

O'Dear And Messer To Die For Murder Of Halls

Editors Of Western Carolina Papers Tour Section To Secure First Hand Scenic Information

Plans Discussed For Tour By National Editors Next May

A group composed of more than 20 members of the Western North Carolina Press Association toured this section of the state Saturday and Sunday, traveling by chartered Trailways bus, getting first-hand information of the scenic spots of this area.

The principal purpose of the tour was to make a survey for a tour to be made by the National Editorial Association in May of next year, when more than 600 editors and publishers from all 48 states will hold their annual meeting in North Carolina.

The group traveling in the special bus, was headed by Herbert Peele, of Elizabeth City and president of the N. C. Press, and Miss Deatrice Cobb, secretary of the state association.

The party had lunch in Waynesville, and went to Cherokee via Soco Gap, then to Newfound Gap and Clingman's Dome, and back to Bryson City for dinner and overnight stop at Fryemont Inn.

Sunday morning the party left for Franklin, stopping several times enroute up the Little Tennessee river to view some of the scenic spots. They attended church in a body at Franklin, and later were the guests of the Chamber of Commerce for dinner at Kelly's Tea Room.

From Franklin the group went to Highlands, stopping at Dry Falls, and several lookout places along the way. Leaving Highlands, other stops were made to view the scenery in the Sapphire country, then to Brevard where a brief stop was made for refreshments. After the stop at Brevard, the bus headed for Asheville and the last lap of the journey where the group broke up to take their cars for their homes.

A brief meeting was held in Bryson City where plans were discussed for the coming association next May, but the meeting was cut short in order that the group could visit with a number of Bryson City citizens, who had come in to welcome the party.

Those representing The Herald on the trip were Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gray.

Mrs. Frank Jarrett Shows Improvement

Friends of Mrs. Frank Jarrett, of Hillsboro, will be pleased to know that her condition is reported to be showing much improvement following a very serious illness of the past several months.

Mrs. E. E. Brown and Mrs. J. H. Wilson have returned from Chesnee, S. C. where they went Monday to attend the funeral of their aunt, Mrs. Ray Hollifield.

Miss Poteet Represented Sylva Club in Pageant at Lions Meet

Thelma Poteet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Poteet, was dressed in the costume of El Salvador as she represented the Sylva Lions Club at the 25th State Convention colorful Flag of Nations pageant, Sunday evening in the Asheville City Auditorium.

Girls from all towns in Western North Carolina in which there are Lions Clubs took part in the pageant, which featured the opening night celebration of the North Carolina "Silver Jubilee."

Attending the convention from the Sylva club were: George Lee, Joe Deitz, Dick Green, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Poteet; Mr. Poteet is president of the Sylva Club, Miss Thelma Poteet, Mr. and Mrs. Jennings A. Bryson, Hugh Monteith, Claude Campbell, Tom Clayton, Grayson Cope, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Reed, Edwin Allison, Boyd Sossamon, Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Hardy, Ray Cogdill and Phil Stovall.

The Sylva Club was presented with a silver trophy for the best club bulletin published in District 31-A. The club was also presented with a plaque which it won at the 1944-45 convention for third place as an all round club. The material for the plaque was not available that year due to war conditions and this is the reason for delay in its presentation.

W. T. ASHE ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF SYLVA LIONS CLUB

Ladies Night And Officer Installation Will Be On Wednesday Nite, June 18

At the regular Wednesday evening meeting of the Sylva Lions Club on May 21, new officers were elected for the coming year, 1947-48 as follows: T. Walter Ashe, president; Roy Reed, 1st. vice president; Woody Hampton, 2nd vice president; Claude Campbell, 3rd vice president; Tommy Clayton, secretary-treasurer; Howard Ball, assistant secretary, Joe Popplewell, assistant treasurer. W. T. "Bud" Brown, tail-twister; John Corbin, assistant tail-twister; Boyd Sossamon, lion tamer; Rudy Hardy, assistant lion tamer.

Directors: W. T. Wise, Dick Green, Edwin Allison, Joe Deitz. The club will hold Ladies Night on Wednesday evening, June 18, at which time the new officers will be installed by the new district governor, Herbert H. Saunders, of District 31-A from Black Mountain.

