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**MOST ATROCIOUS CRIME IN THE HISTORY OF MADISON COUNTY**

**THREE OR FOUR BOYS CHARGED WITH HOUSEBREAKING, ASSAULT AND RAPE**

**PRELIMINARY HEARING MARSHALL WEDNESDAY**  
**VICTIM'S HUSBAND REMANDED TO PRISON FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT**

taking music were excellently done and showed the benefits of the public school music during the year. The piano numbers showed careful training and attention to detail from the beginners who played their little elementary pieces but who played them carefully and accurately, up to Miss Pansy Chandler and Miss Jane Morrow, who were the most advanced. The recital did credit to Miss Horne.

If evidence sufficient to convict can be brought out, at least three boys face the electric chair for the most atrocious crime ever committed in North Carolina if not in the whole nation. Three boys whose names we hesitate to give for the reason that should they not be the ones guilty, such publicity might do them harm, are charged with going to a man's house on Big Laurel in Madison County, breaking in, and taking the woman living with the old man into the woods where she was subjected to all kinds of indecencies, each of the boys committing rape and leaving her stripped of her clothing after having dragged her through a creek. This crime was brought to the attention of this newspaper last week, but was withheld from publication in order to have the matter investigated and if possible to apprehend the culprits. The woman in the case, apparently about 40, is half-witted and shows that her advantages have been exceedingly poor, which makes the crime even more brutal. The man, with whom she lives, looks to be upwards of 60 years and for the paltry sum of \$50.00 swore that he would not go on the stand and testify as to what he knew about the case. A preliminary trial was held Wednesday afternoon before Justice of the Peace C. M. Gage. Solicitor Robt. Wells was called from Asheville to protect the State while the defense had employed Messrs. John McElroy, Guy Roberts and J. Coleman Ramsey. Considerable pressure was brought to bear on the State's chief witness, Sam Moore, to get him to testify but he preferred to take a jail sentence rather than testify, after having accepted \$25.00 in cash and about \$25.00 in merchandise not to swear in court. The difficulty in the case is in fact that the woman is not able to identify her assailants. The crime is said to have occurred just after night, possibly 9 or 10 o'clock.

The warrants first charged housebreaking and assault, but at the trial the Solicitor had the charge changed to rape and at first asked the court to hold the three boys in jail without bond. To this the attorneys for the defense strenuously objected on the ground that there was no sworn evidence that the three boys in jail were the perpetrators of the crime. The final outcome of the preliminary trial was that it should be continued one week, or until the State's chief witness would agree to testify and the three boys then in jail were allowed to give bond in the sum of \$1000 each for their appearance in Marshall next Wednesday at one o'clock, at which time all the witnesses are to appear.

**THE COMMENCEMENT OF WALNUT SCHOOL**

My Dear Mr. Story: I have read with interest the accounts of the commencements of other schools in the county but have seen little about Walnut. Some of us should have sent in reports at the time. Perhaps it may not be out of place to write a few observations- even at this late day.

The program by the grammar grades on April 8th and that by the primary grades on April 15th were excellent and deserve a detailed account that space forbids.

The Commencement sermon was preached in the auditorium on Sunday evening, April 17th, by President Oscar E. Sams, of Carson-Newman College. A large congregation was present. Special music consisted of two choruses by Juniors and Seniors.

The comparative small number passing from the seventh grade into the high school may require a few words of explanation. It would be impossible to raise the educational standards of a school as rapidly as ours have been raised without encountering some difficulties. These difficulties are not peculiar to the Walnut School but must be faced in every school that is going through such a process of development. Many pupils are certain to be found in grades for which they are not adequately prepared. Sometimes there has been irregular attendance or laziness and indifference on the part of these pupils but often it is not their fault but the fault of the six months schools. But whatever the cause these pupils are not able to do satisfactorily the work of the grade they are in because they are not thoroughly grounded in the work of the earlier grades. In many cases these pupils have been squeezed through, ill prepared, for one grade to another at the earnest desire of fond but misguided parents who do not realize that what they ask is contrary to the best interests of their children. What is the teacher to do with such pupils? The temptation is to take them through the work of the year in such a manner as to give them just enough superficial knowledge of it to enable them to pass examinations and slip through into the next grade. It requires courage and conscientiousness on the part of the teacher to insist on thorough work from these pupils, to spend her time drilling them on work of an earlier grade, and to incur unpopularity with parents who do not understand the circumstances. But only so can the standards of the school be raised.

