

# Lenoir News-Topic

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## ALIEN MAY DAY PLOTS DISCOVERED

Part of Red Effort in Behalf of Russian Soviets—Strikes and Other Disturbances Planned, With Assassinations, Assaults

Plots against the lives of more than a score of Federal and State officials were discovered last week by the department of justice as part of radical May day demonstrations, Attorney General Palmer announced last Thursday night.

The assassinations and assaults, Mr. Palmer said, were included in the May day program organized by the communist labor party and other radical elements and other disturbances intended by the radicals as an effort in behalf of peace with soviet Russia.

State officials marked as "victims" were notified by the department, the attorney general added, of the information in the hands of the Federal government and their co-operation requested in repressing radical demonstrations.

The department has information, according to the attorney general, that the instigators of the May day demonstrations in Washington have been working "in direct connection and union" with the leaders of disturbances set for Europe. As in Europe, attempts were being made to incite strikes in all basic American industries, Mr. Palmer said, although he did not believe they would be successful.

Mr. Palmer said that while he could not disclose the nature of the communist labor party's plans in connection with further strikes, leaders of that organization had concentrated on several important industries and that the demonstrations planned threatened to cause trouble in the way of walkouts.

All of the propaganda advocating May day disturbances referred to "inhuman treatment" of the soviet government of Russia by the United States and the allied powers, Mr. Palmer continued. In foreign sections of industrial centers appeals for "peace with Russia" have been employed as the main method in stirring up dissatisfaction with this government, Mr. Palmer said. Strikes and disorder, he added, simply are meant to emphasize to American officials the threats of the radicals that relations must be resumed with Russia.

Tons of inflammatory literature have been circulated in the last month by express and freight and secretly distributed by local leaders, according to information obtained by department agents. The communist labor group also has sent numerous "personal emissaries" into cities where the field was deemed ripe, Mr. Palmer reported. These men have been under constant surveillance by Federal agents and it was through their activities that the government was first able to establish definitely the aims of the group of May day disturbances. Men and women have been used particularly in the textile manufacturing districts.

In these areas, reports showed radical leaders were appealing to the workers to strike in behalf of soviet Russia, and as a protest against the high cost of living. Assistant Attorney General Garvan said that in most cases the strength gained by the advocates of "direct action" among the textile workers was due to claims that such a strike would aid in forcing down living costs. He believed that many of the foreigners were unaware of the "wolf in sheep's clothing" which they are following.

Some of the literature showed that many radical leaders felt that raids conducted against the communist and communist labor elements last winter had "broken our foundation." The agitators, however, continued to

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## NEWLAND SELLS TO EFIRD DEPT. STORES

Charlotte Department Store Organization Thirtieth Store—Consideration Not Known, But Is Considerable Sum

Tuesday evening Messrs. E. L. Efird and R. C. Teague closed a deal with Mr. H. T. Newland, owner of the Newland department store, for the purchase of the store building, complete stock of goods and the block of real estate fronting West Trade street. The transaction is said to involve something like \$150,000.

However, both Mr. Newland and Mr. Efird refuse to make a statement in this connection. The sale included everything, store, stock and real estate, with the exception of the accounts, which are still due and payable to Mr. Newland.

The transaction was completed Tuesday afternoon about 4 o'clock and immediately the doors were closed and the new owners began to go over the stock and arrange for opening again Saturday morning.

Additional help was brought from the Efird main store in Charlotte and the work of re-arranging the stock is being rushed as fast as possible. Other lines of goods are being sent here to be added to the stock already on hand.

It had been known for several weeks that the Efird organization was seeking an opening here, but it was expected they would buy some unimproved property and make improvements. The announcement of the purchase of the Newland store came as a complete surprise. It has been learned, however, that the sale had been brewing for thirty days or more. Instrumental in the sale has been the work of Mr. H. M. Teague of this city, who is a brother of Mr. R. C. Teague of the Efird organization.

