

## O'DEAR, MESSER DIE IN STATE'S GAS CHAMBER

### Driving Drunk Cases Take Up Opening Days Of Court Here

#### Jail Breakers Get Long Road Sentences, Fines Swell School Funds

The October term of Jackson Superior Court opened Monday morning with Judge Felix E. Alley, of Waynesville, presiding. Solicitor Dan K. Moore of this city is representing the state. Chris Passmore, of Cashiers, is the foreman of the grand jury.

The following cases were disposed of Monday and Tuesday: State against John Hubbard, charged with carrying a concealed weapon, fine \$50 and cost. The pistol ordered destroyed.

Ralph Frizzelle, manufacturing whiskey, fined \$50 and cost, 12 months suspended road sentence.

Edgar Turpin, driving drunk, fine \$500 and cost, 60 days suspended road sentence.

Ben Lee Cabe, driving drunk, \$50 and cost. Sentenced to 60 days on roads, suspended upon good behavior.

Elmer Franklin, violating prohibition laws, \$200 and cost and 18 months suspended road sentence. Drivers licenses revoked.

Albert Carl Buchanan, driving drunk, \$50 and cost.

Manuel W. Nicholson, driving drunk, \$100 and cost, and 60 days suspended road sentence.

Robert Loyd Trull, driving drunk, \$50, cost and 60 days suspended road sentence.

Jim W. Shelly, driving drunk, \$100, cost and 60 days suspended road sentence.

Ellis D. Nations, driving drunk, \$50, cost and 60 days suspended road sentence.

Herbert Connor, non-support, 6 months on roads, suspended upon payment of \$50 each month to support of child until further orders of the court.

Lonus Austin, transporting, \$50 and cost, 6 months suspended.

J. B. Galloway, manufacturing whiskey, \$50, cost and 6 months suspended road sentence.

Thomas A. Rogers, driving drunk, \$100, cost and 60 days suspended road sentence.

Everard Lush, driving drunk, \$100 cost and 60 days suspended road sentence.

John Barnes and Vernon Browning, enter pleas of guilty of house breaking. Placed on probation for five years.

W. P. Lail, driving drunk, \$100, (Continued on page 5)

### Streets To Be Named Houses Numbered By Town And C of C

The board of aldermen of the town of Sylva in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce will carry out a project next spring of numbering the houses of the city and placing the names of the streets at corners and intersections. The expense of the project will amount to around \$1,000 and will be borne jointly by the town and Chamber. Metal name plates for the streets have been ordered but will not be delivered before early spring. This is to be done with the view of securing city mail delivery for the town of Sylva in the near future. The post office department will not approve this service unless the streets are named and the houses numbered.

### The Play, "Tight Britches," Coming To WCTC October 21

"Tight Britches" will be presented October 21 as the opening number in the series of Lyceum programs at Western Carolina Teachers college, Mrs. Lillian Buchanan, chairman of the Lyceum committee, has announced.

Moore Bryson, son of Holmes Bryson and grandson of Judge Walter Moore, will play a prominent part in the production.

The play, a realistic mountain drama built around a boy who wants to become a preacher, and who gets "too big for his britches," will be given in Hoey auditorium, and will start at 8:30 p. m.

"Tight Britches" was written by Hubert Hayes, manager of the city

### FUNERAL RITES FOR RUFUS G. PARKER, 67, HELD SUNDAY P M

Merchant At Tuckaseegee For 21 Years Passed Away Following Short Illness

Funeral services for Rufus G. Parker, 67, who passed away at the Sylva hospital Friday morning, were conducted Sunday afternoon at 2:30 from the Tuckaseegee Baptist church at Tuckaseegee. The Rev. Ben Cook and the Rev. L. H. Crawford, officiated. Interment was in the church cemetery. Jarrett Funeral Home, of Waynesville was in charge of the arrangements.

Pallbearers were nephews and great nephews of the deceased as follows: Otis Parker, Claude Parker, Lon Parker, Walter Middleton, Orville Middleton and Charlie Thirift.

Mr. Parker was an active member of the Tuckaseegee church. He was also a gifted gun-smith and mechanic.

As native of Jackson county, he was well known throughout the county and held in high esteem by his many friends and neighbors. He had only been ill for about three weeks.

Surviving are the widow, and one brother, Van Parker, of Asheville.

### FIRE DRILL HELD AT BETA SCHOOL, FIRE DEPT. HELPS

One hundred seventy-four small children from the first through the 5th grades cleared the Beta school building in 33 seconds Monday afternoon in a fire drill witnessed by members of the Sylva fire department. Unaware that the Sylva fire truck was to arrive and blow its siren the children filed out in perfect order. They were congratulated by the department and the teachers of the school were commended for their work in having trained their pupils so efficiently in fire drill work.