So important is it to maintain the standard of both the high school and the elementary school that the examinations are given and the papers are graded by the County Superintendent. It is easy to see that the teacher of a seventh grade has a difficult position. But our seventh grade teacher this past year was faced with the impossible task of covering nearly a year and a half's work in one year. She deserves praise for the conscientious faithfulness and ability with which she has done her work in the face of certain unpopularity with some who would like to see their children slide easily and gracefully into the high school, whether they were qualified to do high school work or not.

While there may be a few who are either lacking in natural ability or who are not willing to apply themselves yet with many others it is not to their discredit if they failed to pass. It merely means that they need an extra year to make up for deficiencies which may not have been their fault. Mrs. Wardrup has generously offered to give of her afternoons to helping them make up these deficiencies and Mr. Dillard has agreed to give them another examination if they do so. Most states have eight grades before the high school anyway, and many of them a nine months school into the bargain, and we are attempting a good deal when we undertake to do the work in seven grades of eight months and keep our standards up to theirs.

I would like to say many things, including some words of appreciation of our principal, Mr. Pegg and his wife but I feel that I should apologize for the length to which this has grown. It is a personal letter and expresses merely my own views, but they are the views of one who has been in very close touch with the school.

Yours sincerely,  
 JAMES L. HYDE

**WEAVERVILLE**

At the High School auditorium on Monday evening at 8 o'clock the citizens of Weaverville tendered a reception to Miss May Brewer, champion woman walker of the world. Miss Brewer recently broke Miss Eleanor Sears', of Boston, Mass., time record of walking forty-three miles by over an hour. She reached the Beaver Lake forty-mile limit from Burnsville ten minutes ahead of the time made by Mrs. Hutchins of Burnsville and then walked on into Asheville. Miss Brewer's time for the walk from Burnsville to Asheville was eight hours and thirty-five minutes.

A delightful musical program was given by Miss Brewer with Mrs. Beth Peake Roberts, Mrs. Katherine Lotzpecke Waters, Miss Nancy Blackstock, and Mrs. M. B. Tilson.

Dr. O. J. Chandler delivered the main address of the evening at the close of which he presented Miss Brewer with a handsome gold medal, duly inscribed, from the citizens of Weaverville.

Miss Brewer carried flowers presented by the Middlemount Gardens of Asheville. In a few, well-chosen words she thanked the people for these attentions and laughingly ended in walking—not talking.

Mrs. Noah Wolser of Lexington, North Carolina, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Reagan of Weaverville. Mrs. Fred Brown was in charge of one of the most delightful concerts ever given in Weaverville on Saturday night at the High School Auditorium. Miss Kathleen Blackstock, Emma Jones, Marguerite Blackstock, Eleanor Trowbridge, Paul Britt, and Mrs. N. B. Tilson together with Mrs. Brown were responsible for the programme. Two numbers, particularly notable were "Berceuse" by Jocelyn with Marguerite Blackstock so-

**THE LIEB FARM SUBDIVIDED**

Attention is called to an advertisement elsewhere in this paper, in which the Lieb farm between Marshall and Walnut will be offered for sale at Auction, May 14th. Read the advertisement for particulars, be there, get dinner, hear the music and if you feel inclined to buy, do so.