Mr. Teague has been working quietly for several weeks in an effort to get a location for the store.

Lenoir makes the thirtieth store of the Efird chain, said Mr. E. L. Efird yesterday. The other stores are located principally in North Carolina, with a few in South Carolina and one at Danville, Va. The stores located in North and South Carolina are as follows:

North Carolina—Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Concord, Rocky Mount, Gastonia, Durham, Raleigh, Burlington, High Point, Salisbury, Lexington, Lincolnton, Shelby, Cherryville, Monroe, Wilson, Goldsboro, Forest City, Lumberton, Laurinburg, Statesville and Lenoir.

South Carolina—Rock Hill, Columbia, Spartanburg, Greenville, Greer, Anderson, Greenwood.

Both Mr. Efird and Mr. Teague will remain in Lenoir for several days to assist in getting the new business in good running shape.

## SO FAR REPORTED CENSUS INCREASE IS 24.8 PER CENT

In a survey of census reports thus far received Samuel L. Rogers, director, says:

"Up to May 1 the bureau of the census had announced the population of 713 cities and towns, the aggregate population of these places being 14,204,750. The list includes 37 places which were not in existence as separate communities as far back as 1910, having been organized or set off since that time, so that their present population cannot be compared with that of 20 years ago; but as regards 676 places comparable figures are available for the censuses of 1900, 1910 and 1920. The population of these places increased from 8,594,103 in 1900 to 11,223,249 in 1910 and to 13,880,792 in 1920. This shows an increase of 5,229,145, or 29.4 per cent from 1900 to 1910, and of 2,757,453, or 24.8 per cent from 1910 to 1920."

Eight negro soldiers from Camp Grant, Ill., convicted of criminal assault upon a young white woman at the camp in May, 1918, have been taken to the penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., to serve life sentences.

## RUNSER IS COMING WITH A BIG PLANE

Wires Friends Here That He Will Arrive About Monday—He Is Flying Big British Three-Passenger Cruiser

Lieuts. H. J. Runser and R. Turner, who gave exhibition flights here during fair week, will return to Lenoir early next week, according to messages received here yesterday by friends, which read:

"Lincolnton, N. C., May 4. "Doctor Dooley, Lenoir, N. C. "Step lively, Doctor, and tell everybody we will be there about May 12 with a high-powered British cruiser three-passenger airplane and will carry anybody. So spread the news and write us at once at Asheville if the field is all right. Best wishes. "Lieut. H. J. Runser and R. Turner."

"Mr. Wright, Supt. Whitnel Cotton Mill, Lenoir, N. C. "We will fly to Lenoir about May 12 with three-passenger British cruiser airplane on our way to Washington. Advise papers we will carry passengers and write me at once at Asheville if the field is all right or if plowed up. Best wishes to all. "Lieuts. H. J. Runser and R. Turner."

As a rule, workers in copper mines are immune from typhoid fever.

## PRITCHETT BEATS DULA FOR MAYOR

The Biggate Vote Polled in a Town Election in Years—Mass Meeting Ticket Was Elected by a Good Margin

In a hotly-contested mayoralty race Monday James T. Pritchett defeated Dr. A. W. Dula by the vote of 231 to 189. With Mr. Pritchett was elected the entire mass meeting ticket of commissioners. The race was not without thrills, and excitement prevailed with the hard work of the candidates and their friends throughout the entire day. Pritchett's majority was 51 votes.

Four men were in the race for the mayoralty. Three—Jas. T. Pritchett, T. C. Robbins and Lawrence Wakefield—went before the mass meeting, where Pritchett won out over his two opponents with a lead of 74 votes out of a total of 196 cast. Dula did not enter the mass meeting, but announced his candidacy subject to the final election.

