

O'Dear, Messer To Stand Trial For Murder of Halls

WCTC Is Host To British Embassy Sec'y Tuesday; Speaks To Large Crowd

Noted Speaker Gives Picture Of Conditions Facing Empire, World

The need for greater and more timely cooperation between the United States and Great Britain was the main theme of an address by the Honorable Frank Darvall, First Secretary of the British Embassy, in Hoey Auditorium, Western Carolina Teachers college Tuesday morning, April 29. He said that if America and Britain had made their positions clearer to Germany before World Wars I and II both of those conflicts might have been avoided.

"Germany misunderstood our love for peace," he declared. "Because she knew we wanted peace, and would pay a high price for it, she assumed that there was no limit to the price we would pay."

D. Hiden Ramsey, president of the board of trustees of Western Carolina Teachers college and general manager of the Asheville Citizen-Times, was presented by Dr. H. T. Hunter, president of the college, and in turn introduced Mr. Darvall. In speech of welcome Mr. Ramsey called attention to the friendship of the American people, especially in the South and particularly in Western North Carolina, for Britain. He emphasized the Anglo-Saxon population, beliefs, and customs of this section.

Explaining to an audience of somewhat over a thousand persons the current and probable future status of the British Empire, Mr. Darvall said that if the world survives the present period Britain will also survive. If relatively free trade and a fairly well stabilized currency prevail in the world, Britain will be able to pay her way, but otherwise she will not, because she can produce only half her own food, has only one basic raw material, coal, and must depend upon sale of her manufactured products for a living.

The high spot in Mr. Darvall's talk, so far as the audience was concerned, was a reference to an editorial in the Washington Times-Herald commenting on a statement made by Senator Walter George of Georgia to the effect that the British Empire was dying, and that Britain should become the 49th state in our union. The Times-Herald, said Mr. Darvall, was speculating on the possibilities of King George, by then probably just "Mr. George Windsor," and Mr. Churchill as Republican Senators from England. Said Mr. Darvall, "How did the paper figure that King George and Mr. Churchill would be Republicans?"

Mr. Darvall stated that the war had left the world in a poor condition and drew a word-picture of the present economic situation in Britain and in Europe. England now has, he said, more severe rationing of food, clothing, and fuel than during the war.

The world has been going backward for a number of years, Mr. Darvall said, and is now in a state of anarchy. He compared the lawless state of the world to our own West of a hundred years ago, where there was no law and order, and people "shot out their differences." We need a system of world organization, he said, based on justice and democracy. "Mr. Bevin, our Foreign Secretary, said in a speech," said Mr. Darvall, "I would like for any Englishman to be able to go to Victoria Station and buy a ticket to anywhere in the world and back, without the bother of passports and visas and without fear. I would like for all Englishmen to be able to go to bed at night without fearing that an atom bomb would come through the roof, or that an agent of the secret service would come through the door."

The program opened with "The March of the Peers," played by the college orchestra, and was followed by "God Save the King," also played by the orchestra and sang

HUGH MONTEITH IS HEAD OF C. OF C. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Drive This Year To Cover Fees For Two Organizations

At this time of year the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce makes its annual drive for funds to carry on the work of the chamber during the year.

You probably already know that this year the Merchants Association and Chamber of Commerce have been combined and that no funds will be solicited by the Merchants Association. Such funds as the Merchants Association will need will be allocated from the Chamber to the Merchants Association Committee of the Chamber, to be used by that committee. If you have previously been a member of the Merchants Association, membership in the Chamber of Commerce will entitle you to membership in the Merchants Association and you will be given a membership card for both organizations.

We are sure you realize the importance of an active Chamber of Commerce in Jackson County. We believe you also realize that in order to operate an active chamber it will take a considerable amount of money. We have prepared our budget for 1947 and if we can collect enough money to meet this budget we believe we will be able to do some worthwhile things for our county.

We have made a complete list of all persons or firms who ought to be members of the Chamber and we are taking the liberty to suggest to each of these the amount we feel they ought to contribute.

