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CHAIN LETTER FAD HAS STRUCK WINGATE SECTION

One Woman, Who Complied with Request, Lost Her Pocket-Book on the Seventh Day.

TO ENTER WAKEFOREST DEBATE

Wingate, Feb. 3.—The "chain letter" craze has again struck Wingate. For a week or more letters, reading as follows, have been flying around the village: "God bless our soldiers and sailors and hold them in the hollow of His hand. Amen." It is said that all who will copy it once a day for seven days will meet with great joy on the seventh day, whereas all who pass it by will encounter some great misfortune. One lady copied it for seven days, sending the letters to her friends with the request that they do likewise. Someone asked her what happened to her on the seventh day. "Someone stole my pocket-book," she smilingly replied. Yet the letters continue on their journey, and before long they will probably reach every nook and quarter of the American continent. By that time there will be others, and so it is one continuous affair, of benefit to no one except the postoffice department.

The Wingate high school will select a representative from one of the two literary societies to enter the debating contest to be held at Wake Forest some time during the month of March. Those selected by the societies to contest for the honor are: Messrs. Thomas Swinick, Ewing Sawyer and Charlie Helms, from the Gladstone society; and Messrs. Bruce Liles, Joseph Black and Valentine Tartton from the Philosopherian society.

Miss Willie Faire Hensby, of Wellington, has resumed her studies at the high school after having recovered from an operation for appendicitis.

Mr. R. L. McWhirter spent Monday and Tuesday in Charlotte on business.

Rev. A. C. Sherwood was called to R.F. Springs Tuesday to conduct a funeral.

Miss Veda Green, who has been sick for some time, is recovering.

Miss Minnie Winchester, of Monroe, was a Wingate visitor this week.

Mr. B. D. Austin is able to be up after a long illness of pneumonia.

Mr. John Little, a student in the high school, spent Wednesday in Charlotte.

Mrs. C. A. Beddinfeld, of Millbrook, N. C., is the guest of her father, Mr. W. M. Perry, this week.

Mr. C. C. Lamb is improving rapidly from an attack of pneumonia.

Mr. Judson Perry, of Wilmington, was the guest of his mother, Mrs. Lydia Perry, on Wednesday.

Mr. Tom Evans was in Charlotte on business Wednesday.

The name of the Wingate Garage has been changed to the Wingate Cash Garage.

PRaises Road Authorities

Mineral Springs Correspondent Says Snow Didn't Block Road Traffic.

Mineral Springs, Feb. 3.—Miss Effie Alexander who has been sick with la grippe is able to be out again.

Messrs. Wade Helms and Flow Coan, who have been working at Lileville for some time, spent the week-end at home.

Mrs. W. W. Laney has been very ill for the past week but is improving.

Miss Carrie Mae Godfrey who is in school at Wingate is at home this week with her brother, Mr. Bruce Godfrey, who is sick with pneumonia.

Miss Bessie Howie who suffered an attack of asthma and pneumonia the first of December while at school in Wingate is able to be out again.

Mr. Otis Coan is spending the week with his cousins, Messrs Myrtle and Cora Lee Long, at Lileville.

Mr. Raymond Robinson was in Charlotte Saturday on business.

Mr. Tom Griffin and family of Bethune, S. C., have moved to our little town, and we give them a hearty welcome.

Mr. M. M. Winchester went to Charlotte Sunday to be with his daughter, Miss Edna Winchester, who recently underwent an operation on her throat. She is doing nicely.

Well the snow and ice has left us but we have a good road just the same, thanks to the good road men. And some of those old fogies who kicked about the county taking some of their top soil to make us good roads are riding just as hard as any body.—Pep.

WAS AT BATTLE OF NEWBERN.

Esq. Cheers, Writes Mr. Huntley, was Lieut. in Ashcraft's Co.