In the mass meeting two ballots were required in making the nomination. On the first ballot three names—T. C. Robbins, Lawrence Wakefield and Jas. T. Pritchett—were before the house. On this ballot Robbins received 67 votes, Wakefield 63 and Pritchett 95. Two other votes were cast for men whose names were not before the mass meeting, Dula and Richard J. Griffin each receiving one vote. A motion was adopted by the meeting to eliminate the lower candidate, which left Robbins and Pritchett for a second ballot. On the second ballot Robbins received 60 votes and Pritchett 135. On this ballot another vote was cast for Lawrence Wakefield. Pritchett was declared the nominee.

Only one ballot was required for the selection of the commissioners' ticket. The seven men receiving the nominations were L. E. Rabb, 100; E. F. Allen, 96; S. S. Jennings, 102; W. E. Miller, 49; B. L. Stone, 102; J. W. Self, 103, and H. W. Courtney, 93. Other men receiving ballots were as follows: A. G. Jonas, 3; W. S. Covington, 2; R. S. Crisp, 4; L. B. Huntley, 6; C. S. Triplett, 36; Dr. C. L. Wilson, 3; F. C. White, 2; James Marshall, 5; A. G. Foard, 1; A. A. Blackwelder, 1; J. E. Shell, 2; W. P. Hoffman, 1; Matt Bernhard, 1; T. C. Robbins, 1; W. J. Lenoir, 2; C. D. Rabb, 3; J. W. C. McCall, 1; and J. H. Beall, 2.

Following the mass meeting it developed that a second commission ticket was out for the final election. The only changes made in this ticket were in substituting the name of L. B. Huntley for J. W. Self and R. S. Crisp for W. E. Miller. This fact explains the big lead held by Rabb, Allen, Courtney, Stone and Jennings over Miller and Self in the final election Monday. The result of Monday's commissioners' election was as follows: Rabb, 410; Stone, 411; Allen, 410; Courtney, 408; Jennings, 407; Self, 252, and Miller, 249. Crisp received 160 votes and Huntley 163 votes. In this election three votes were cast for C. S. Triplett and one for J. D. Matheson.

In this election there is one noticeable thing. That is the greater number of citizens voting and the greater degree of interest shown in town affairs. One year ago only 107 votes were cast, as against 411 this year. The same condition prevailed at the mass meeting. Usually there is not over 100 to 150 citizens out take part in the mass meetings, but this year the court house was crowded and 225 took part in the nominations.

The mass meeting Friday night was called to order by Mayor W. J. Lenoir, who is just ending his third term. Mr. Lenoir assured those present of his appreciation of the honor given him for the past three years. Mr. Lenoir had already assured his friends and made a public statement that he would not be in line for a re-nomination.

Mr. J. L. Nelson was elected as chairman of the mass meeting, with W. C. Moore, Jr., and Fred H. May as secretaries. On the first call for nominations for mayor Mr. W. L. Minish put the name of T. C. Robbins before the meeting. This was followed by the nomination of Lawrence Wakefield by W. W. Newland and James T. P. by the Hon. Mark Squires.

MORE THAN FIFTY KILLED IN TORNADO IN OKLAHOMA

A dispatch from Muskogee, Okla., says the number of persons known to have been killed at Peggs, Okla., had reached 51 early Monday night, with five persons not accounted for and about 100 injured. Peggs virtually was destroyed by the tornado Sunday night and the list of dead and injured is not available.

In many cases several bodies were found among the ruins of a single building, indicating that whole families had been wiped out. Through a freak of the storm a small frame building, uninhabited, was left standing in the heart of the town, while brick structures surrounding, which had housed many persons, were razed. Clothing was found on trees several miles from the path of the storm. A large gasoline barrel was found flattened and wrapped tightly around the trunk of a tree. The area swept by the tornado was said to be about two miles long and a mile wide.

Peggs was a village of about 250 inhabitants.

As a rule, workers in copper mines are immune from typhoid fever.