Why don't you, right now, just sit down and send us a check and we will send your membership card right out to you. If you will do this it will save us the time of calling on you and it will save you the time of being bothered with us. Thank you.

Yours for a more progressive Jackson County.

Board of Directors of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
By: H. E. Monteith, Membership Chairman

TOWN ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY

Election of city officials for the Town of Sylva will be held Tuesday, May 6. Mr. Grayson Cope, registrar has announced that the polls will be open at 6:30 a. m. and remain open until 6:30 p. m. Voting will be at the city hall.

There is only one ticket to be voted on at this time, which includes the nominees of the April 19 primary. They are: for mayor, Jack C. Allison; for aldermen, Joseph F. Wilson, Edward H. Baldrige, Raymond R. Nicholson, Jr., Lloyd Cowan, and Dr. Harold McGuire.

by the audience. It closed with the playing and singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." The college chorus, standing immediately in front of the stage, sang "Onward Ye Peoples" in addition to the other two vocals.

Mr. John F. A. Cecil, of Biltmore House, Asheville, of whom Mr. Darvall was a guest while in Asheville, was present for the address. In addition to Mr. Ramsey, five other members of the board of trustees for the school were there. They were: Mr. H. Bueck, superintendent of schools, Murphy; Mr. Morgan Cooper, principal of Forest City schools; Mr. R. S. Jones, attorney-at-law, Franklin; Mr. E. B. Whitaker, attorney-at-law, Bryson City; and Mr. Harry E. Buchanan, Hendersonville.

Officers Who Solved Hall Murder Case



Pictured above are ten of the twelve officers who worked day and night the first of last week until they broke the Jack and Margie Hall murder case. They are left to right: Chief of Police Don Davis, of Sylva; Sheriff Griffin Middleton and Patrolman Charles Lindsay, of Jackson county; Patrolman Pritchard Smith of Macon county; H. W. Zimmerman, SBI agent of Asheville; Sergeant T. A. Sandlin, of Bryson City; City policeman of Sylva, James Mason; Deputy Sheriff Thad Cowan of Jackson county; Patrolman Ed Guy of Waynesville; and Deputy Sheriff Frank Allen of Jackson county. (Photo by Donnahoe)

W.N.C. PRESS GROUP WILL TOUR MOUNTAIN AREA NEXT MONTH

At the regular monthly meeting of the Western North Carolina Press Association held at S & W Cafeteria in Asheville, Saturday night, plans were made for the group to make a two-day bus trip of the mountain area. Plans are to charter a 37 passenger Trailways bus and have it leave Asheville Saturday morning, May 25, at 10:30; then go to Waynesville, Soco Gap, Cherokee, Newfound Gap, Clingman's Dome, and back to Bryson City for the night. On Sunday the group will leave for a tour through Nantahala National Forest area, going back to Asheville by Brevard.

The press group is staging this tour in order to get better acquainted with the entire section.

Those attending the meeting from Jackson county were Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gray of The Herald.

WILDLIFE CLUB TO SHOW PICTURE ON NORTH CAROLINA

The Jackson County Wildlife club will hold its regular May meeting Thursday night the 8th at 8 o'clock in the auditorium of the Savannah school. L. G. McLean, Education Supervisor of the Division of Game and Inland Fisheries, will make a talk and show a film in color on the game and other resources of North Carolina.

The public is cordially invited to see this splendid picture and to hear Mr. McLean.

Sylva High School Band To Appear In Parade May 9, 2 P. M.

The Sylva High School Band will make its first public appearance in parade Friday, May 9, at 2 o'clock p. m. The parade will follow main street to Hooper Motor Company and return to the school house. It will stop in front of Massie Furniture store on Main street for a short concert. The band is under the direction of Mr. Sammy Beck of Western Carolina Teachers college.

District Superintendent Will Preach Sunday

On next Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock service the district superintendent, Rev. Walter B. West, will fill the pulpit at the Sylva Methodist church. This is the time for the second quarterly conference, which will be held following the preaching service, with Rev. West presiding.