To the Editor of The Journal:—In the Monroe Journal of the 28th of December, I notice a mistake in the date of birth, also the war record, of Esq. V. T. Cheers. He was born in 1835 instead of 1845. He participated in the beginning of the war instead of the ending, so he was 25 instead of 15. He was a lieutenant in Capt. John B. Ashcraft's company of the 37th regiment of N. C. volunteers and was in the fight at Newbern when the yankees invaded and captured that city. He was title collector at the latter part of the war. John Q. Griffin and some other old Confederates may remember this as well as I.—J. W. Huntley, Rock Hill, S. C., Feb. 1, 1921.

Everybody in Katchakoo goes to Saleeby's Cafe.

THE LATE J. ERWIN CHANEY

Many Had Cause to Love Him, But None Held Aught Against Him.

To the Editor of The Journal:—Just before the sun shone its sparkling light on the 29th day of January the death angel visited the home of Mr. Fred Chaney and claimed as its victim the dear old father, Mr. J. E. Chaney. His life was spent near where he was born and reared, being 76 years, 6 months and 21 days. He leaves to mourn his departure eight children, twenty-four grand-children, six great-grand-children, one brother, Mr. J. W. Chaney of east Monroe township. The sons are Messrs. W. A. and J. L. Chaney of Wingate, T. J. and Fred Chaney of east Monroe township. The daughters are Messdames Lindsey and Lonnie Helms of Monroe, J. W. Hill of Charlotte and J. E. Stegall of east Monroe. He had been confined to his room for some time with heart dropsy and Bright's disease. All was done for him that loving hands could do but to no avail. Nothing could stay the cold hand of death. He was faithful to his duty and obedient to his heavenly Father, loyal to his country, a good citizen and a kind father. While his voice is still and his body laid away to await the resurrection morn, his Christian life is still fresh in our memory. He realized several days before his death came that his stay on earth was rapidly drawing to a close, but his faith never faltered; he had put his house in order and death found him ready. There were many who had cause to love him, but none had aught against him. He was indeed one of nature's noblemen, in whom his heavenly father must have delighted, and now that he has gone from us we feel sure that he possesses a home in heaven. He sought not to lay up treasures on earth but in heaven, and we feel sure that his soul is now delighted in the treasures he stored away. Funeral services were conducted Sunday at the home by Rev. A. C. Sherwood, and his lifeless body tenderly laid to rest in the Williams cemetery to await the coming of the resurrection morn.

He sat in the shade of the old mock-orange tree, The green leaves quivering over his head, He slept in the shade of the old mock-orange tree, But now he is sleeping with the dead.

A lonely grave, a new made grave, Where our father's body sleeps, A place where we can hear no sound, A place we seek, and can but weep.

It was hard to part with father, Oh! so sad to see him die; But we will try to meet him In the sweet bye and bye.

HIS CHILDREN.

LETTER FROM REV. HAYWOOD

Former Union County Minister Writes of His New Home.

To the Editor of The Journal:—Please allow me space for a few lines about my new home in Davidson county.

This is a fine section, little broken and the soil is adapted to grain, clover and grasses, fruits, vegetables and tobacco. There is also a great deal of wheat raised in the county. Corn in abundance is produced, and much time is devoted to the cultivation of clover. The farmers sow clover when they seed their wheat, allow the land to rest one year, then turn the land and plant to wheat. The people do not burn anything that grows on their land, as they try to get all the humus possible in their soil. A yield of from 20 to 23 bushels is considered a good wheat crop, while the corn yield averages about 35 bushels to the acre this year. Market facilities, however, are not so good.

Lexington, twenty miles away, is our nearest market. Farmers haul their produce there by means of trucks.

This is a big stock country, and most of the cattle are of blooded stock. The hogs are generally of the Red Jersey breed.

The people are of Scotch-Irish descent, and are noted for their piety and good morals. They are people who honor the Sabbath, and are law-abiding; no whiskey, no stills; strictly prohibitionists; and a lot of our people are praying christians. In one of my churches there are a dozen members who will lead in prayer.

There is much forest, pine, oak and poplar timber in my community. The people are economical and thrifty, and market quite a lot of produce. No cotton here; the farmers use lots of commercial fertilizer, but pay for it off the spot; and consequently, this section is not feeling the pressure of hard times, as there is plenty to eat and no debts to pay.—Rev. A. B. Haywood, Handy, Davidson county, N. C.