## SPRING SHOWS UP AT BLOWING ROCK

Talk of Electric Line to Blowing Rock—Will Pass Through Lenoir—Big Preparations for the Summer

(By H. C. Martin.) We have some evidences of the approach of spring. Up this way the grass is beginning to show in the meadows and the earlier flowers are blooming. The fruit trees have not bloomed yet in most of the orchards and we have promise of a full apple crop and plenty of peaches. I am not, are yet alive in this vicinity. Few persons have made gardens, as the ground is very cold and we have had quite a lot of rain for a few weeks past.

Work is progressing fairly well on the various new construction works going on here. A force of 50 or 60 carpenters is busy on the work at Mayview Park and new houses are spring up like magic. Poe & Triplett have contracted some of the work and have a force of men from Lenoir and vicinity here moving the work along well. Among the Lenoir men here are Sam Clay, Charley Taylor, Will Seestert and Finley Hartley and others.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Cannon of York, S. C., were here Saturday and Sunday looking after the work of their new summer home near Green Park, which is being built under contract by J. Lee Hayes of this place.

Mr. W. P. Greeden of Bennettsville, S. C., was here last looking after some improvements to his summer cottage.

Mrs. E. D. Mackey of Atlanta, with her brother, Dr. Alfred Mordecai, are here stopping at the Watauga Inn until some improvements are made on Mrs. Mackey's cottage. Mrs. Mackey is here to the summer, while Dr. Mordecai will probably go back into the medical service of the army, where he served during the war.

Messrs. B. B. Hayes, Clayton Thronburg of Hudson and L. H. Tuttle of Lenoir were Sunday visitors here.

Mrs. Holshouser, widow of the late James Holshouser, died Thursday of last week at the home of her son-in-law, N. L. Edmisten, near here, and the body was buried at the Reformed church Friday afternoon. Mrs. Holshouser was held in high esteem by all who knew her. She was nearing her 91st birthday at the time of her death, which was due to infirmities of old age.

The readers of the News-Topic at this postoffice were disappointed last week that the papers for this place did not come. There must have been a mistake made in your mailing office, and we trust it may not occur again, as the weekly visits of the News-Topic are eagerly waited for and appreciated.

Rev. Edgar Tufts, the Presbyterian minister in charge of the Presbyterian church here, filled his regular appointment last Sunday. Rev. F. M. Higgins, the Baptist minister, will preach at his regular appointment here next Sunday.

During the high winds of last Friday forest fires raged in several parts of the county, doing considerable damage. Mr. Horace Cook, who lives five or six miles southeast of Boone, near Mt. Vernon church, lost his home and its contents, including about \$8400 in money, by the fire. The barn of Ezekiah Day, who lives five or six miles west of this place, was also burned. Very little insurance, if any, was carried in either case. It is not known how the fires originated, but possibly from spring clearings.

It is learned upon good authority that a movement is on foot to build an electric railway from Mt. Holly, on the Piedmont & Northern and Seaboard Air Line railroads, to this place. The line will pass by Denver, Terrell and other points in east Catawba and Lincoln counties that now have no rail facilities, thence by Newton, Hickory and Lenoir and on to this place. The project is being promoted by citizens of Charlotte, Newton, Hickory, Lenoir and other places along the line and at this place, and the indications are there will be "something doing" soon towards this very important enterprise.

Dr. A. R. Kuddell, field secretary of a far-reaching missionary society of Philadelphia, will speak at a union service in Lenoir next Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. He is described as a "dear man of God" who leaves a "fin' spiritual impress wherever he goes." He will have a message. Hear him. He solicits not, but a free will offering will be made.

The Supreme Court recessed Monday to May 17 without handing down a decision on the constitutionality of the prohibition amendment or enforcement act. The court also refused to grant the government's request for a rehearing of the anti-trust suit against the United States Steel Corporation.

## ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS FRIDAY NIGHT

Prof. Robert N. Wilson of Trinity College will deliver the annual address at the closing exercises of the Lenoir graded school at the Presbyterian church Friday night. The class exercises will be held tonight in the school auditorium.