Roscoe Poteet is the retiring president of the club.

Sylva Bus Station Attains Highest Rating In State

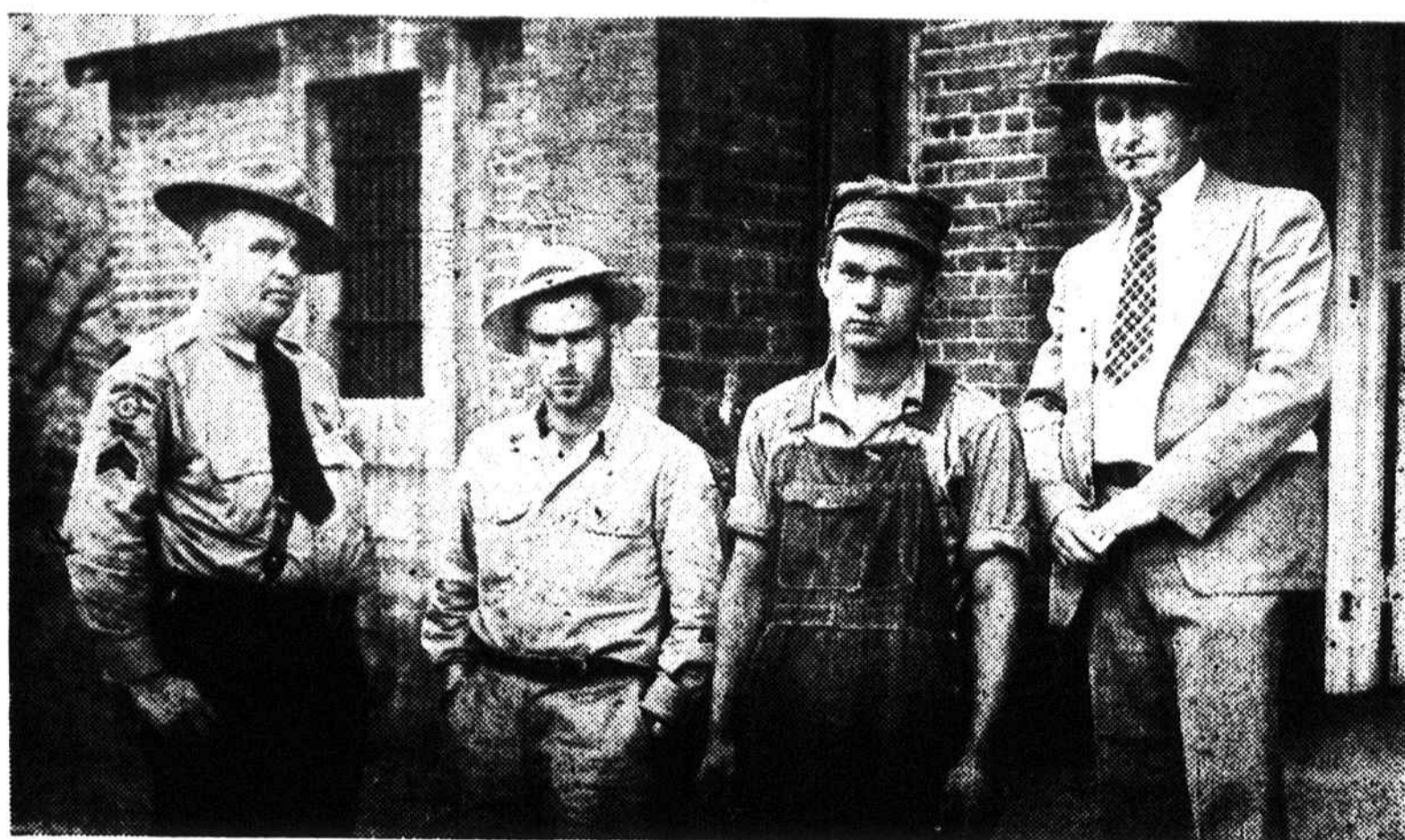
The Sylva Trailways' bus station, under the management of Roger Monteith has been given the highest rating of any bus station in the state, according to J. C. Bowman, state inspector for the Inter-State Utilities commission, of Raleigh, who makes the inspections at the Sylva and other stations every two weeks. Of the last seven inspections, five were 1000 or perfect, two were 970.

