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DR. NORRIS IS ACQUITTED OF MURDERING D. C. CHIPPS

AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 25.—Dr. Frank Norris, fundamentalist Baptist pastor of Fort Worth, tonight stepped from his third courtroom a free man.

He was acquitted by a jury in Travis county district court of murdering Dexter E. Chipps, lumberman of Fort Worth, whom he killed in his church office on the afternoon of last July 17.

A jury composed of farmers, laboring men, a former sheriff, clerks and merchants, said that Norris shot Chipps to save his own life when the latter came to the pastor's private study to potest against attacks Norris has made on Mayor H. C. Meacham, of Fort Worth, and other friends of Chipps.

There were tears of joy and also tears of another kind from other eyes when the simple verdict of "not guilty" was read in loud tones by S. A. Philquist, court clerk.

The tears of joy were those of Norris and his wife. As soon as the verdict rang out, Norris stood at his seat. There was a wan smile on his lips, but he showed no emotion until his attorney, Harvin Simpson, shook his hand. He embraced Simpson and wept.

The other tears were in the eyes of a small, brwn-eyed boy who has sat throughout the trial on the side of the State. He is Dexter E. Chipps, whose father Norris killed. The boy, small for his age, is 14. When asked about the verdict, tears came to his eyes, and he choked up. Late he said: "I'm so sorry for mother. It has hurt her."

The boy was alone of all his family, and as the great crowd pressed around to shake the freed man's hand, the lad walked slowly out virtually unnoticed.

The verdict came after fourteen hours of argument and testimony which was ended with a heated appeal by William P. McLean, of Ft. Worth, one of the special prosecutors, who said as he pointed his finger at the jury: "If you send him out to kill again, he's your criminal, not mine."

—Asheville Citizen.

community is so bad. We should give our citizens and officers just a little honor, for I know we still have some good moral people. Just to tell the truth, any of our country is bad enough but when the truth gives out, our time would be better spent just to lay aside our writing stick and chew our gum, and for the sake of intelligence especially.

GROVE SERIOUSLY ILL IN SUITE IN HOTEL HE BUILT

Son And Daughter-In-Law Arrive, Has Contracted Pneumonia

The condition of Dr. E. W. Grove, Asheville capitalist and builder, at an early hour this morning was reported as critical. His son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Grove, Jr., arrived yesterday from St. Louis, Mo. Mr. Grove is suffering from pneumonia and complications.

MADISON BUYS CAR OF HEIFERS

Thirty-seven Guernseys Imported; Dairy Development Pushed

"Five Good Cows For Every Farmer is the slogan that has been adopted in Madison county, according to Dairy Specialist F. R. Farnum. Mr. Farnum said yesterday that a car load of 37 high grade Guernsey heifers was unloaded in Marshall Wednesday. These cows were purchased by the dairy dairy specialist in Chester Co., S. C., which is one of the leading Guernsey counties in the South.

The dairy business in Madison county has been an outstanding project for the past year and now the farmers are acting on their conviction that Madison county can be made one of the best dairy counties in Western North Carolina, according to Mr. Farnum. The dairy work in the county, it was shown, has been brought about by the persistent efforts of County Agent Earle Brintnall, who has been at work on the idea since his appointment there.

Guy V. Roberts a prominent land owner in Madison County, accompanied Mr. Farnum on the purchasing trip and has taken an active part in developing the industry in that county. Mr. Roberts bought a number of the Guernsey heifers to place on his farm near Walnut, where he plans to establish a Guernsey dairy farm.

REFLECTIONS OF A MOUNTAIN SCHOOL TEACHER

(By JACK V. JOYCE)
MAN A MASTER—There is much speculation and strife about the world today over the question whether or not man has evolved or whether God made man. I am not appealing myself to any arguments on

Thousand Eat Golden Rule Meal At Gathering of New Yorkers



MORE than a thousand leaders in religious, social, civic and political circles in New York sat down to the "Golden Rule Dinner" at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York which recently opened the campaign for the fourth annual observance of International Golden Rule Sunday in the United States.

Clergymen of all faiths and some of the leading philanthropists of the nation participated in the program. Girls from various New York and Brooklyn colleges served as waitresses and not a dish was broken—most of them were made from old condensed milk cans especially for the dinner by boys in the Near East Relief training school on the island of Sva, Greece. They were similar to the tableware of the orphanages.

SCHOOL ITEMS

By O. S. DILLARD
The six months' terms of the county school closed this month. There are thirty schools in the county this year of this type. These schools have an enrollment of approximately 1800. This is slightly less than a third of the entire enrollment of the county.

From the final reports of these schools that have already been filed in this office, the percentage of average daily attendance has increased about 21.2 per cent above last year's record. The percentage of the average daily attendance shown by the schools whose reports have been filed at this writing show an average daily attendance of 74.73 per cent of the enrollment.