The Beta school is a large, two story, frame building. If a fire were to break out in it the dry pine lumber would burn like powder. It is a fire hazard, especially dangerous for the children on the second floor where adequate fire escapes are lacking and the doors to the class rooms swing shut from the inside, which in case of fire, might trap many of the children.

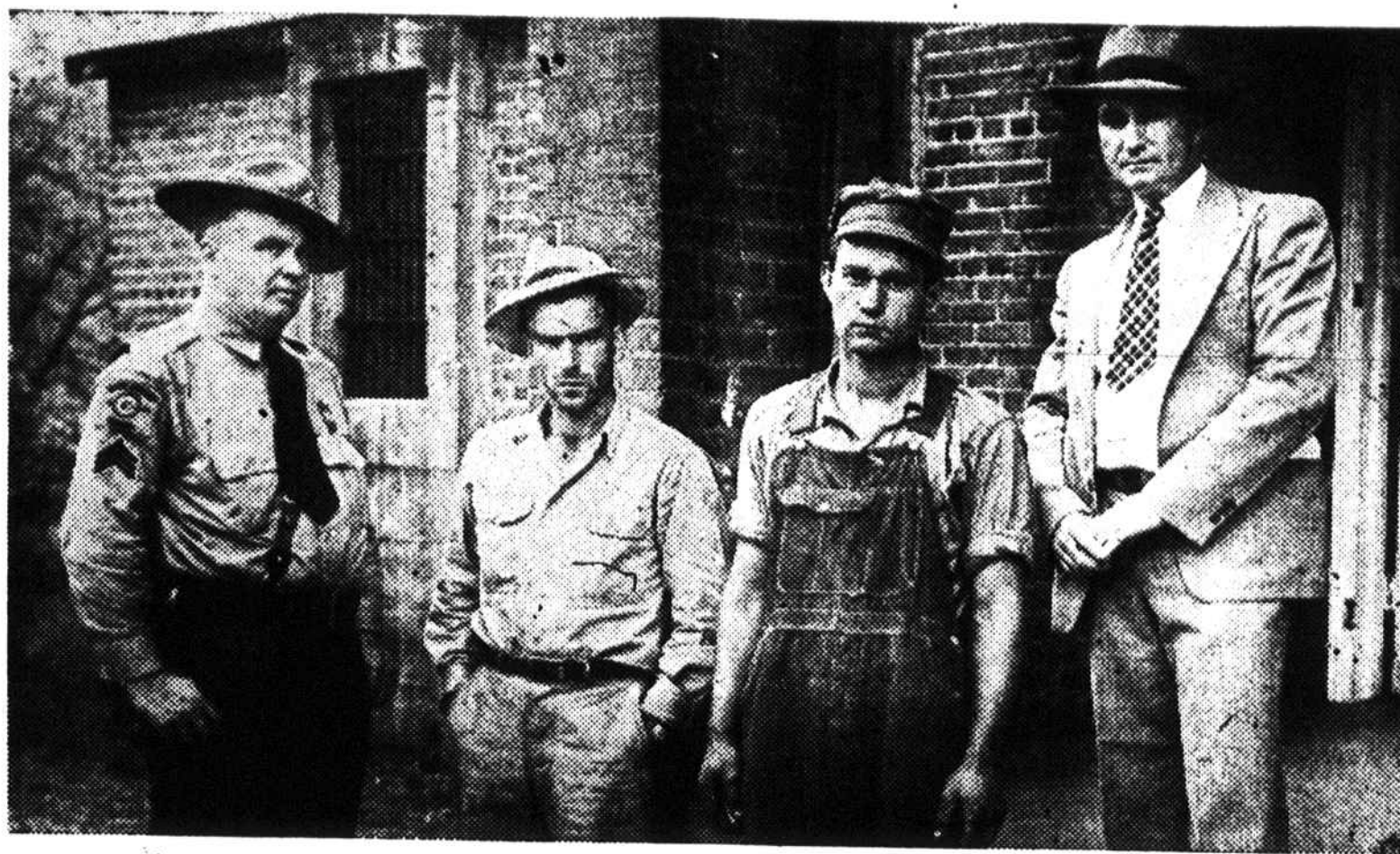
The teachers of the school are fully conscious of this condition and are doing all they can for the safety of the children.

The fire department recommends to the county school authorities that adequate fire escapes be placed on the building and that the doors swing outward.

The drill Monday was a preliminary drill to the state-wide drill to be held Thursday morning at 11 o'clock.