Mrs. E. L. McKee Will Deliver Anniversary Message At Peace

Mrs. E. L. McKee, civic leader and former State Senator from this district, will deliver a special anniversary message to members of the 75th graduating class of Peace College at commencement exercises to be held Tuesday night, June 3, it has been announced by heads of the college. Mrs. Helen Gahagan Douglas, congresswoman from California, will deliver the principal address.

The commencement program at the Presbyterian college will open May 31, and a highlight of the series will be the presentation of a pageant based on the history of the college from its founding in 1872 to the present time. More than 300 persons will take part in the pageant Monday night, June 2.

MUST DIE IN GAS CHAMBER FOR HAMMER SLAYING



Standing right to left between Sergeant T. A. Sandlin of the State Highway patrol and Sheriff Griffin Middleton are Earl O'Dear and Robert Messer, who were convicted of first degree murder by a Macon county jury in Jackson Superior Court last Friday night following their trial for the hammer slaying of Jack Hall, local taxi operator, and his wife, Margie Maples Hall. The pair was sentenced to die in the State's Gas Chamber at Raleigh on Friday, July 11, between 10 a. m. and 4 p. m.

Judge Bobbitt's Sentence of O'Dear, Messer Has Sobering Effect on People

MASSIE ANNOUNCES SUNDAY SHOWS TO BE STARTED JUNE 15TH

Following an action of the town board last week in which it amended a former ordinance regarding Sunday motion pictures in Sylva, J. E. Massie, of Waynesville, owner of the Ritz Theatre, has announced that beginning with Sunday, June 15th he will present Sunday performances. Mr. Massie stated, "all programs will be of the highest type of clean, wholesome family entertainment that is possible to procure, and these performances will be scheduled so that they will in no way conflict with any church service in the community."

TOWN BOARD AMENDS FORMER ORDINANCE ON SUNDAY MOVIES

Sylva's new city aldermen held their second official council meeting in the city hall on last Thursday night. Upon request of a great number of local citizens the question of Sunday movies for the town was acted on. The board found that there was a city ordinance passed in 1939 against Sunday movies. Then they found that the board in 1945 amended the 1939 order permitting the showing of pictures between the hours of 2 and 6 p. m. The new board made a further amendment permitting the showing of pictures between the hours of 8 and 12 p. m., provided there are no conflicting church services during these hours.

The board ordered that the city swimming pool be cleaned and repaired and put in a sanitary condition for use this summer. Hal Walson and Jimmy Keener have been appointed to manage the pool and to keep it in first class condition. The pool will open May 31.

The three furnaces and tables being built in the city park for picnic use are about ready for use. These were sponsored by the Sylva Lions Club.

The board ordered that the city hall office be cleaned and redecorated. This is now being done with a new coat of paint being applied inside and on the woodwork of the outside.

CHURCH OF GOD WILL HAVE HOMECOMING

The Church of God at Erastus will observe the second Sunday in June as Homecoming. Everyone is invited to attend, especially the former members of the church. Rev. J. C. Dockery, the pastor, will be in charge. It will be an all-day affair with dinner on the ground.

Following are the words used by Judge Wm. H. Ebbitt as he sentenced Earl O'Dear following his trial and conviction for the murder of Jack Hall and wife, Margie Maples Hall. While only the judgment and sentence of O'Dear is used here, the same words were used in the sentencing of Robert Messer, partner of O'Dear in the twin murder.