**NOTICE!**

TO MY FRIENDS OF MADISON COUNTY: In regard to the pieces of J. J. Snyder and the Bank of Mars Hill vs J. H. Stansberry, I got off to go out West to schedule some meetings, and I did not think it necessary to call up everyone in the county to tell him I was going. On returning, I found the false notices in the paper. I wish to say I paid this \$500 note 2 weeks before due, and did not get it under false pretense. And as to the note in Mars Hill Bank, it is not due yet, and which they had no right to advertise.

I just put this in for my friends to read, and I am praying for my enemies. For references, see Mr. John H. McElroy.

J. H. STANSBERRY.

prano, violin obligato, Kathleen Blackstock, Paul Britt at the piano, and as a finale, Schubert's "Marche Militaire," with Mrs. Brown and Mrs. M. B. Tilson at the piano and Paul Britt and Kathleen Blackstock with violin parts.

On Friday evening, Mrs. Frank Blackstock was hostess of the Bridge Club. In the absence of some of the members several guests were invited and those playing were: Mr. and Mrs. R. Patten, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reagan, Mr. and Mrs. William Pope, Frank Blackstock, Mrs. Fred Reeves, Miss Nancy Blackstock, Mr. J. V. Eskine, Mrs. C. R. Patten won top score prize. Mrs. William Pope cut consolation. A delicious ice and coffee course was served.

Wednesday afternoon Miss Tacoma Rector and Miss Angeline Fortune of Swannanoa were joint hostesses of a five table bridge given in honor of Mrs. Carty McSweeney of Newport, Tennessee. Playing were: Mrs. Will Reagan, Mrs. Fred Brown, Mrs. M. B. Tilson, Miss Kathleen Blackstock, Miss Marguerite Blackstock, Miss Nancy Blackstock, Mrs. Frank Blackstock, Mrs. Alonso Robinson of Asheville, Miss Sally Robinson, Mrs. Curtis Robinson, Mrs. William Pope, Mrs. Arthur Robinson, Mrs. Lynn Weaver, Miss Louise Weaver, Mrs. Silva Chandler of Asheville, Mrs. Carol Reagan, Mrs. Wm. Shope, Mrs. Clarence Reynolds, Mrs. C. H. Reynolds.

Mrs. Fred Brown won high score prize; Mrs. William Reagan, low score, and also Mrs. Reagan cut consolation.

Pink, green and white were the colors carried out in favors and dainty refreshments. Mrs. William Pope entertained a number of Marshall and Asheville friends at a three table bridge Tuesday afternoon. From Asheville were: Mrs. Sylvan Chanley and Mrs. George Meadows. From Marshall: Mrs. Oliver Shelton, Mrs. Clyde Stewart, Mrs. Ralph Fisher, Mrs. Charles Mashburn, Mrs. Hubert Davis, Mrs. McMullan. From Weaverville: Mrs. Will Reagan and Miss Tacoma Rector and Miss Angeline Fortune of Swannanoa. Top score prize was won by Mrs. George Meadows; low prize score by Mrs. William Reagan; Mrs. Oliver Shelton cut consolation.

A delicious ice course was served.

Sheep pay as high as 100 per cent on the investment, finds one grower in North Carolina.

**BASEBALL SCHEDULE MADISON COUNTY LEAGUE**

- HOT SPRINGS TEAM**
  - Hot Springs
  - Walnut, May 14.
  - Mars Hill, May 28.
  - Marshall, June 11.
  - Walnut, June 25.
  - Marshall, July 9.
  - Marshall, July 23.
  - Walnut, Aug. 6.
  - Mars Hill, Aug. 20.
  - Marshall, Sept. 3.
  - Walnut, Sept. 17.
- MARSHALL TEAM**
  - Marshall
  - Mars Hill, May 14.
  - Walnut, May 28.
  - Hot Springs, June 11.
  - Mars Hill, June 25.
  - Walnut, July 9.
  - Hot Springs, July 23.
  - Mars Hill, Aug. 6.
  - Walnut, Aug. 20.
  - Hot Springs, Sept. 3.
  - Mars Hill, Sept. 17.
- WALNUT TEAM**
  - Walnut
  - Hot Springs, May 21.
  - Marshall, June 4.
  - Mars Hill, June 18.
  - Hot Springs, July 2.
  - Marshall, July 16.
  - Mars Hill, July 30.
  - Hot Springs, Aug. 13.
  - Marshall, Aug. 27.
  - Mars Hill, Sept. 10.
  - Hot Springs, Sept. 24.
- MARS HILL TEAM**
  - Mars Hill
  - Marshall, May 21.
  - Hot Springs, June 4.
  - Walnut, June 18.
  - Marshall, July 2.
  - Hot Springs, July 16.
  - Walnut, July 30.
  - Marshall, Aug. 13.
  - Hot Springs, Aug. 27.
  - Walnut, Sept. 10.
  - Marshall, Sept. 24.

