

THE NEWS-RECORD \$2.00
PRICE A YEAR
The PROGRESSIVE FARMER
THE NEWS-RECORD \$2.25
BOTH A YEAR FOR

THE NEWS-RECORD

MADISON COUNTY RECORD
Established June 28, 1901.
FRENCH BROAD NEWS
Established May 16, 1907.
Consolidated November 2, 1911

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN MADISON COUNTY

VOL. XXI

MARSHALL, N. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1928

1750

MRS. LOTTIE B. COWARD IS ACQUITTED OF MURDER CHARGE

**A Lengthy Trial Ends With
Spring Creek Woman Cleared
of Murder of Husband.**

(By Glenn W. Naves)

Just before eight o'clock, Saturday night, following a deliberation of about two hours, the jury in the case of the State vs. Mrs. Lottie B. Coward, charged with the murder of her husband, Shufford R. Coward, returned a verdict of not guilty, thereby ending one of the most sensational and closest contested murder trials ever listed on a Madison criminal calendar.

Both the State and defense derailed the evidence all in shortly before noon Saturday, and Guy V. Roberts, private prosecution attorney, who appeared with Solicitor Robert M. Wells, of Asheville, for the State, spoke for thirty minutes before the jury. Following Mr. Roberts, John H. McElroy, and J. Coleman Ramsey, of Marshall, and George M. Pritchard, of Asheville, counsel for the defense, each spoke on the case for a thirty-minute period, followed by Solicitor Wells, after which Judge P. A. McElroy, of Marshall, presiding jurist, delivered a lengthy charge to the jury, which retired at five o'clock. Court then adjourned, re-convening for a night session at seven o'clock, and within a few minutes, the twelve veniremen filed into the crowded courtroom and returned their verdict of "not guilty of second degree murder as charged."

Mrs. Coward Returns Home
Absolved of all criminal blame in connection with the death of her husband, Mrs. Coward, who since Thursday, had sat with her two sons, Taft, 17, and Buren, 20; her aged mother, Mrs. Brown, and her brother, Dewey Brown, behind her attorneys, while she fought desperately to clear herself of a murder charge, was deeply affecting. Amid the congratulations of her two boys, and friends and relatives, she had no comment to make, other than a low-voiced: "Thank God," and within a few minutes she left for the Spring Creek home, 32 miles from Marshall, where on Friday afternoon, April 27, the tragedy which cost the life of her husband occurred.

Many Witnesses Testify
An imposing array of State and defense witnesses were heard, the State resting after having placed only four witnesses on the stand. The defense then began its fight, placing the two sons, Mrs. Coward, Sheriff R. R. Ramsey, Dr. Frank Roberts, County Coroner, deputy sheriff John Hips, of Spring Creek, Mrs. Brown, Dewey Brown and other witnesses on the stand, after which, in rebuttal, the State renewed its attack with additional witnesses.

Attorneys Wage Fight
The battle between the State and defense did not end with the taking of evidence, and spectators in the packed courtroom witnessed one of the hardest fought legal contests ever launched in court here, when two of Marshall's and one of Asheville's most able attorneys clashed with two equally strong colleagues of the bar in the persons of Solicitor Wells and Mr. Roberts in the final fight before the jury.

Both Mr. Wells and Mr. Roberts endeavored to clinch the contention of the State that the dead man was shot to death by his wife as he sat asleep in a chair, and not while the former was engaged in a struggle with Mrs. Coward as she related in her testimony, while Mr. McElroy, Mr. Pritchard and Mr. Ramsey emphasized the points bearing out Mrs. Coward's statement which had been brought out in the testimony of witnesses introduced. The verbal contest consumed over two and one-half hours.

History Of The Case
Mr. Coward, a well known farmer and Republican party leader, was killed at his home on April 27, Mrs. Coward testifying that she shot him to death in self-defense, after he had attempted to kill her by firing two shots at her during a struggle in the living room of their home. She stated that during the struggle, her husband either dropped the gun or it was knocked from his hand, both stooped to get it, and came up fighting for its possession, and that she shot him twice, once in the forehead, and a

gain in the side of the head, while he was attempting to take the gun. There were no eyewitnesses to the affair, the two two sons having been away at the time.