One of the prisoners at the bar of the Court, Earl O'Dear, having been tried upon two bills of indictment, being Numbers 2380 and 2381, which were consolidated for the purpose of trial, each bill of indictment charging murder in the first degree, and a jury duly chosen, sworn and empaneled to pass between him and the State, touching his guilt or innocence, of the crimes of which he stood charged, having, upon each of said two bills of indictment, returned as against him a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree:

Now, therefore, the said two indictments and cases are consolidated for the purpose of judgment; and, in compliance with the law, the judgment pronounced upon Earle O'Dear is that the prisoner, Earle O'Dear, be taken hence by C. G. Middleton, High Sheriff of Jackson County, North Carolina, and by him delivered into the custody of the Warden of the State Prison in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, to be by said Warden safely detained until Friday, the 11th day of July, 1947; and that on Friday, the 11th day of July, 1947, said Warden of the State Prison of North Carolina, or in case of his death, inability or absence, a Deputy Warden of said institution, shall, between the hours of ten o'clock A. M. and four o'clock P. M., convey the said Earl O'Dear to the place prepared for execution, and then and there upon the day designated, the 11th day of July, 1947, between the hours fixed on the said day, ten o'clock A. M. and four o'clock P. M., in the manner provided by law, cause the said Earle O'Dear to inhale lethal gas of sufficient quantity to cause death, and the administration of such lethal gas must be continued until the said Earle O'Dear is dead.

And may Almighty God have mercy on his soul.

Condemned Prisoners Are Taken To Raleigh By Jackson County Officers

Sheriff Griffin Middleton and Chief of Police Don Davis left Sylva at 5 o'clock Saturday morning, May 24, with Earl O'Dear and Robert Messer for Raleigh where they were delivered to State prison officials to be placed on death row to await execution by gas on Friday, July 11. The officers stated the condemned men had little to say on the long automobile trip to Raleigh.

The officers returned to Sylva

POPPY SALES AMOUNT TO OVER \$100 FOR VETERANS' BENEFIT

Members of the William E. Dillard Post Unit of the American Legion wish to publicly thank the citizens of Sylva and Jackson county for the hearty response in their purchase of Veterans' Poppies which were on sale last Saturday. The sum of \$111 was realized from the sale. This is the largest amount received from any poppy sale project held in the county.

Red Cross Officials To Meet Here June 9-13

Representatives from the 12 Western North Carolina Chapters of American Red Cross will be here for a four days meeting June 9-13.

This is a basic training meeting for home service.

The Jackson County Chapter will act as host to this meeting which will be attended by workers from National Headquarters and Southeastern Area.

C OF C MEMBERSHIP LIST ANNOUNCED BY PRES. PICKLESIMER

This is a list of members who have paid their 1947 dues to the Chamber of Commerce. One list of paying members has not been turned in and we are unable to list their names here at this time. We ask you to call at the Chamber of Commerce office in Lloyd Hotel building and ask for your membership card so that we may have a record of your name.

We have had very few individual memberships this year and plan to extend the drive a week longer with the hopes that a large number will respond. Since we do not have a chance to see every one we hope that you will call by the office and see our secretary.

Those having paid their dues and received their membership cards are: G. C. Middleton, Armour Leather Co., Hedden Barber Shop, Moore's Cleaners, Hotel Carolina, Builder's Supply Co., Jack and Howard, Sylva Coal and Lumber Co., Sylva Hotel. The Leader, Schulman's, Sossamon Furniture Co., Jackson Furniture Co., Belk's Department Store, Coffee Shop, W. C. Hennessie Lumber Co., Sylva Laundry, Blue Ribbon Shoe Shop, Sylva Granite and Marble Works, Buck's Soda Shop, Gillispie's Fruit Stand, O. J. Leslie, H. A. Lawhead, Western Auto Supply, Ritz Theatre, Hall & Norton, Welch and Cable, New Riverside Cottages, W. J. Fisher, Park Lunch

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Macon County Jury Convicts Pair of First Degree Murder, Go To Gas Chamber July 11

FORMER GOVERNOR BROUGHTON HEARD AT WCTC FINALS

Traces Development Of Education In North Carolina

CULLOWHEE—Former Governor J. M. Broughton traced the development of education in North Carolina along with the general advancement of the state at graduating exercises held at Western Carolina Teachers college Monday.

He declared that when there was a four-month school term in the state the general feeling was that a longer school term could not be financed. He told of how the term was advanced to six months then to nine and the 12th grade added and declared that as education is increased in the state, the ability to pay for it is increased.

Diplomas were awarded to 64 members of the graduating class. Awards were made to Thelma Joyce Finch of Bailey and Russell Byrd of Greensboro as best students and the award offered by Mrs. E. L. McKee to the student with the most distinguished record went to Lynwood Halliburton of Hamlet. Paul Wilson of Hendersonville was graduated summa cum laude.

