly of Forest City and one of the County's most promising young musicians, has recently been appointed assistant organist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Charlotte. Lenten services were broadcast from this church last Sunday night.

Miss Wilkie was teacher of music at the Ellenboro high school last year, but remained at home this year on account of her health. Her many friends here expect her to attain distinction in her musical profession.