Number Of Sentences Imposed At September Term Court

**Prohibition Law Violations
Predominate**

Saturday afternoon, Judge Pender A. McElroy, presiding jurist at the September term of court, sentenced a number of defendants found guilty by jury trial during the week. A number of road sentences were included in the judgments handed down by the court.

The list as furnished by Mr. Davis, Clerk of Court, is as follows:

Will Hopkins, manufacturing 6 months on roads; Dewey Dockery, manufacturing, 6 months on roads; Bill Roberts, retailing, 6 months on roads; Ervin Gosnell, retailing, 6 months on roads; Frank Morgan, manufacturing, 6 months on roads, with defendant giving notice of appeal to Supreme Court; A. P. Carter, transporting, judgment suspended upon payment of cost; Beatrice McLean, colored, violation prohibition law, 6 months on roads; Gene Jones, colored, violation prohibition laws, 6 months on roads; Cecil Cantrell, F & A, 12 months on roads; Bud Carver, F & A, judgment suspended upon payment of cost; Dora Rogers, F & A, judgment judgment, 6 months in jail; Dauly Crowder, operating car while intoxicated, 4 months on road; Gray Cutshall, transporting, 6 months on roads.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING

**FRENCH BROAD ASSOCIATION
HELD AT LONG BRANCH**

The Fifth Sunday meeting of the French Broad Baptist association was held at the Long Branch Baptist church, a short distance east of here yesterday with a large attendance, including noted Baptists from various sections of the county.

An attractive program, including talks by a number of ministers and church workers was presented. Following devotional exercises conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Pickens, W. R. White spoke on: "The Purpose of the Sunday School," and was followed by Robert Tweed, of Marshall, who gave an interesting and helpful discussion on: "Is the Sunday School Succeeding in Its Mission?"

At 11 o'clock, Dr. W. A. Sams, of Marshall, spoke on "What the Sunday School Has Meant To Our Denominational Institutions," while just before noon, Ira Plemmons, of Hot Springs, discussed the subject: "Progress Within Our Bounds Within the Last Decade, Morally and Spiritually."

At noon, dinner was served to the visitors and others, followed by a very interesting Intermediate B. Y. P. U. programme presented under the direction of the Association B. Y. P. U. leader.

At 1:30, Prof. R. L. Moore, president of Mars Hill College, spoke on "Opportunities Available to Our Young Christians," followed by a joint discussion of the question: "Are We Awake to the Responsibilities of the Church," as follows: "In the Church," by the Rev. Horace L. Smith, pastor of the Marshall Baptist church, and "In Home Life," by the Rev. J. R. Owen, pastor of the Mars Hill Baptist church.

The Orchard Watchman

Tammany Hall has been the watchman of that orchard, the city treasury, more often than any other organization, and greedy as well as immature men have usually been assigned to its outposts.

Big John Kennedy told his protégé: "A man who can take care of himself with his hands, an' who never lets whiskey fool him or steal his head can go far in this game of politics. An' it's a pretty good game at that, in politics, and can be brought to pay like a bank."—M. H. Werner in Tammany Hall.

HOOVER MOTORCADE TO ELIZABETHTON

On Saturday, October 6, a number of cars will go to Elizabethton, Tenn., to hear Hoover. The idea of all going together seems to be impracticable, as some wish to go Friday and stay over, and some wish to go from some parts of the county via Burnsville, Spruce Pine, etc. However, it is desired that as many as can and will to meet in Marshall so as to leave Marshall about 8 o'clock Saturday morning and those from the Laurel and White Rock section can join the motorcade from Marshall somewhere along the road, so that as many as possible may go together. It is requested that all who will, mark their cars, showing how they stand and where they are from. "HOOVER" MADISON COUNTY, N. C. The motorcade will go by way of Erwin, Tennessee. All Republican Candidates are invited to take part. Please call at Dr. Hutchins office and get your Hoover signs.