The three presidents who have served the institution since it was founded were present, and William Norton of Cullowhee attended graduating exercises at the college for the 58th consecutive time. He is a member of the board of trustees.

Jackson Health Leaders Attend Lake Lure Meet

Mrs. Lina Padgett and Mrs. Juanita Phillips, of the local health office, met with 150 delegates from 12 counties of Western North Carolina, attended the all-day meeting of the Western North Carolina Public Health association at Lake Lure last Friday, hearing addresses by leaders in the fields of public health services. Dr. Ernest Branch, director of the division of oral hygiene, state board of health, Raleigh, spoke at the morning general session. Dr. H. C. Whims, Buncombe county health officer and president of the association, presided.

Sectional meetings were held in the afternoon following the lunch.

Singing Convention To Be At Scotts Creek

The Central Jackson Singing convention will meet Sunday, June 1, at the Scott's Creek Baptist church. It will convene at 1:30 and all singers are cordially invited to attend.

Rules Governing Licensing of Automobile Drivers Explained

In accordance with the law passed by the 1947 General Assembly of North Carolina requiring the re-issuance of Motor Vehicle driver licenses, the following schedule has been made: the period beginning July 1, 1947, and ending on December 31, 1947, is the time for all driver license holders, whose sur-names begin with the letters A or B to apply for new licenses. Persons whose names do not begin with one of the above letters cannot apply for re-issuance of license in this period.

The period beginning January 1, 1948, and ending on June 30, 1948, will be the time for all operators whose sur-names begin with either of the letters C or D to apply for re-issuance of licenses. All Motor Vehicle drivers whose sur-names begin with a letter other than A, B, C or D will be notified by press releases at the proper time as to when they should appear for the re-examination.

The operator's license issued

Courtroom Packed With Citizens From All Sections Of County

A Macon county jury of 12 men returned a verdict of murder in the first degree against Earl O'Dear and Robert Messer at 9:30 o'clock Friday night, after having received the case from the trial Judge William H. Bobbitt at 6:45 the same evening. At 10:30 Judge Bobbitt read the death sentence which will send the pair to their death in the State's Gas Chamber in Raleigh between the hours of 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. on Friday, July 11, for the hammer slaying and robbery of Jack Hall and his wife, Margie Maples Hall.

Trial of the two Jackson county men got underway Wednesday afternoon at 2:20 when the state and defense began the selection of a jury from a special venire of 150 Macon county citizens who had been summoned the day before to appear in Sylva at that hour.

Record Crowds Attend Standing room was at a premium as citizens from all sections of this and other counties gathered to hear the case, which ended with the conviction and sentence late Friday evening, the crowds remaining until the men were taken from the courtroom by Sheriff's officers.

Prisoners Are Calm

As O'Dear and Messer entered the courtroom everyone noticed how calm both appeared. Surrounded by their families and relatives throughout the trial, the pair remained composed even while Judge Bobbitt pronounced the death sentence. O'Dear's wife was the only one to break down and make any outcry as sentence was pronounced. When Judge Bobbitt said, "the defendant, Earl O'Dear, must die July 11," she then dropped to the floor and sobbed audibly.

As soon as the jury was sworn in, the indictment of O'Dear and Messer was read by the clerk at 6:30 on Wednesday evening. The defendants plead not guilty.

The Macon jury was composed of the following men: Harley Standfield, E. B. Beck, W. R. Pressley, Youel Bradley, Lee Poindexter, Grover Angel, Wiley G. Smith, T. A. Glidewell, Curt Chastine, I. A. Keener, Carter Henson, J. B. Ammons. The thirteenth juror drawn in case of sickness of one of the 12, was J. H. Cabe, Sr. Out of the 150 men only 67 names were called before the jury was agreed upon. Mr. Earl Sutton of Jackson was named by the court to be in charge of the jury.

Judge Bobbitt complimented the officers of Macon county for their speed and efficiency in drawing the venire and having it appear here for the trial. Court recessed at 7:20 p. m. until 9:30 a. m. Thursday.

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