**FROM HOT SPRINGS**

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Plemmons and two sons, Hubert and Howard, and Judge Fowler left Sunday by car to visit Baltimore, Washington, and New York City, to spend about ten days.

Mrs. Dave Robinson who returned recently from a hospital is in quite a serious condition.

Mr. Charles Burgin, who has been seriously ill, is somewhat better at this writing, to the delight of his many friends.

J. D. Hensley motored to Newport, Tenn., Monday.

Mrs. Tom Frisbee has returned home from Greeneville, Tenn., where she went to see her sister, who is in a hospital there.

Mr. O. W. Grubb was in Morristown one day the last of the week.

Mrs. D. B. Duckett and daughter motored to Asheville Monday.

Born May the third to Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Roads a son, George Marion.

Mrs. Gordon Conely motored to Asheville the first of the week.

Misses Rhea and Ethel Kirkpatrick of Bluff were visiting their sister, Mrs. Dora Brown, Sunday.

Mrs. Joe Nanny, who has been ill, is better.

The Ladies Aid held their meeting with Mrs. N. J. Lance Tuesday last week. The sewing meeting will be held next Tuesday with Mrs. Warren Davis.

The bank was closed Tuesday on account of a holiday.

Miss Chapman of Asheville has been the guest for several days of Mrs. W. R. Ellerson.

Mrs. D. B. Duckett and daughter, Miss Beulah, with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Conley and Mrs. Floyd Harrison spent Monday in Asheville.

Mrs. Thomas Frisbee was called to Greeneville last week by the illness of her sister, Mrs. Warren, who was taken to the hospital for an operation for appendicitis.

Mrs. Weaver Brown spent Tuesday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hickman on Spring Creek.

Editor Story of Marshall was a welcome caller in Hot Springs on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitten had a dinner party on Sunday to celebrate the capture of a 17-pound turtle caught in Spring Creek. The turtle appeared as "Brunswick Stew."

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Fowler have moved into their new home. This beautiful brick house, modern in every particular, is situated just above his new brick store and across the creek from the highway. It commands a glorious view of the mountains along the creek from the front porch. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler have their own water supply from springs above their house, which are cool and refreshing and yet sufficiently high to supply the bath and give them running water in the house.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Grenell, who make their home for the present with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Brown, were near Del Rio, Tenn., this week, where Mr. Grenell is doing some plumbing.

**BILLS PASSED BY REPRESENTATIVE McDEVITT**

Copies of Bills passed in the last General Assembly by Representative McDevitt. Others will appear weekly until they are all printed in full in this newspaper.

H. B. 347.  
 S. B. 309.

An Act to Prevent the Issuance of Bonds by the Town of Marshall, in Madison County, Without a Vote of the People. The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact: Section 1. That from and after the ratification of this act no bonds shall be issued by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Marshall, or any other governing body, unless and until the question of issuance of said bonds is submitted to and authorized by a vote of a majority of the qualified voters of said town, at an election to be held as hereinafter set forth, except as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. That nothing in this act contained shall prevent the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Marshall from issuing bonds without a vote of the people in any amount necessary to replace county buildings or bridges destroyed by fire, flood or tornado, or from issuing bonds to refund maturing bonds heretofore issued and outstanding, or from borrowing money for the necessary expenses of the town upon short term notes in anticipation of the collection of taxes for the current fiscal year, the aggregate amount of such short term notes at any one time outstanding not to exceed fifty per cent of the taxes levied for said current fiscal year and uncollected at the time said notes are executed and delivered.