A STATEMENT Open Books To Registration On Saturday.

Registrars Meet To Get Supplies Friday Morning.

(Asheville Times, Oct 2, Page 2)

Registration for the general election to be held November 6 for presidential, state, congressional, and county offices, will open Saturday, it was announced Tuesday by Hayden Grindstaff, chairman of the election board.

The registration books will be kept open until October 27, he announced. All registrars of Buncombe county, Mr. Grindstaff said, will meet Friday at 11 o'clock in the court house to receive final instructions. Supplies and registration books will be handed out at this time.

I am attaching a clipping from the Asheville Times of October 2, which clipping shows the proceedings adopted and used by the Buncombe Election Board, which proceeding appears to be legal and fair. But that is not the way the Madison County Chairman of the Board of Elections is doing. The Chairman of the Board of Elections came into the Clerk's office while the Clerk was out, and without permission of the Clerk, on September 25, 1928, carried out the registration books for the entire County, and has not yet returned them.

I discovered that the books were gone from my office, and I made inquiry of the deputy clerk who stays in my office in my absence, and she said that Bryan Teague, Chairman of the Board of Elections came into the office and took them out without permission.

The Clerk of the Court then went to the home of Bryan Teague to request the books, and was told by said Chairman that he had distributed the books out over the County, except four.

The Clerk is of the opinion that said conduct on the part of the Chairman is illegal, and he calls this fact to the attention of the voters and people of Madison County.

The Clerk of Court is of the opinion in fairness that a meeting should be called as stated in the clipping and instructions given to the registrars with the books.

Signed: J. HUBERT DAVIS, Clerk of Court, Madison County.

Labor Improves Conditions

Labor in its collective efforts has contributed greatly to the maintenance of proper wages and to improved conditions of labor. But collective bargaining alone cannot overcome the forces that make for unemployment. The problem of insuring full work all the time is a problem of nations, concern. Our workers as citizens at the ballot box have a large part in determining our economic policies.—HERBERT HOOVER in his Newsweek speech.

NEW HIGHWAY ROUTE OPENS

**ASHEVILLE—JOHNSON CITY
ROUTE MOST DIRECT**

By GLENN W. NAVES

NOTE: The following article prepared from information from highway officials, Mr. F. R. Williams, publisher of the Appalachian Journal, of Knoxville, and others, was sent to a number of State daily and weekly newspapers, and should be of interest to citizens of Madison County: Marshall, N. C., Oct. 2.—In a letter to A. W. Whitehurst, Secretary of the Marshall Chamber of Commerce, received today, J. R. Williams, publisher of the Appalachian Journal, of Knoxville, a publication devoted to good roads and tourist information, suggested the newly opened 90-mile Asheville-Marshall-Greeneville-Johnson City highway as being the most accessible, direct and shortest route to Elizabethton, Tennessee, where Herbert Hoover, the Republican candidate for President, is slated to speak on October 6.

Both North Carolina and Tennessee State Highway officials have declared the entire route in good condition, and reports from tourists passing through Marshall over Highway No. 20, indicate that conditions for safe and fast travel are ideal.

From Asheville to Elizabethton the distance is only 100 miles as follows: Asheville-Marshall, 20 miles; Marshall-Greeneville, 40 miles; Greeneville-Johnson City, 30 miles; Johnson City-Elizabethton, 10 miles, and the road is in excellent condition. Commenting on the route, Mr. Williams said:

"For 15 or 20 years we have been working for good roads in the Appalachian South, and later get them connected with the North and East, and I think the opening of the Greenville-Marshall-Asheville highway of much importance."

Mr. Williams outlined the route from Asheville, as follows: "There are several good highways leading from Western North Carolina, connecting with good roads to Elizabethton and Johnson City, but in going and coming, North Carolinians should follow No. 20 from Asheville to Marshall, turning to the right at Walnut (on No. 20, seven miles north-west of Marshall) and following No. 212 for four miles, thence turning left on No. 208 to the Tennessee line, and there connecting with Tennessee route No. 70 into Greeneville."