## DEATH OF KIRBY EXPECTED HOURLY

Early Green, Prominent Farmer, Shoots Neighbor Who Threatened His Home—Trouble Over a Boundary Line

Early Green, a prominent and substantial farmer, is being held in custody awaiting the outcome of pistol shot wounds inflicted by himself on William Kirby Friday night. The shooting took place at Green's home, two miles northeast of Lenoir. Following the shooting Green telephoned Sheriff Triplett and informed him of just what had happened, asking him to come out and take him into custody.

The shooting is said to have followed an attack on Green by Kirby with a knife. A swipe from Kirby's knife cut through the other man's clothes, the point of the knife touching the skin just enough to go through and making a scratch about one inch long. Following this attack on him, Green says that he ran into the house, entering the front door, where he secured his pistol.

Green says that Kirby's attack on him with the knife was unexpected. "Mr. Kirby came up while I was sitting on the porch," Green says, "and the first thing I knew he made the pass at me with the knife saying 'I am going to kill every one in Green on the place.' I ran into the house."

Green continued, "where I secured my pistol. Coming back out the back door I saw that Kirby was coming in. I told him not to go in the house and showed him the pistol. He started at me and I shot two times. I don't know where the balls hit him. He did not stop and I shot two more times. He staggered and then went out and sat down. I had only four balls in the pistol, so I could not have shot him but four times."

Following the shooting, Mr. Green said that he went immediately into the house and telephoned Sheriff Triplett, telling him of the trouble, and to Dr. C. L. Wilson, asking him to come out and do what he could for the injured man. "I then went down across the lot to my brother-in-law's and asked them to come up to my house and be with my wife and children."

"I did not want to shoot Mr. Kirby, and I hope and pray for him to get well. I believe and still believe that he would have carried out his threat and I shot in order to protect my home."

Yesterday Mr. Kirby was still alive, but it is not believed that he will be able to recover. Two of the bullets struck him in the head, one entering just over the right eye and the other just a little higher on the forehead. The other two bullets struck lower down, one entering the neck and the other just above the heart. One of the bullets also hit him in the little finger.

No preliminary hearing has been held yet, this awaiting the outcome of the injuries of the wounded man.

## CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

The House last Friday passed the bill for the retirement of superannuated civil service employees. The bill had already been passed by the Senate. The House retirement age is 65 years, after 15 years' service, while the Senate provided 70, after similar service. Annuities under the bill will run as high as \$720 annually, according to length of service and the salary being paid the employee at the time of retirement.

The estimated annual cost of the measure ranges from \$9,000,000 to \$15,000,000, but advocates of the measure claim the government will save in the long run by getting a more efficient class of employees. The bill carries a contributory feature under which the employee contributes annually 2 1/2 per cent of his salary toward the retirement fund, the government supplying the remainder required.

## GO OUT GUNNING FOR EACH OTHER

White Man and Negro Openly Carry Guns Following an Affray—Their Trial Scheduled to Come Up Saturday

Original western life was personified here Saturday when Blair Bryant, a white man, paraded the streets with a big pistol strapped about him, and Joe Duck Patterson, a negro, with a Winchester high-powered rifle thrown across his shoulder, marched up the street in double-quick time. According to evidence that came out at the mayor's court following an exciting meeting of these two armed belligerents they were looking for each other and expecting trouble.

They were up in the mayor's court for an affray that took place in Newland's store Saturday a week ago, but it seems that it failed to end there. Joe Duck accuses Bryant of shooting at him and putting one shot in his ear on the Monday evening following while he was on his way home. This happened near Harpertown. Following the shot, Joe Duck said that he hurried home and got his gun and came back to the point in the road where he was shot, but his assailant had gone.

Both of them are set on State warrants and the trial is set for Saturday before Squire J. A. Bush.