Sec. 3. That elections held upon the question of issuing bonds by the

Board of Town Aldermen of the Town of Marshall may be called from time to time by said Board of Town Aldermen and shall be held in the manner now or hereafter prescribed by law for holding elections for Mayor and members of the Board of Aldermen for the said town of Marshall; provided, that said Board of Aldermen shall appoint all Registrars and Judges of Election and shall prescribe the form of the ballots to be used. The votes shall be counted at the close of the polls, in the voting precincts and the results returned in writing to the Board of Town Aldermen within three days after the election is held, the said Board of Aldermen shall canvass the returns and declare the result of said election and record the same in the minutes of the Board, and no other or further record or declaration of the result of such election shall be necessary.

Sec. 4. That before any election is held pursuant to this act, the Board of Town Aldermen of the Town of Marshall shall publish a notice of the same for four consecutive weeks in some newspaper published in Madison County, in which notice shall be stated the amount of bonds proposed to be issued, the purpose for which same are proposed to be issued, the time when the bonds shall mature, the rate of interest the same shall bear, the form of ballots to be voted and the date on which the election shall be held.

Sec. 5. That at any election held pursuant to this act, a majority of the votes cast in said election shall be in favor of the issuance of bonds submitted to vote, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Marshall may issue such bonds in such form and in such denominations as they may determine, to the amount authorized by the voters at such election, and may sell the same at a price not less than par and may levy and collect a tax upon all the property and polls of the Town of Marshall to pay the interest on said bonds when due and to pay the principal thereof at maturity. Provided, that all sales of bonds shall be made only after advertisement as provided by law. The proceeds of the bonds so issued and sold shall be kept separate from other town funds and shall be applied only for the purpose for which they were voted.

Sec. 6. That all laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 7. That for the purpose of allowing the aldermen of the town of Marshall to do certain street and road work in the said town, said aldermen are directed to sell not over twenty-five thousand dollars worth of bonds or notes by March the twentieth, nineteen hundred and the twentieth, nineteen hundred and the twentieth, and proceed at once to hard-surface or repair so that it will be in good condition the said main street of the town of Marshall from the Frisby branch to the railroad crossing above the Southern depot in said town, putting same in first class condition and to leave funds out of the twenty-five thousand dollars bond issue with which to amend or construct the road leading from the town towards Little Pine creek by way of the residences of Tweed, Halcombe and Smith, and put said road in good traveling condition, and the remainder of the funds derived from said bond issue to be equally distributed on the roads inside of the town of Marshall that are not in good condition. That for the purpose of allowing the town of Marshall to issue twenty-five thousand dollar worth of bonds and no more, this act shall be in force and effect from and after March the fifteenth, one thousand one hundred and twenty-seven.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the day of February, 1927.

President of the Senate.  
 Speaker of House of Representatives.  
 Examined and found correct.

**WOMANS MISSIONARY UNION TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING**

The Asheville Division of the Womans Missionary Union of N. C. will hold its annual meeting at Brevard Baptist church beginning the evening of May 17th and all day of the 18th. Delegates from the French Broad Association going on the 17th will please send their names to Mrs. Thos. Dods-worth, chairman of the Hospitality Committee that home may be provided for them.

MRS. R. L. MOORE, Asso. Supt.

Of 1,000 bushels of sweet potatoes stored by M. B. Sample of Pasquotank County last winter, less than two per cent were found to be unfit for food. Mr. Sample built his house last fall.

A special sweet potato meeting will be held at the Upper Coastal Plain Branch Station near Rocky Mount on Thursday, March 17.

The Botany Department of State College will give help in identifying any plant or plant disease sent to it by farmers of the State.