In the construction of the route from Marshall to Greeneville, the Marshall Chamber of Commerce, through the secretary, Mr. Whitehurst, and the president, Guy V. Roberts, both of whom are well-known good roads enthusiasts, has cooperated with the Tennessee State Highway Commission, and the N. C. State Highway Commission has given much assistance, and at the same time, taken care of the road east of the State line.

In an article in the September Number of the Appalachian Journal, based on the road, which outlines the highway, commenting on the many historical and scenic attractions along the route, a paragraph announces the opening of the road as follows: "A new road has been opened from Greeneville to Walnut, N. C., which is a link in a new short route from Cumberland Gap to Asheville, putting Greeneville on a direct highway from the Middle West to Asheville."

With Marshall on the main connecting route from Asheville to Elizabethton, thousands of motorists are expected to swell the usual heavy traffic passing over Main Street, a section of the highway, on October 6.

GREAT HISTORICAL INTEREST

In addition to the fact that Marshall is located on land furnished by Zebulon Vance, North Carolina's War Governor, who was born a short distance East of here, by taking the route suggested by Mr. Williams, the State Highway Commission and various Chambers of Commerce, an opportunity to visit a number of points of deep historical interest en route is offered. A recent article in the Appalachian Journal on this reads in part as follows:

"Tourists are attracted by three things, generally, which are historical spots, scenic and recreational features and large cities. Among historic attractions outstanding are the old homes of Presidents and their

last resting places. Andrew Johnson, 17th President of the United States, came to Greeneville when a tailor there, married and lived there the remainder of his life. His tailor shop has been enclosed and is preserved in a beautiful building, and is visited by thousands of tourists annually. His stately home is still standing, occupied by his grandson and family, likewise his first home stands across the street from his tailor shop. He and his family rest in a national cemetery, and a beautiful and appropriate monument marks his last resting place. Davey Crockett was born in Greene County, near Greeneville. The old mansion of revolutionary days where Jackson and Polk, also Presidents, and who, like Johnson, came from North Carolina, were entertained, is interesting. Jackson and Johnson were made Mason by the same Lodge. Johnson was a Knight Templar and Scottish Rite Mason.

"General John H. Morgan, noted Confederate General, was killed in Greeneville. More than a century old, Tusculum College stands four miles out of Greeneville on the paved Andrew Johnson highway, eastward toward old Jonesboro, where Andrew Johnson held forth as District Attorney, and where the local Masonic Lodge holds a charter signed by Jackson as Grand Master. Out from Greeneville at Limestone, Davey Crockett was born."

All these points, giving added interest to the trip, can be easily visited en route, it has been pointed out.

OPPOSED TO MOVING VOTING PLACE

D. S. TWEED, ONE OF THE ELECTION BOARD, ANSWERS

To The News-Record:
Answering the inquiry as to why the voting place for Marshall precinct was moved from the court house, where it has heretofore been held, to the school house in the Island, will say as a member of the Board of Elections for Madison County, that I know of no reason why it should have been moved.

At the meeting of the Board when the order was made to remove it, I opposed it because there was no good reason for the change, and because it would work an inconvenience to the people of the voting precinct, and would disturb the school which would be going on on that day, and the same was passed over my protest.

Since the objections to its removal have been announced, I called Mr. Bryan Teague's attention to the dissatisfaction and asked him to have an order made remanding it, and he said that he knew I was opposed to it, but that the other members would take the responsibility of its removal.

D. S. TWEED.

MADISON NEWS SPOTLIGHT

By GLENN W. NAVES

HEALTH OFFICER ARRIVES

Miss Cora Beam, of the State Board of Health, arrived in Marshall Tuesday, and began the annual task of giving a periodical health examination to all children in the graded schools of the County.

Approximately two months will be required for the work, Carl M. Blankenship, County Superintendent of Schools, has announced.