Twenty-eight mothers were out to witness the drill. The children of the second grade were given a

### JACKSON MURDERERS DIE IN GAS CHAMBER



The final chapter in the O'Dear-Messer slaying of Jack and Margie Hall was written Friday morning, October 3, when the two men, standing between officers above, took their last steps from their deathrow cells in Central prison to the State's lethal gas chamber a few feet away and paid society's debt with their lives for the gruesome hammer slaying of Mr. and Mrs. Hall. Earl O'Dear, left and Robert Messer, right, were pronounced dead a few minutes after the cyanide pellets were dropped in acid cans before them as they sat strapped in chairs in the execution chamber.

The above photo was made in front of Jackson county jail shortly after the men had confessed to the slaying of the Halls here April 24. State Highway Patrolman Sergeant T. A. Sandlin and Sheriff Griffin Middleton, shown with the men, took the lead in the investigation which led to their arrest.

### PROFESSIONAL DRUG STORE TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE

Formal Opening Of City's Newest Drug Store To Be Held With Big Sale

On Friday and Saturday the Professional Drug Store will hold open house and everybody in this area is invited to come in and become acquainted with the new store, and its owners. Everybody is invited and there will be a nice door gift to each 50th person entering the store on Friday.

The store is located in the Cole building on Main street which has been completely remodeled. The building and fixtures meet the rigid requirements of the Walgreen company, and are the most modern type. The company is proud of the fact that it was selected to have the Walgreen agency here because this enables it to give a service that it could not otherwise render.

Drs. S. B. Burrus and Rudolph R. Hardy, formerly with Sylva Pharmacy, are the owners and managers of the new store.

"In our prescription department we recognize that we are working hand in hand with the doctors in furthering the health of the community," they said, "and we pledge that we will always fill prescriptions just as the doctor orders them and from the freshest and finest of drugs.

Our big formal opening sale will be on during Friday and Saturday only. We urge our many customers and future customers to come in and avail yourselves of the many bargains we are offering during this "get-acquainted" opening sale.

### Revival In Progress At Wesleyan Methodist Church, Tuckaseegee

Revival meeting is now in progress at the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Tuckaseegee with Rev. J. D. Scoggins of Walhalla, S. C., evangelist, and Rev. Fred Ellrod of Glendale, S. C., as song leader. This revival will go on through Oct. 19. We give everyone an invitation to attend. H. M. Moody is pastor.

ride on the big red fire truck because their grade had the largest number of mothers attending. Mrs. Maude Reed is teacher of this grade.

Chief W. B. Cope was in charge of the fire truck.

### Schools Of County Ready To Participate In Fire Drill Today

N. C. Warden Favors Local Executions As Crime Warning

Following the execution of five men in the state's lethal gas chamber on last Friday, State Prison Warden Hugh Wilson, said, "I am opposed to capital punishment."

"The manner in which executions are carried out in North Carolina and other places, for that matter, defeats the purpose for which the law was designed—namely the prevention of crime," Wilson said.

"I prefer the gassing to the electric chair," the Warden said. "I think it is the least painful of the two, but what I disapprove of in our system is the fact that the convicted men are not executed publicly in the counties in which the crimes were committed.

"If the condemned were executed in the vicinity where he committed the crime, it would serve as a warning to the witnesses not to attempt to get away with the same thing."

"I do not advocate making a

### Gets Hero's Medal



LOOKING mighty proud of the shiny new medal around her neck is "Lady," a small terrier whose barking aroused two families in San Antonio, Tex., enabling them to escape from a flaming building. On one side of the medal, awarded by the city's fire chief, is inscribed: "1947—To 'Lady,' a dog, for saving the lives of several people." On the reverse: "Humanity—The American Human Assn. Award." (International)

### Pair Executed for Hammer Slaying of Jack and Margie Hall Here Last April 21st

### JARRETT BLYTHE RETIRING CHIEF, ACCORDED HONOR

Cherokee Leader Given Dinner as Token of High Esteem

CHEROKEE — Retiring Chief Jarrett Blythe, of the Cherokees, was tendered a testimonial dinner Friday night in honor of his remarkable record of service, 16 years as chief.

About 350 persons attended the dinner which was held in the children's dining room. Many of those present brought their own fruit in a sort of ceremonial tribute.

McKinley Ross, vice-chief was toastmaster, and Henry Bradley, new chief, was an honor guest at the speakers' table.

The principal address was made by former Superintendent Clyde Blair, now a resident of Asheville. Jack Walters, retired chief clerk, also spoke, as did Superintendent Joe Jennings and Arsene Thompson, chairman of the tribal council who has been a member of the council for the past 12 years.

Gifts were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Blythe by a number of persons attending the dinner.

### HEBERT H. FOWLER DIES AT HOME HERE SUNDAY EVENING

Hebert H. Fowler, 48, died at his home here Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock following an illness of about 6 years.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 o'clock at the Glenville Baptist church with the Rev. W. N. Cook, officiating. Interment was in the Glenville cemetery.

