

**ASHE COUNTY**  
is the air-conditioned section of North Carolina whose altitude ranges from 3,000 to 5,500 feet above sea level. Twenty-five miles of the PARKWAY run through the county.

# The Skyland Post

**JOIN STORAGE CO-OP**  
All farmers are urged to join the Blue Ridge Cold Storage Marketing Co-operative. Complete information is available at the farm agent's office, Join at once!

VOLUME 9 NO. 43 \$1.50 a Year Out of County WEST JEFFERSON, N. C. THURSDAY, NOV. 2, 1939 \$1.00 a Year in Ashe County PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

## Plans To Get REA Cold Storage Plant Nearing Completion

### Church Is Found "Not Guilty" In Ashe Superior Court Tues.

Sensational Trial Required 5 Days To Complete. Attracted Big Crowds.

FOUND "NOT GUILTY"



Clifford Church, Warrensville filling station operator, was found not guilty of murder in connection with the fatal shooting of his wife last July, in the Ashe superior court Tuesday afternoon.

After deliberating less than two hours, the jury rendered its verdict of not guilty at two o'clock, thus ending one of the most sensational trials in the history of this county.

For the first time in many years, an extra two-day session was required to complete this trial that turned out to be an outstanding legal battle.

In his charge, Judge Felix Alley told the jurymen that they could find Church guilty of first degree murder, second degree murder or not guilty.

No one could assuredly predict what the verdict would be and it was a tense moment when Austin Houck, acting as foreman for the jury, announced "not guilty".

Church, it seemed, was perhaps the only man in the courtroom who was sure of that verdict and he rushed over and thanked all of the jurymen, the judge, his attorneys and even Solicitor McMichael who waged a great fight to convict him.

Throughout the entire trial Church sat back of his formidable array of attorneys, looked towards the jury box and displayed no emotion whatever.

The presentation of evidence was completed Saturday at noon and that afternoon, Attorneys Ira T. Johnston and Ed Gingham presented their arguments to the jury. All day Tuesday was consumed by speeches to the jury and Tuesday morning Judge Alley delivered his charge.

Testifying for the State, which sought to get a first degree conviction, were Sheriff Ed Miller, John Burkett, Roy Ashley, Price Blevins, S. A. Dotson, Ray Miller, a brother of Mrs. Church; Iva Jean Rimer, 12-year-old daughter of Mrs. Church's; Mrs. Cenie Jones and others.

Sheriff Miller testified that on the night of July 23, Mrs. Church's body was found lying across a bed in the Church home at Warrensville with a bullet hole through the right eye and her head in a pool of blood.

He said Church was intoxicated and was crying, saying that his wife had committed suicide. He said there was no gun near the body or in the room and that Church refused to tell where the gun was. He stated that Church was placed under arrest and that he tried to escape, but was caught on the bridge and brought to jail.

En route to jail Church fought and cursed the officers and the Sheriff quoted him as saying that he would not get over 25 years. The next day a pistol was found under an adjoining house and one bullet had been fired, he said.

Dotson, of Galax, a fingerprint expert, testified that he found 7 prints on the pistol and that all

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HAS MANY FRIENDS



Scores of friends of Dr. B. W. Tugman, shown above, made appeal to Judge Alley for leniency. Trial was concluded last week and suspended sentence passed Saturday.

### 2-Year Suspended Sentence Is Given Dr. B. W. Tugman

Appeal From Many Friends Causes Judge to be Lenient. Eldreth Tried.

After approximately five hours of deliberation, a jury rendered a verdict in the Ashe superior court last Friday, finding Dr. B. W. Tugman, well known West Jefferson physician, guilty of an attempt to perform an illegal operation on Jessie Bledsoe, of Waggoner community.

Saturday afternoon Judge Felix Alley over-ruled a motion to set the verdict aside on the grounds that there was no evidence to support it and made a lengthy talk explaining his position in the case.

He said he was going to be lenient because of appeals from a large number of friends of Dr. Tugman's. "Dozens of men have come and talked to me about this case and to make a long story short, it looks as though everybody is for him," he declared.

"I couldn't sleep well last night for worrying about it... Here is a man who has one great weakness and I don't know whether he can conquer it or not, but I hope so. I am a judge who believes that the highest thing of the law is to save men and not to destroy them."

He then described the parable of the Good Samaritan and later read one of Edgar Guest's poems about being a good neighbor, which brought tears to the eyes of many spectators and two lawyers in the courtroom.

"I propose to take care of the public on one hand and the defendant on the other," he asserted. The judgment was as follows:

That Dr. Tugman pay the cost of court and be placed under a suspended sentence of two years. The sentence specifically prohibits him from receiving fees or rewards from the practice of medicine and from using intoxicants for a period of two years.

