

The ZEBULON RECORD

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Zebulon Man Escapes Death In Gas Chamber; Given Life

Lonnie Albert Strickland, scheduled to die Friday morning, May 26, in the gas chamber at State Prison in Raleigh, received a commutation of his sentence to life imprisonment Monday.

Strickland, a resident of the Zebulon community, was sentenced to die following his conviction of rape of his nine-year-old stepdaughter last Christmas Eve while his wife was away from home.

He was tried in Wake County Superior Court following waiving probable cause hearing in the Zeb-

ulon Recorder's Court, and was sentenced to death by Judge Leo Carr after the jury failed to recommend mercy. He offered no evidence at the trial.

The local man, described by medical authorities as a "borderline mental defective," never finished school, leaving as a fourth grade student at the age of sixteen. He was struck on the head when seven years old by a horseshoe, and never learned his alphabet in school.

The Board of Paroles unanimously recommended clemency to Governor Terry Sanford early this week, and the Governor commuted the sentence Monday before leaving on an Ohio Valley industry seeking tour.

A defense fund for Strickland was made up by local citizens after his conviction, and Ferd Davis, local attorney who did not take part in the trial, was employed to seek executive clemency.

Memorial Day Services

American Legion and Legion Auxiliary members will meet at the Zebulon Methodist Church Sunday, May 28. In observance of Memorial Day they will sit in a body while they attend the morning worship service.

GUEST EDITORIAL—

A Teenager's Viewpoint

Upon looking at the teenager's viewpoint we first must look at the past and see what pitfalls occurred that has brought about the situation with which we are now faced. In the past there have been some forms of recreation offered; however, the programs have lacked organization and the devoted leaders to carry them out. There was no distinction by age groups. There was a need of variety, that is, different types of recreation to satisfy the wants of all the teenagers. Last and probably the most important, there was a lack of support and interest on the part of the people in this community. They failed to recognize the need of a good recreational program, and the results can be found by looking back to the incidents that occurred last summer. Also the parents, themselves, have failed their children. They have lost the respect of their children by allowing them to do as they please and by showing no interest in the activities in which they participate.

In trying to correct the situation with which we are now confronted, we must realize that no matter what is offered to the teenagers, there are going to be some that will not participate. They have grown accustomed to doing as they please, without any supervision; and like the old saying goes, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

If a good program had been started years ago, we would now have close to a 100% participation. However, we have to start at the bottom and work up toward this goal and hope that it will catch on.

First of all, the recreational program should be well organized with parents, youth, different organizations and social groups, and the churches in this area participating and providing the leadership necessary to carry it out. Upon planning the program, it should be determined whether we want a large program or a small one; and if there is a willingness to finance such a program. We will have to decide if money is more important than saving our future generation from destroying themselves both socially as well as morally. The program, itself, should be one of large scope and should have variety. There will be a need for age distinction, for there are many different wants and desires that are found in the different age groups of teenagers. Interest in this program can be brought about by personal contact with those teenagers who want to help start such a program and by these teenagers encouraging others to participate. It will be necessary to find out just what the teenagers want are, and a survey should be made before the program is started. And perhaps a survey should be taken of the people of the community to see how many would be in favor of it and how many would donate their time or money to help make it a success. At any rate, the program should be started now, before school is out. Then maybe we will be able to offer the youth of this community something that they will be proud to be a part of and that will give our community something which they can be proud of.—Sonny Perry.

Final Preparations Made for Annual Song Convention

Preparations have been completed for the 21st annual Eastern Carolina Singing Convention, L. A. Hagwood, president, announced today.

The date has been set for the traditional fourth Sunday in May which comes on the 28 this year.

On this date lovers of gospel music will gather in Fleming Stadium in Wilson for the annual song fest. It will get underway promptly at 10 a.m. and continue until late afternoon. Admission is free and in event of rain will be held in Wilson Recreation Center.

Hagwood said on the program will be The Carolinians Quartet of High Point, radio artists known and loved throughout the Southland; the Pembroke All Male Chorus of 22 voices who were such a sensation at the convention last year; the Master Three Trio of Rocky Mount; Songsters Trio of Winston-Salem; Melody Quartet of Zebulon; Tabor Sister Female Quartet of Concord, Va.; Selma Trio of Selma; Marvelaries Quartet of Zebulon; Songsmen Quartet of Norfolk, Pilgrims Quartet of Wilmington, radio and TV artists; Eastover Quartet of Fayetteville; Happy Time Quartet of Zebulon; Chordovians Quartet of Greensboro, and many others.

This annual event is sponsored by the Wilson Junior Chamber of Commerce. Members of the Wilson Jaycees have made preparations to accommodate several thousand. The convention has grown in attendance from 1500 when it was organized in 1940 to between 10,000 to 15,000.

It has become traditional for families to bring a lunch and spend the day.

Baccalaureate Set For Sunday, June 4

Dr. Eugene Owens, professor at Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon Sunday, June 4, to the Wakelon High School seniors. The Rev. Horace Hamm, pastor of Wakefield Baptist Church will offer the invocation and benediction.

Class night is Friday, June 2. Dr. Douglas Jones, who is with the department of education at East Carolina College, will deliver the commencement address.

Saturday, June 3, school will be open. This is a make-up date, according to Principal John Hicks. School closes Monday, June 5.