GENTRY RELEASED ON BOND

Dock Gentry, who was brought here last week from Detroit, Michigan, by Deputy Sheriff B. E. Sams, on a charge of abandonment and assault on his wife, was released from the County jail the latter part of the week on bond of \$1,000, pending trial at the November term of court. A true bill of indictment was returned against Gentry by the Grand Jury at the September term.

Gentry was apprehended by the Detroit police department who notified Sheriff B. E. Ramsey.

FISHER SPEAKS
W. H. Fisher, of Clinton, Republican candidate for Lieutenant governor, addressed a gathering of Madison

County Republicans in the courthouse here at noon last Friday.

Mr. Fisher, who spoke in Asheville Thursday night, discussed a number of important questions and issues of the ensuing political campaign, including the tariff; enforcement and modification of the 18th amendment; the records of Herbert Hoover and Governor Smith, the Republican and Democratic presidential nominees; State debts and expenditures, and other subjects.

In addition to Mr. Fisher, Charles A. Jonas, Lincoln attorney, and G. O. P. candidate for Congress on the 9th Congressional ticket, and Robert R. Reynolds, well-known Asheville attorney, who is making a State-wide speaking tour in the interests of the candidacy of Governor Smith, have included Marshall on their itineraries, Mr. Jonas being slated to speak at Marshall, Hot Springs and White Rock next week.

MADISON-ELIZABETHTON DELEGATION WELL-ORGANIZED

The Republican delegation which is to represent Madison County at Elizabethton, Tennessee, on next Saturday, October 6, when Herbert Hoover, Republican presidential candidate speaks there, at the great industrial celebration, is now well-organized, Dr. Frank Roberts, of Marshall, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements and Organization, has announced.

Several hundred Madison citizens are expected to swell the huge crowd of thousands of people from various States who are expected to gather for the event, and an organized motorcade, carrying the delegation, is being arranged for.

Dr. James H. Hutchins, of Marshall, Chairman of the Madison County Republican Executive Committee, Dr. Roberts, and other well-known County Republicans, have assisted in the organization of the delegation.

MARSHALL HIGH ANNOUNCES ES CLASS OF '29

The Class of 1929 at Marshall High school, was announced this week. The eighteen members of the Class, with officers, are as follows:

President—Caney Smith; vice-president—William G. Roberts; secretary—Sallie Hunter; treasurer—Annie Worley; pianist—June Tweed; chaplain—Jessie May Ramsey; class reporter—Phillip Brintnall; a class Mary Morrow, Vivian Sams, Nettie Crough, Beva Dockery, Eloise Price, Clara Ward, Clara Merrill, Harper Cox, Ralph Ramsey, Elmois Ponder, Woodrow Roberts, and William Redmon.

MARSHALL P. T. A. MEETS

The second meeting of the Marshall Parent-Teacher Association for the present term was held at the high school Tuesday afternoon, and despite the very inclement weather, was largely attended. Mrs. S. B. Roberts, the 1928-29 President, presided over the meeting.

FIELD DAY PLANNED

Announcement of a County-wide Field Day to be held on October 30 on Blannhasset Island here, was made Wednesday by County Agent Earl Brintnall. Mr. Brintnall stated that a complete program for the event is in the course of preparation, and will be announced at a later date.

The forenoon will be devoted mainly to athletic and other contests, with a picnic at noon, while in the afternoon, Dr. Clarence Poe, of Raleigh, Editor of the Progressive Farmer, and F. H. Jeter, Agricultural Editor of State College, Raleigh, will address the gathering.

SPECIAL CIVIL TERM CONVENES

A special civil term of court, called recently by order of Governor A. W. McLean, in compliance with the request of the Madison County Bar, convened here Monday morning with Judge John Harwood, special term jurist, presiding.

Over 20 cases, including a number of very interesting civil actions, are listed on the term calendar, with a number of Buncombe County concerns involved in various litigation. The Georgia Talc Co., of Asheville, formerly operating in Madison County, represented by A. Hall Johnson, Asheville attorney, is demanding damages in the amount of \$36,000 based on the condemnation by Madison County of their plant formerly located near the depot here. The de-

(Continued to Page Four)