Presbyterian Church Notes.

A cordial invitation is given to the following services:

10 a. m. Sunday school, W. A. Henderson superintendent. Special opening program by Mrs. Suttentfield's class.

11 a. m. Worship and sermon. Third sermon on the "Temple Teachings."

7:30 p. m. Praise service, led by the intermediate department of the Sunday school, followed by sermon. (Note change of hour.)

As a further evidence of the fraternal spirit existing between the churches of Monroe, our Methodist friends will permit us to go to church by the ringing of their bell, if ours is still out of commission.

COMMISSION FORM OF GOVERNMENT ENDORSED

Aldermen Requested to Call an Election to Permit People to Vote on This Form of City Government; Would Make Recorder's Court a County Court

The commission form of government for Monroe was endorsed by a number of representative citizens at the mass meeting held last night in the court house, and the members of the board of aldermen were instructed to call an election for the purpose of ascertaining the wishes of the people toward the proposed change.

Several different plans of city government were advocated, but all were discarded except the commission form of government by a process of elimination.

Mayor J. C. Sikes, who presided, started the discussion. After declaring that he would not be a candidate for re-election, he said that his experience in city affairs had convinced him that the number of city aldermen should be reduced to three, to be elected at large, they to be given authority to employ a city manager.

This brought Mr. E. G. Faust to his feet. "I don't propose to argue with doctors and lawyers, but I want to declare my opposition to the election of aldermen at large. For two days I carried a petition around to secure endorsements of the bill requiring each alderman to be elected by his own ward. That petition was signed by about 85 per cent of the people of Monroe, and I think their wishes in the matter ought to be considered."

"I signed that petition," shouted Mr. Gillman Craig, as Mr. Faust took his seat.

The scene took on a stormy aspect, but Mr. Sikes was equal to the occasion. As a diplomat he is probably unequalled in Monroe. "Gentlemen," he intoned, "this matter will be taken up later. All we are trying to do at this time is to get the sense of the meeting." This mollified Mr. Faust, who became quiet, awaiting developments. Some one called on Mr. T. P. Dillon.

Mr. Dillon admitted signing Mr. Faust's petition to secure the election of each alderman by the voters of his own ward, and declared his intention of sticking to that gentleman.

Mr. A. M. Stack favored the plan advocated by Mr. Sikes. He thought every man should have the privilege of voting for all of the aldermen who were to conduct his affairs, concluding by pronouncing the Faust plan unwise.

Mr. J. W. Fowler, one time Mayor and alderman, advocated the election of three aldermen and a Mayor to be given authority to employ a competent city manager. He made the point that the city aldermen, under the present plan, cannot give the city's affairs proper attention. "They have their own business to look after," he said. "And I speak from experience," he concluded.

The commission form of government was first advocated by Mr. J. J. Parker. "I have always had a leaning towards the commission form of government," said the late Republican candidate for governor. "and I am in favor of making the experiment. The plan has proven a success wherever it has been tried, and it is certain that we cannot adopt a worse form of government than we now have." Under the commission form of government, explained Mr. Parker, the people would vote for a mayor and chairman of finance, who would have charge of all collections and expenditures; a commissioner of public safety, who would act as chief of police and fire department; and a commissioner of public works, who would have charge of the water and light and sanitary departments. The present salaries paid the city clerk, tax collector, chief of police, and superintendent of water and light plant, he believes, would be sufficient to pay for the whole time of these commissioners. He would pay salaries ranging from \$2500 to \$3000.

The city manager plan was opposed by Mr. Parker, who declared that such an official would have all sorts of opportunities to graft upon the people. He wants responsibility centered upon three Monroe citizens.

Dr. H. D. Stewart ably seconded Mr. Parker in his advocacy of the commission form of government.

What especially appealed to the ex-army captain was the referendum and recall feature of this form of government. "Under it," he said, "you can get rid of an incompetent city official in a short time. All we would have to do is to secure twenty-five per cent of the people to petition for an election, and the majority of the people willing, we could replace him at any time of the year."