Resident's Mother Dies Of Heart Attack

The mother of Mrs. Crafton Hudson, Mrs. Eunice Holland, died Tuesday, May 16, at her home in Salemburg. She was 64.

Besides Mrs. Hudson, she is survived by two more daughters, Mrs. Charles Tew of Route 1, Salemburg and Mrs. Lyle T. Warren of the home; and one son, Clyde H. Holland of Roseboro.

Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon at Salemburg Baptist Church with the Rev. Yancey Elliot, pastor, and the Rev. G. N. Ashley of Roseboro, officiating. Interment was in Salemburg cemetery.

1961-1962 Faculty For Wakelon School Announced by Hinton

Three Wakelon High School teachers have resigned and one elementary teacher is retiring.

Board Chairman Hardin Hinton released the resignations, the retiring teacher, and the teachers who will be returning to Wakelon for the 1961-62 school year.

Miss Jacqueline Culler, Mrs. Clara Roebuck and Mrs. Marie Sawyer Webb have resigned. Mrs. Marguerite Jones is retiring.

High school faculty returning are Maurice H. Chapman, Miss Blanche Gay, Miss Mary Lacy Palmer, Mrs. Madyline Pippin, Mrs. Mary P. Seago, Mrs. Ann Strickland and C. V. Tart. Elementary faculty returning

are Mrs. Selma Alford, Mrs. Dorothy Blackley, Miss Judith Boyd, Mrs. Sadie Braswell, Mrs. Coresa Chamblee, Mrs. Elizabeth Ellett, Mrs. Helen Gregory, Mrs. Janet Harris Winstead, Mrs. Marion B. Jenkins, Miss Edna Longest, Mrs. Ruth Allen Moss, Mrs. Mildred A. Mullen, Mrs. Eva Page, Miss Alma Lou Pierce, Miss Marjorie Richardson, Miss Margaret Ann Strickland, Mrs. Edythe Medlin Tippet, Mrs. Elizabeth Todd, and Mrs. Lois M. Wall.

Mrs. Doris H. Privette will leave college teaching and return as head of the commercial department at Wakelon.

Band director Herbert J. Ireland, Jr., was reelected as was Principal John J. Hicks.

Custodians named by the Board are Winston Perry, head custodian, Coy Richardson, Joe W. Bunn, and Alpha Lawrence. Office clerk will be Mrs. Margaret Bowling and Mrs. Eleanor Massey will continue to serve as lunch room manager.

Reelections were made during the May 1 meeting of the Board.

Summer Program Set by Commission

Zebulon Recreation Commission board members and interested citizens are planning a summer program for the children of the town. "But," said one member of the board, "it is hard to plan a program when there isn't one cent available for the program." A barbecue supper to raise funds for the program has been planned but no date has been set.

At the meeting Monday night, the board decided to let young people join Commission members and tell them what they would like in the program this summer.

"We want to know what the young people want," a board member said. "We especially want the young people to come to the next meeting and express what things they would like to be in the program. After all, the program is for them and we want them to help us plan it."

The next meeting of the board is Tuesday night, May 30, at the Town Hall. Parents also are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The board is enthusiastic about the summer program. Even with the barrier of no funds, the board members are going ahead with the program, planning to give the young people of the town recreation facilities for their pleasure and enjoyment.

At the Monday night meeting were Mrs. Doris Privette, Mrs. Georgia Croom, Eldred Rountree, Wayne Davis, Dick Turlington, Ray Goodwin, Bill Quick, Durwood Chamblee and Tommy Wood.

Poppy Day to Be Held on Saturday

"Wear a Poppy," an annual appeal from the American Legion Auxiliary, will be heard in Zebulon Saturday, May 27.

For more than 40 years, Poppy Day has offered the citizens of this country the opportunity to remember both the nation's war dead and its disabled veterans. The poppy became immortalized in a poem by a Canadian soldier, Lt. Col. John McRae, entitled, "In Flanders Field." Practically everyone is familiar with its opening lines: "In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the crosses row on row."

The poppy was a familiar sight to servicemen in Europe during the first World War. When the men returned home in 1918, they remembered the poppy and soon adopted it as a symbol of their comrades who died in battle. It became a bright memorial to American dead of three wars, and a tribute to our living disabled veterans.

American Legion Auxiliary (Continued on Page 7)

Music Is Life Time Hobby For Popular Song Leader

Music has been a life time hobby with Leon Alburn Hagwood.

"I am and have always been a real lover of gospel music," Hagwood, who has a pleasant, pleasing personality, said. "Nothing thrills me more than singing old gospel hymns."

Hagwood is the founder of the Eastern Carolina Singing Convention which meets annually on the fourth Sunday in May.

"We organized the convention in 1940," he said in his deep voice. "Our first meeting place was in the Middlesex High School auditorium. More than 1400 persons attended this gospel song fest."

After five years at Middlesex the convention moved to Wilson because of the need of larger facilities. Now the attendance almost reaches the 20,000 mark.

Another reason the convention moved to Wilson was because the Wilson Jaycees offered the convention a better deal, Hagwood said. Other towns and cities also made offers, but the Jaycees of Wilson

made the best offer. "And we aren't sorry," Hagwood said. "The facilities are all one could ask for and there have been very pleasant relationships (Continued on Page 5)