**Eldreth Gets Off Light**  
Roscoe Eldreth, who submitted

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### Phipps Is Elected Chairman Of Ashe AAA Committee

Succeeds R. W. Hardin, J. C. Little Chosen Vice Chairman. Gambill, Member.

RICH RE-ELECTED

The Ashe county soil conservation committee for 1940 was elected at a meeting of the delegates from the six farm communities in the county, held in the courthouse Monday morning.

J. R. Phipps, well known Silas Creek farmer who has served on the county committee for two or three terms and who was vice chairman last year, was selected as chairman, to succeed R. W. Hardin, of West Jefferson.

The other members of the committee are J. C. Little, of Clifton, vice chairman and J. W. Gambill, of West Jefferson, member. J. C. Goodman was elected first alternate and H. H. Burgess of Obids, second alternate.

The new county committee then met and re-elected County Agent C. J. Rich secretary and Mrs. Mary Grant, treasurer.

All of the delegates and new committee members highly praised the work of Mr. Hardin and expressed deep regret that he has been suffering with heart trouble.

The committee will meet in the near future and map out a complete program for 1940.

In the election of Mr. Phipps, it was pointed out that C. G. Denney will automatically become chairman of the Jefferson community committee to take Mr. Phipps' place and W. O. Ashley will become vice chairman of the Creston community committee.

### Eye Clinic Was A Big Success

Around 60 Patients Were Examined Here Monday And Tuesday.

Many children of Ashe county were given an opportunity for better eyesight, in the free clinic held here Monday and Tuesday under the sponsorship of the Jeffersons Rotary Club and the welfare department, in cooperation with the State Commission for the blind.

During the two-day clinic about 60 were examined free of charge, and were given prescriptions for glasses where they were needed. Orders for the glasses were taken by J. L. Jackson, representative of the American Optical company of Bristol. Arrangements have been made by the welfare department for these glasses to be purchased at a very low cost, which must be paid when the glasses arrive here. Notices will be mailed out as soon as the glasses arrive and those who are to receive them are asked to have the necessary funds on hand.

Dr. Milo H. Fritz of the Duke University hospital, was in charge of the clinic here. He was assisted by Miss A. Ruth Penney, social worker of the State Commission for the blind, members of the county health and welfare office.

The clinic which was the first of its kind to be conducted in the county, was held in the basement of the West Jefferson Methodist church. Rotarian Gwyn B. Price furnished milk for all the patients while the Woman's Club served fruit and sandwiches for the lunch.

Miss Ruth Tugman, superintendent of the county welfare department said that she was gratified with the response as well as the splendid co-operation of individuals and organizations in making the clinic a success.

### TO MAKE PLANS FOR BURLEY TOBACCO VOTE

Farm agents and their assistants and committee members in this section will attend a district meeting in Asheville next Monday to map out final plans for conducting a burley tobacco referendum on November 21, as is announced.

C. J. Rich, H. D. Quessenberry and G. B. Price and probably J. R. Phipps will attend from this county

### Celebrate Mrs. Joines' 91st Birthday



Shown above are a group of relatives and friends of Mrs. Nancy Joines, who recently celebrated her 91st birthday. Mrs. Joines is sitting on the bumper of the car. Standing to the right is her oldest son, Rufus Joines. The man to the left, wearing a dark suit and hat is Walter Joines, son of Rufus Joines. Mrs. Orie Greer, a great grand daughter, is also shown in the picture. Mrs. Joines has 7 children, 26 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She was born and reared in Alleghany.

### Farm Co-Op Being Organized Rapidly; Application Made

Will Also Be Marketing Center for Produce, Fruits, Poultry and Meats.

MANY HAVE JOINED

Plans for the establishment of a Blue Ridge Cold Storage Co-operative plant and marketing center, to be located at West Jefferson and constructed through the co-operation of the Rural Electrification Administration, are now nearing completion, it was announced yesterday.

Last night Gwyn Price, a director of the Caldwell Mutual Corporation; Max Wilson, attorney of REA co-op and Senator W. B. Austin left for Washington where they have an appointment with REA officials this morning at 9:30 o'clock to perfect preliminary application plans, which have already been pending.

Congressman R. L. Doughton, who is a member of the proposed cold storage farm co-op and who is keenly interested in its establishment, made the appointment and will assist in securing approval of the application for a large loan and the allocation of the money.

G. F. Messick, superintendent of the Caldwell Mutual Corporation, states that this is the first application in North Carolina that has been made to REA for such a plant and that he believes it will be approved.

"The value of an institution of this kind to Ashe and surrounding territory is unlimited and it will also increase the income of the Caldwell Mutual as well as the farmers," he declared.

It is reported that over 200 farmers and business men in Ashe and Alleghany counties have already made application for membership in the proposed Blue Ridge Cold Storage Co-operative and that every effort will be made to secure at least 100 more farmers.