Here Mr. W. M. Gordon arose. "If you adopt the commission form of government would you have to raise the taxes?" he asked. This brought down the house.

Mayor Sikes, calling attention to the late hour, cut short the discussion of city government, and called for a vote on the various forms submitted.

Four plans were proposed. No. 1 was the straight-out commission form of government; No. 2, the election of three aldermen and a mayor, to be paid a nominal salary, and to employ a city manager; No. 3, to elect five aldermen, each one to be elected by the voters of his respective ward; and No. 4, the election of three commissioners, who would elect one of their number to act as mayor, and to employ a city manager.

Plan No. 1 received 16 votes; No. 2, 4; No. 3, 2; No. 4, 15.

The commission form of government received a plurality on the second ballot, and it was declared to be the recommendation of the meeting.

Extension of the city limits was taken up next on the suggestion of Mr. J. H. Boyte, but consideration was killed when Mr. J. E. Stewart declared it to be his opinion that the city ought to provide sewerage and paving for those already in the town before extending the city limits. Mayor Sikes thought this a very sensible suggestion, and moved that further discussion be deferred to a more opportune time.

By this time everybody was in fine fettle. Old political enemies forgot their past animosities toward each other, and good-naturedly joined in the discussions.

Revival of the Mayor's court was the next in order of discussion, and for over an hour it was argued pro and con. Mr. F. G. Henderson, president of the chamber of commerce, opened the discussion by declaring that he was convinced, from his observation while a member of the town council, that the city was paying more than its part of the upkeep of the Recorder's court, but he did not undertake to argue the merits of either court only so far as to say that he understood there was much criticism against the Recorder for his failure to properly enforce the city ordinances.

Mr. W. Z. Faulkner stated that he favored the revival of the Mayor's court, and so did Mr. J. B. Simpson. Mr. J. D. McRae, who is also a member of the board of aldermen, was opposed to the abolishment of the Recorder's court, but said he believed the county should pay the salary of the Recorder.

By a practically unanimous vote the citizens present recommended that the court be made a county court, the commissioners to pay all salaries.

Mr. A. M. Stack, the city attorney, then read a bill which would revive the Mayor's court, and for which he asked the endorsement of those present.

The reading of the bill provoked more discussion. The Mayor's court was opposed by Mr. J. E. Stewart and Mr. R. L. Stevens, and others; while Messrs. A. M. Stack, J. J. Parker and J. C. Sikes argued for it. About 10:15, after most of those present had left, a vote was ordered. The endorsement carried by a vote of about 13 for to 5 or 8 against.

Friends of the Recorder's court, however, refused to concede a victory, as eight or nine of those votes favorable for the revival of the Mayor's court were cast by lawyers and city officials.

The meeting was one of the most interesting ever held in Monroe, and the discussions were thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

Refusing Five Pardons "Aunt Sarah" Goes Free

IN PRISON 42 YEARS FOR CRIME SHE DIDN'T COMMIT

Little Woman from Alexander County Dies in the Only Place She Could Call Home.

TO BE BURIED BY HER HUSBAND

Forty-two years ago, writes Ben Dixon MacNeil in the Raleigh News and Observer, there was a hanging in Alexander county. One Bob McCorkle, negro, swung out into eternity for the murder of Wesley Wychoff, white, Sarah Wychoff, the wife of Wesley Wychoff and the mother of his children, came to the State Prison to serve a life sentence for conspiring with the negro to kill her husband. Yesterday her sentence was ended. She is dead.

And Sarah Wychoff had never committed murder, had never known anything about the killing of her husband. Circumstantial evidence had tied the knot around the negro's neck, and had torn her from her children and shut her up in prison. Thirty-nine years after the negro had been hung, and the woman had become No. 1304 in prison, a man confessed to the murder—and died.

Confession Clears Her.

Hanging over the edge of eternity, torn with the fear of death, the red stain on his soul overcame his thirty-nine years of repression, and he confessed that he had contrived the murder of Wychoff, had conspired to lead to the negro and to the woman. It was a

Continued on Page Eight.