It is a striking thing that the number in average daily attendance increases according to the size of the school. That is, the larger the school the larger the per cent in average daily attendance. The larger schools of the type of Marshall and Mars Hill will average at least 15 per cent more in attendance than the one teacher schools. Then if we could have all our children in this

larger type of school our attendance would increase approximately 275 for the year on this small type of school. This would also be an economic advantage. For in the larger type of school each teacher must teach on an average of 35 children per day, while in the smaller type of school, 25 children is the average. In the 1-teacher schools it is even less than that. But in all schools of less than four teachers the average does not run more than 25 per teacher.

Another striking thing in connection with the short term schools is the fact that though they contain approximately one-third of the children of the county, they contain only one-fifth of the wealth of the county. This may be better understood if we say that the average wealth in the territory outside the local tax districts is \$903 per child. While in the local tax districts the average wealth for each child is \$1872. In other words, the local tax districts by voting and levying a special tax can give its children a longer term of school at just half the rate that the people would have to pay in the other territory outside the present boundaries of the special taxing districts.

We hear a great deal about the state equalizing the burden that the various counties have to bear in order to support the schools of the state. We argue that the state ought to give the weaker counties greater financial assistance so they will be able to finance their schools without such a high cost. If this is true, then the counties need to equalize the burden of the various districts of the counties so that whenever any district pays an equal rate of tax that it shall receive an equal length of school term up to eight months. For example, we say that Hot Springs or Walnut can run an eight months term with a local tax levy of 30 cents. Then every other district in the county that will vote a rate of tax of this amount should have a term of eight months.

I propose to make this recommendation to our Board of Education and County Commissioners when our budget is

made up next year. The funds to make up this will come, we hope, from the increase in the equalization fund.

In the proposed bill for the equalization fund for the next two years, a fund to be known as the stimulating fund is proposed along these lines. If a county will vote to increase its length of term to eight months, then the state will increase its apportionment to that county one-third, since the term would be increased one-third. For example; if this measure is enacted into law as recommended by Superintendent Allen, and Madison County would vote an eight months' term, then we would receive an additional amount toward paying for that term of from ten to twelve thousand dollars. If Madison County would do this, then all the districts that are now paying fifty cents could lower their rates to at least 30, and then we would have a county wide rate the same and a system the same all over the county.

I hope that this recommendation by the State Superintendent will be written into law, and that next year we will be able to submit this proposition to the people of the county, and get an eight months' term, with no more taxes than we are paying at present.

IMPROVEMENT ON NEW ASHEVILLE ROAD

The widening of the bridge at the Riverview filling station on the river road to Asheville and the leveling of some of the ruts on the dirt part of that road is quite an improvement. Mr. D. K. Dover is building a garage at his filling station as can be seen from his ad in this paper. We predict that this new road from Marshall to Asheville will gradually build up.

SYLVA PUBLISHER BURNED; FIRE RUINS PRINTING OFFICE

Sylva, N. C., Jan. 25.—Dan Tompkins, publisher of the Jackson County Journal here, was burned about the head and barely escaped serious injury from fire, starting from a gasoline torch in the Journal's composing room, temporarily crippled the newspaper today with damage in the vicinity of \$500. The flames damaged type setting machinery to the extent that it will be necessary temporarily to print the newspaper elsewhere.

"MAMMY'S WILD ROSE"
A COMEDY DRAMA
IN THREE ACTS
PRESENTED BY
MARS HILL COLLEGE DRAMATIC CLUB
MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
Friday, Jan. 28, 1927, at 8:00 o'clock.
Part of the proceeds going to the School.
WEAVERVILLE
WEAVERVILLE HI SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
Monday, Jan. 31, 1927, at 8:00 o'clock
Part of the proceeds going to the Baptist Church.
This play has been given at Mars Hill and Burnsville to large and appreciative audiences.
Admission: 35c and 25c

DEFENDS FOSTERS CREEK

I don't wish to cast any indirect reflection upon anyone, but I am sure that it would be unfair for your publication to get by without some criticism. Will you that most of my life has been spent in Fosters Creek and I still like the place and people, and I don't think it very fair to criticize the country where we live without making some exceptions. I admit one community could be better, but where is a place that could not be better. We have lawbreakers everywhere, and we are going to continue to have. You state that there is whiskey on every hill and in every hollow on Fosters Creek. There might be some whiskey in our county but I do say frankly that it is not so plentiful as that. Glad to say that Christmas passed without a dozen being killed or even one. Let us keep history straight. There hasn't been a murder committed on Fosters Creek since the Civil War. Fosters Creek, I think. So I don't figure that this