## SHOWS GREATEST GROWTH IN STATE

Granite Falls Increases Population 189 Per Cent Since Last Census; Town Election Held—Cop Is Riled—Other News

Granite Falls has shown the greatest increase in population of any town or city in North Carolina. The increase is 189 per cent over the 1910 census, or 189 per cent.

Ten years ago Granite Falls showed a population of 381. On the first of January, this year, the census figures showed a population of 1101. The majority of this increase was brought about through the building of the big cotton mill by the Falls Manufacturing Company. In all other lines, however, Granite Falls has shown a healthy growth. Every year since the 1910 census new buildings have gone up. There is not a vacant building in the town today, it is said.

Since 1910 another town almost as large as Granite Falls has been built by the Falls Manufacturing Company. This mill village adjoins the corporate limits of Granite Falls and is less than a mile from the depot. The Falls Manufacturing Company is building a concrete road from the depot to their mill. This road when completed will be a mile in length and will add considerably in bringing the two communities together.

The town election passed off quietly Monday, not much interest being shown. C. G. Moore was elected mayor; A. D. Abernethy, C. R. Russell, L. T. Sharp, D. A. Russell and W. L. Deal, comm.-sioners.

New individual water systems are being installed by Dr. A. D. Abernethy, D. C. Hickman, Dr. C. R. Russell, D. M. Chino, H. V. Boliek and others. What this town needs is a water system that will supply the entire town.

The Granite Falls Drug Company is installing a large refrigerator in the rear of the store.

The Granite Cordage Company will begin work soon on a new cordage plant, much larger than the present one.

Mrs. A. D. Abernethy has returned from visiting her sister in South Carolina.

Photographer Hardy of Lenoir missed a lot of work by not getting down here Saturday morning when the folks expected him.

The family of Mr. D. H. Warlick went over to Rutherfordton Friday to visit Mr. Warlick's brother, and returned Sunday.

Mr. John Crouther of Baltimore is the guest of Mrs. C. C. Babb.

The building and loan association of this place now has an office of its own over the postoffice.

Mrs. Boyd Kimball, who has been visiting her sister since Mrs. Martin's husband died, has returned to Charlotte.

Rev. Mr. Allen of the Methodist church, being absent assisting in a meeting at Albemarle, Rev. Mr. Reaves of the Dudley Shoals circuit occupied his pulpit Sunday night.

The graded school here closes Friday with the graduating exercises at 10 o'clock, after which will come the literary address by Gov. Will Newland of Lenoir. At night a play, "The Hoodoo," will be presented by the older pupils. It is going to be good.

Some one might tell us that it is none of our business, but there are several places in town that might possibly be improved by being cleaned up. And it has been suggested that for the sake of health and sanitation a clean-up day be talked up.

Mrs. Avarie Martin has returned to Boiling Springs to resume her school work.

Miss Lizzie Koverer has finished her school and has returned home.

Our little item in last week's News-Topic (Continued on page four)

PRICES SHOWED UPWARD TENDENCY DURING APRIL

Federal Reserve agents throughout the country report that during April there was a marked tendency of prices to resume their upward movement. But the Federal Reserve Board noted the hopeful sign, from the consumer's viewpoint, of "anxiety concerning the overstrained situation resulting from excessively high prices and wages," which it believed forecast a slowing down in the skyrocketing of prices.

While high prices of necessities were obviously chargeable to inefficiency and under-production to a large degree, the board advanced the belief that the already high cost of production was aggravated by the added expense of obtaining capital. The result has been that during April conditions were not as favorable to a drop in prices as they were in February and March, according to the summary.

"While the agricultural outlook is distinctly less satisfactory than it was a month ago," the summary said, "and while the month of April has been a period of serious labor disturbances, especially in the transportation field, the activity of business has continued high, demand for products strong and with prices tending upward rather than downward. Industries are not, as a whole, booked as far ahead, relatively speaking, as in the past, although in some lines the volume of unfilled orders is very large."

There are in the world about 3,000,000 lepers, two-thirds of them being Chinese.