THE GRAND JURY'S REPORT

Urge Commissioners to Secure Appointment New Tax Lister.

The grand jury for this term of court set a precedent when it recommended, in its report, the appointment of a new tax lister, urging the county commissioners to use their influence in securing a man "who will carefully check his records so that no innocent taxpayer will be arraigned in court."

The report, in full, reads: "To Hon. J. Bis Ray, Judge, holding the January term, 1921, of the Superior court of Union county: "We, the grand jury for the January term, 1921, of Union county Superior court, beg to submit our report as follows:

"We have transacted all business coming before us and have visited the various offices, chain gang, and county home.

"We find the county home in good condition and the inmates well cared for. We find two inmates, viz: Babe Odum and Fred Barrino, in the insane department and think they should be sent to the state institution at Morganton where they can be better treated and cared for.

"We find the jail in good condition and the prisoners are well treated and make no complaint.

"We find everything at the chain gang in good shape and the prisoners well fed and have every attention needed.

"We find the various offices in the court house in good condition and the records well kept.

"We find the ladies rest room in the court house in bad shape and needs to be looked after at once and kept in better condition.

"We recommend that the county commissioners use their influence with the corporation commission in securing a county tax assessor for next listing time who will carefully check his records so that no innocent taxpayer will be arraigned in court, put to trouble and expense and wrongfully embarrassed after having done his duty by his state and county.

"This the 3rd day of February, A. D. 1921.—C. D. Beaton, Foreman."

RETURN OF TWO CITIZENS ELATES MT. PLEASANT FOLKS

Walter C. Green and Luke Phillips Certainly Possess the Esteem of Their Neighbors.

To the Editor of The Journal:—During the life time of every man there comes a time for him to show to the world just what kind of material he is made of. It does not always come to every man at the same time, nor does it always present itself in the same manner. But in the years to come many of us shall look on the years of 1920 and 1921 as the period that tried men's souls and revealed to us just what kind of citizens our fellowmen are.

The structure of their characters are seen to be just as they are. Some stand out like pyramids, challenging and indestructible; others stand as hollow frame-workers with foundations of sand.

Is it not an easy matter for us to read the characters of those with whom we deal? When contracts are broken and obligations cannot be met, we see men pleading for a little time. Sometimes it is granted—sometimes refused. Often innocent, straight-forward, upright men are preyed upon by miserly, scheming, crafters. Some men, even in times like this, however, are able to pass under the fray without being made transparent. There are men devising enough and crafty enough to hold out in times like this so that even their neighbors don't know that they are standing on sand foundations. Every man is esteemed by men of his own standing. A hypocrite is loved by all until he is found to be a hypocrite, then he becomes a despicable.

Mr. Pleasant community is greatly elated over the return to the community of two former residents, one in the person of Mr. Walter C. Green ("a real man") who was recently moved by twenty wagons by his former neighbors. Mr. Green was moved free of charge. Another, "Mr. Luke Phillips," who resided in the neighborhood a few years ago, and who is a travelling man of note, has moved to the "Armedfield place." Had Mr. Phillips been an object of charity it is said that he also would have been moved free of charge. The community realizes the value of such men, and rejoices to welcome them back home. If there are any more of such men away and unable to return, we refer them to Mr. Ellison Rogers, who will circulate a petition in their behalf.—W. B. F.

BAPTIST MEETING POSTPONED

Mr. McCorkle Buys Land and Timber at Crowburg, South Carolina.

Monroe, R. F. D. No. 5, Feb. 3.—Owing to the inclement weather, the meeting of the Union Baptist association, which was to have been held at Corinth January 29 and 30, was indefinitely postponed.

We learn that Mr. B. A. McCorkle has bought the timber on several acres of land at Crowburg, belonging to Crow Brothers, and will move his sawmill outfit down there when he completes the job he is now on.

Mr. W. V. Tucker has rented out his farm and moved to a place near Matthews.

Everybody in Katcha-Koo goes to Saleeby's Cafe.

Wise men say sweet things to their wives. It has its reward at meal times.