POINTING TO SPOT HAMMERS WERE THROWN



Earl O'Dear and Robert Messer are shown as they stand on the bank of Scotts Creek, handcuffed together, pointing to the place in the creek where they threw the hammers which they claim they used to beat Jack Hall and his wife to death. The officers are Chief Don Davis, Sheriff Griffin Middleton, Sgt. T. A. Sandlin, and Patrolman Ed Guy. (Photo by Donnahoe)

Traffic Signal Light On Main

Realizing the need of traffic lights for Main street the town officials placed an order sometime ago for four of these lights. One light has finally arrived and was installed Wednesday at the Sylva Supply Co. crossing. The others, when they arrive, are to be installed at the intersection of Mill and Main streets at the Gulf Station at the east end and at Lewis' Service station on the west and on Mill at the depot.

Southern Baptist Convention To Meet In St. Louis, Missouri

The Southern Baptist Convention will meet in St. Louis May 7-12. Dr. Louie D. Newton, pastor of the Druid Hills Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., is president of the Convention. It is expected that between eight and ten thousand messengers will attend the Convention. Those to attend from the Tuckaseegee Association are: Rev. B. S. Hensley, Rev. Mark Osborne, Rev. W. N. Cook, and Rev. C. M. Warren.

Chapter To Confer Degree On Members

Glenville Chapter Order of Eastern Star No. 222 will hold a special meeting on Saturday evening at eight o'clock for conferring the degrees of the order on Mrs. Emma Lou Burrell of Tuckaseegee, Mr. George Penland and Mr. Robert McConnell of Highlands.

City Starts Work Repaving Mill St.

The town of Sylva has let the contract for repaving and repaving the sidewalk of Mill street to William B. Dillard, local contractor. Mr. Dillard has a crew of men breaking up the old pavement and placing crushed stone for the new pavement. The work extends from the back of the Cole building to the intersection of Mill and Main and a small section of the South side of Main at Buchanan Auto and Electric Co.

Rev. Warren Attends Funeral In South Car.

Rev. Mr. C. M. Warren was called to Ehrhardt, S. C. last Friday on account of the death of his step-mother, Mrs. Beckie Warren. Mrs. Warren passed away Friday, April 25, at 12:30 p. m. She had been in failing health for the past year, although her death was unexpected at this time. She is survived by four step-daughters and three step-sons.

Honorary Supper To Be Given By WOW

The Sylva Camp No. 560 Woodmen of the World will give an honorary supper Monday evening at 7 o'clock in the WOW hall for Woodmen, their wives and members of their families. Any Wood-

Both Men Make Separate And Joint Statements Admitting Killing Jack Hall and Wife

ADVICE ON SELLING G. I. LOAN PROPERTY GIVEN VETERANS

Should Secure Cash Or Have Purchaser Make Mortgage In Own Name

Ex-servicemen and women who have used G. I. loans to buy homes were advised by the Veterans Administration today not to sell their property without making certain that their interests are protected.

A veteran may be inviting trouble, said Charles H. Ball, loan guarantee officer for VA's North Carolina region, if he consents to any sale of his property whereby the purchaser merely takes over the existing loan. In such case, Mr. Ball pointed out, the veteran remains personally responsible for payment of the loan.

The VA official asserted that a veteran is surrendering a valuable privilege if he disposes of a home he has bought with a G. I. loan merely because of some small profit he may make.

Whenever an ex-serviceman sells a home financed by a G. I. loan, said Mr. Ball, he should demand that the purchaser either pay cash or arrange a loan in his own name. Then the veteran should see that his own note is marked paid and that the lien on his property is marked satisfactory on court records.

If an ex-serviceman consents to a sale in which the purchaser merely assumes the existing indebtedness, the veteran later may have to pay any part of the debt defaulted by the new owner. If the new owner fails to keep up his payments, the lending institution can foreclose and may force a trustee's sale where the property could be sold at less than the amount of the debt remaining. When proceeds from the sale do not cover the amount of the loan outstanding, the difference remains a debt against the veteran. The U. S. Government will pay the lending agency for any portion of this debt which is guaranteed, and the veteran will then owe the Government. If part of the remaining debt is not guaranteed, the veteran will continue to owe this to the lending institution.