The big project is being sponsored by the Jeffersons Rotary Club and the Ashe county farm agent's office, through the co-operation of the Caldwell Mutual Corporation, and a large number of Rotarians, farmers and school principals are assisting in securing memberships or stock subscriptions.

For the past several months, Gwyn Price and other farm leaders and members of the Rotary Club have been discussing the vast possibilities of a cold storage plant and marketing center in this county and have been studying the REA plan of assistance, but organization activities have only been underway a short time. The success made thus far is phenomenal, Mr. Price said.

At a meeting of the Rotary club last Thursday night, Mr. Price, chairman of the cold storage committee, made a report and outlined detail plans for organization.

Congressman Doughton was present and made a splendid talk in which he said this proposed project offered farmers a wonderful opportunity to increase their income through co-operating together in the marketing of their products and in the holding of those products, including vegetables, poultry, meats, fruits and seeds, with a cold storage plant.

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### Many Ashe Teachers Planning To Attend District Meeting

Meet In High Point Tomorrow. Several Schools May Be Closed In County.

A large number of Ashe county teachers and principals are expected to attend the 17th annual convention of the Northwest District Teachers' Association which will be held in High Point tomorrow and a good many schools will be closed for the day, Supt. J. B. Hash stated yesterday.

Every teacher in the county is privileged to attend the annual convention and to close school on Friday in event of such attendance, he said. Those who do not go are expected to teach as usual.

A delegation from each central high school has been urged to attend and it is believed that Ashe will be well represented.

A full day's program has been arranged, starting at 10 o'clock in the morning. The presidents of the county units will hold a banquet in the Sheraton Hotel tonight and Prof. R. E. L. Plummer, Ashe president, is planning to be present on this occasion.

T. E. Story, former principal of the Wilkesboro school, is president of the association and will preside. Several outstanding educational leaders will deliver addresses, including Dr. Elbert Fretwell, of Columbia University, Dr. Julian Miller, editor of The Charlotte Observer, will also speak.

The senior high school building in High Point will be headquarters for the convention, but group meetings will be held in several other schools in High Point.

In this district are 15 counties, including Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga and Wilkes counties.

### Will Start Bang's Disease Eradication Program In Ashe

A bang's disease eradication campaign will be launched in Ashe county tomorrow.

Dr. C. W. Wilder, veterinarian of the United States Bureau of Animal Husbandry, arrived yesterday and will start testing cattle for bang's disease.

Last spring the county commissioners passed a resolution, agreeing to furnish a helper for this testing work.

During the last session of legislature, an act was passed "to assist in the control and eradication of bang's disease" and the commissioners agreed to comply with it, and thereby to receive the co-operation of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

According to the law, all female cattle, six months old or over and bulls of any age, must be tested. Dr. Wilder stated that he will notify farmers a few days before he is to visit their farms for testing and requests that they cooperate by having their cattle assembled or confined in a barn so that there will not be any extensive delay in making progress with the work.



### FIRST TOUCH OF WINTER IS FELT

Winter's first icy blast was felt here on Saturday when the thermometer took a sudden drop and a typical West Jefferson wind arose. Sunday remained unusually cold for this time of the year and on Monday the thermometer dropped below freezing.

Snow was reported on Whitetop for the first time this year and the trees on Negro mountain were covered in an icy mist. Tuesday also remained cold, but yesterday old man Winter took a breather and the temperature arose slightly.

Service stations reported a rushing business, getting cars ready for winter, while local merchants noted an increase in the sale of blankets, heavy winter clothing, stoves. Coal dealers have been busy making deliveries for the past few days.

### Roosevelt Severely Criticized By Premier Molotoff Of Russia

MOSCOW.—Premier Molotoff Tuesday chided President Roosevelt for lending Finland the "moral support" of the United States, in effect warned the Finns to come to terms, and notified the world that Russia is drawing closer to Germany and Japan, once partners in the anti-comintern pact.

In an exhaustive report on Russia's new foreign policy, the premier and foreign commissar told more than 1,100 deputies attending the extraordinary joint session of the soviet council that the United States' move to repeal its arms embargo would "intensify, aggravate and protract" the European war.

Salient points in Molotoff's 85-minute speech were:  
1. Struck at President Roosevelt for "intervening" in Russia's negotiations with Finland "in contradiction of the United States' policy of neutrality."  
2. Declared Russia was unable to understand Finland's refusal of a mutual assistance pact similar to those which made the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania virtual protectorates.  
3. Denounced Great Britain and France for carrying on the war with Germany for the purpose, he said, of safeguarding their colonial possessions.  
4. Said "there can be no question of restoring Poland" and that it was "absurd to continue the

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