Every mother knows the good qualities of her children. Her neighbors know the rest.

NO VERDICT YET IN THE ROBINSON MURDER CASE

Jury Has Been Out Over Four Hours, and Seems to Be Perplexed Over Degree of Offense.

CASES DISPOSED OF THIS WEEK

* Guilty of Manslaughter. *
* Just as The Journal goes to *
* press it learns that Lucius Robinson was convicted of manslaughter. Sentence in his case, *
* as in the others disposed of, has *
* not been pronounced by Judge *
* Ray. *

After having been out over four hours, the jury in the Robinson murder case had failed at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon to return a verdict. A few minutes prior to that time the jury entered the court room to seek more pointed instruction from Judge Ray.

Lucius Robinson, the defendant, is a native of Lancaster county, and shot his brother, Noah Robinson, near Mineral Springs several months ago during a quarrel. The two brothers, along with another brother and a nephew, were in a car on their way to Monroe when the third brother became ill and asked to be taken home. All of the party except the defendant, Lucius Robinson, it seems, favored complying with his request. It was then that the quarrel and shooting occurred.

Uniform Rates Free of Judge.

DeWitt Clark and Floyd McCorkle advised a plan of note senders to the charge of lawyers of a bale of cotton. Craig, who saw service in the late war, appeared in court in his uniform. This raised the ire of Judge Ray, who protested vigorously at what he termed a desecration of the uniform of his country. He excused the young man on the grounds of ignorance, but made it plain that a recurrence of such an offense would be detrimental to the interests of a defendant in his court.

Stanley Funderburk was found guilty of carrying a pistol off his own premises. It appears that at the special session of the legislature an act was passed making it an indictable offense to carry a pistol off one's premises, whether concealed or not. So it would be well to remember this, and don't take your pistol with you when you leave home.

John Knight, a young white man of the lower edge of the county, was found guilty of making liquor. This is the man who skipped his bond, and who was caught the other night when he crossed over the line from South Carolina, where he had been in hiding. After Knight had been found guilty, his wife and five little white-headed children trooped into the court room. It was said that they were penniless and had nowhere to go, being absolutely dependant upon the husband and father for their daily bread.

Other Cases Disposed of.

Charlie Brown, a mulatta, was found guilty of taking fifty dollars from Mr. Grier Squires, of Vance township, on show day in Monroe last fall. The defendant conducted his own case, examining the witnesses for the state. He related a plausible story, but the evidence against him was overwhelming.

Other cases disposed of were: Ned Stewart, keeping liquor for sale; not guilty.

Charles Vinson, removing crop; guilty.

John Hollis, alias John Harper, felonious breaking, larceny and receiving; defendant pleads guilty.

Ned Stewart, keeping liquor for sale; defendant enters plea of non contumelia.

Adam Wall, John Wain and Isaac Blunt, making liquor; defendants plead guilty.

Wiley Braze, keeping liquor for sale; not guilty.

Tom Jacobs, false pretenses; not guilty.

Booker T. Dunn, forgery; guilty in three cases.

Floyd Helms, assault and battery with deadly weapon, defendant pleads guilty.

Raymond Crowder, assault with deadly weapon; judgment suspended on payment of costs. This defendant, on going home some months ago, found a man invading his home and shot him. The wound came very near proving fatal. The judge was asked to require the defendant to pay the hospital bills of the man, but the court flatly and emphatically refused, and was cheered by the spectators in the room.

Sheriff Hunter Here.

Mr. John P. Hunter, who has been sheriff of Lancaster county for thirty-four years, and who will doubtless continue to serve in this capacity until his death, was in Monroe yesterday attending court. Sheriff Hunter, who is over sixty years of age, is one of the most noted characters of this section. Time and time again he has sought to give up his job as sheriff but the people of his county refused to let him. If he failed to announce his candidacy in an election, some of his friends did it for him, and he is always overwhelmingly elected. Sheriff Hunter served as United States Marshall for four years.

Never bet on a sure thing. It hurts like the devil to see the other fellow walking away with your money.

Every mother knows the good qualities of her children. Her neighbors know the rest.