Response Is Good To Letter Sent Out By Chamber Of Commerce

The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce wish to thank all those who have already responded to the letter sent out last week and have mailed in their membership for the year.

It is hoped that all others will send in their membership at once in order that the membership drive can be completed at an early date. We have just had printed our tourist accommodations list, but if there are others who wish to list rooms for tourists with the Chamber of Commerce, please call at the office or phone 81 and we will be glad to add your name to the list.

SYLVA HIGH HONOR STUDENTS NAMED

Miss Mary Bess Henry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Henry of Sylva and Bryson City, with an average grade of 94.07 for her high school work, has been named valedictorian of the senior class of Sylva high school, class of 1947.

Second honors go to Miss Pearl Ashe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Ashe, of Sylva, who has an average of 91.69. She will represent the class as salutatorian.

men living in the vicinity not members of this Camp are given a special invitation. Plenty of entertainment and fun will be provided. Come and enjoy the evening.

Robbery Was Motive For Brutal Slaying; Only Small Amount Of Money Found

With the final chapter about to be written in the brutal hammer slaying of Jack Hall, 39, and his 20 year-old wife, Margie Maples Hall, in so far as solving the case and putting the confessed slayers behind the bars is concerned, we still find that the double murder is the main topic of conversation in groups about the streets. Before the confessed slayers, Earl O'Dear and Robert Messer, admitted their guilt every one wondered who was inhuman enough to commit such a brutal crime, how it was done, and for what reason. Now that this has come to light the interest is on how the officers were able to solve the case so quickly.

The following statement from Sheriff Griffin Middleton will throw some light on this part of the story, although he could not give the story word for word:

"On Monday morning, April 21, I was called to a point on the Old Dillsboro-Sylva road where I found the dead body of Jack Hall lying on the floor of his taxi and the battered body of his wife, still alive but unconscious, lying across the front seat. After Mrs. Hall had been removed to the hospital and Jack Hall's body to the funeral home, with the assistance of the other officers of the city and county, I started an immediate investigation. All we found at the scene of the crime was Hall's glasses and a flashlight. There were no visible tracks nor sign of a car having been driven away.

People of Community Checked

"We checked all the people living in that community and found that Earl O'Dear and Robert Messer had left for Knoxville sometime that night. We also checked many other clues during that day. About 6 o'clock that evening we went back to Lonnie O'Dear's home and found that the boys still had not returned. Mrs. O'Dear told me that as soon as they did come in she would send them to see me. At that time we came back to Sylva and were making preparations to go to Newfound Gap to check the boys if they did come through.

Report to Officers

"At about this time O'Dear and Messer came to the police station, which was around 8:30 Monday night. Each suspect was questioned separately, telling identical stories. They told us that they left Sylva around 9 to 9:30 Sunday night for Knoxville over the Smokies, that they arrived in Knoxville about 2 to 2:30 a. m. Monday morning and, after talking for a while in their car, went to a hotel, got a room for which they each paid \$1 which was around 4 a. m. They said that they got up around 10 a. m., ate breakfast and checked several car lots trying to buy a car. They said they left Knoxville, came on to Sevierville, ate supper, shot some pool, and at a shoe shop Earl had new heel taps put on his shoes, and then came on to their homes. After this questioning they were released.

"We went right ahead with the investigation on several other clues from Sylva to Atlanta and Knoxville, yet at the same time we were still checking on these boys.

Seen Together Before Crime

"Policemen Jim Mason and George Evans had seen O'Dear and Messer Sunday night between 8 and 9 o'clock walking on this road near the scene of the murder. Later in the night they saw the men on the back street of Sylva. About 10 p. m. Sunday night O'Dear and Messer were seen crossing the bridge near Sylva high school, going down the old Dillsboro-Sylva road. On Wednesday morning I had information that Earl O'Dear had been carrying a large machine hammer in his car.

Sheriff Gets Clothes Highway Patrolman Charles

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