Active pallbearers, nephews of the deceased, were: Woodrow, Franklin, and Edward Fowler and Marvin, Clayborn, and Frank Bryson. Before becoming ill Mr. Fowler was a successful farmer of the Glenville community and a member of the Glenville Masonic Order. He had been spending the winter months in Sylva.

Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Gertrude Childers; five brothers: Freeman, Will, Percy, Dietz, and Jones Fowler, all of Glenville; one sister, Mrs. J. R. Bryson, of Glenville and a host of other relatives.

Moody Funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

### JACK AND HOWARD ALLISON BUY ESSO SERVICE STATION

Jack and Howard Allison, brothers, owners and operators of Howard and Jack's Esso Service Station in Sylva, have announced the purchase of the Weaver Esso Service station in Dillsboro and have already taken over operation of same. The new business will be known as Allison Brothers Service Station.

The new owners plan to remodel the station by concreting around the pumps and front, put in new pumps, etc.

They will handle Standard Oil products.

### Sylva Seniors Visit Biltmore Estate

Last Thursday morning at 9:30 o'clock the senior class of Sylva High school, chaperoned by Mrs. Mary Cowan and Mrs. Frances Luce, left to spend the day in Asheville and at the Biltmore estate. The morning was spent in Asheville, shopping and seeing interesting things about the town.

At 1:00 P. M. they made their way to Biltmore and after securing their tickets were off to see Bilt-

### Funeral For Men Held Monday At Local Cemeteries

Funeral services for Earl O'Dear, 24, and Robert Messer, 21, were held Monday at the homes of relatives following the arrival of their bodies here on Saturday after being brought from Central Prison in Raleigh where the two died in the State's gas chamber Friday morning for the confessed murders of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hall. Moody Funeral home prepared the bodies for burial immediately following their execution and brought them back to Sylva on Saturday.

O'Dear was buried at 11 o'clock Monday morning in the Parris cemetery above Dillsboro, and Messer was buried at 1:30 Monday in the family cemetery at Dillsboro. A large number of local citizens attended the burial services.

Pallbearers for O'Dear were: George Bryant, Glenn Barnes, Johnson Hall, Junior Messer, Guy Bumgarner, and Calvin Bumgarner. Flower girls were: Frances Bryson, Florence Ann Bryson, Lillian Moore, Evelyn Beasley, Betty Hall, Marie Beasley, Mrs. Charlie Deitz and Mrs. Roy Dills.

O'Dear is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie O'Dear; his widow, the former Virginia Rhinehart, and a seven months old daughter; two sisters, Mrs. John A. Wilkes and Mrs. Red Davis, both of Sylva.

Messer is survived by his mother; four sisters, Mrs. Wilkes Potts, of South Carolina, Mrs. Roy Williams, Gay, Mrs. William Gregory, Mrs. Bakers Creek, Mrs. Henry Gregory, Dillsboro; and one brother, Charles (Sonny) Messer, Sylva.

### SCENE AT STATE PRISON

As State Prison officials prepared Friday morning for the execution of five men, following the refusal of Governor Cherry to intervene in their behalf, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie O'Dear stood weeping outside the prison gates, less than 100 yards from the gas chamber where their son, Earl O'Dear, died with four other men in the State's biggest execution in history. Mrs. Messer, mother of Robert Messer, who died with O'Dear, bid her son good bye and then left for her home in Dillsboro. The O'Dears returned with their son's body.

In a spasm of fright O'Dear delayed his execution for an hour by jamming the lock to his cell with a sliver from a wooden ice cream spoon. Warden Hugh Wilson had planned to execute the two Jackson youths first but when O'Dear jammed his lock he sent two Charlotte negroes to death for the murder of an aged Coal company bookkeeper.

The chamber was cleared of gas and then came O'Dear and Messer, convicted of beating Jack Hall, Sylva taxi driver, and his wife, Margie Maples Hall, to death with machine hammers.

The fifth victim was Willie Cherry, a 26-year-old negro for first degree burglary.

ATE HEARTY BREAKFASTS  
Prison officials said all five men ate hearty breakfasts of ham and eggs, cherry pie, toast, and coffee.

### Veteran's Club, W. C. T. C. Open For New Members

Sixty student-veterans attended a meeting of the Veterans' club of Western Carolina Teachers college Wednesday night. In addition to a discussion of the clubs regular business, a membership drive was proposed, and it was estimated that at least 200 of the 293 veterans registered in the school could be secured as members.

Officers of the club are Bill "Pop" Goodson, president; Jack Arrington, vice president; J. C. Cunningham, secretary; and Tom Garland, Treasurer.

more estate. Here they went through the mansion, visited the garden and grounds, and on their way out stopped at the dairy.