

# THE NEWS-RECORD

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## TWO SERIOUS CASES FACE CRIMINAL COURT NEXT WEEK

### Several To Be Tried For Three Murders In Madison

#### Judge Warlick To Preside

Although definite arrangements have not been made, the trial of Robert Thomas, Oris Gunter, and Arthur Gosnell, for the alleged killing Friday morning of William "Bill" Thomas of the Guntertown section, will probably be placed on the docket for trial. Individual warrants have been issued for the men charging them with robbery and murder.

John Randall, 67-year-old farmer of the Barnard section, is to be tried for the alleged killing of George W. Plemmons, his next-door neighbor. Plemmons was shot while standing in his own doorway while telling Randall to leave.

The trial of Jack Rice for alleged killing of McKinley Shelton four years ago on Mill Creek in the Shelton Laurel section is scheduled for this term. The case has been heard here once and the State Supreme Court ordered a new trial. The case was later not pressed with leave but was placed back upon the docket.

Judge Wilson Warlick will preside at the criminal term of superior court which will convene here Monday, February 25.

Quite a number of cases of lesser importance are on the docket.

## MARS HILL CHARTERED IN 1859

### 76th Anniversary Celebrated February 15

Charter Day was celebrated at Mars Hill college Friday, Feb. 15, with a program in the college auditorium at 11 o'clock in commemoration of the granting of the first charter of the college in 1859.

Among those appearing on the program were: W. H. Higgs, Ellis C. Jones, Henry Sharp, Gilbert H. Morris, and Mrs. Devinish, all of Asheville. Mr. Morris, vice-president of the Wachovia Bank and Trust company, Asheville, which administers the endowment funds of the college, spoke on the mission and opportunity of the college and told of the prospects of increasing the endowment at an early date. The other speakers gave inspirational short talks appropriate to the occasion.

Introducing the program, President Moore reviewed briefly the history of the charters of the college. The first charter, which was ratified February 16, 1859, provided that the institution which was then called French Broad Baptist academy should be incorporated as Mars Hill college. J. W. Anderson, Edward Carter, Thomas Deaver, and Lewis Parnell were named a body politic and corporate, and the personal property of the college was fixed at \$50,000 with real estate not to exceed 300 acres.

Article 3 of the original charter, a copy of which is in the archives of the college, provided that the "faculty, that is the president, professors, and teachers, by and with the consent of the trustees, shall have the power of conferring all such degrees and marks of literary distinction as are usually conferred by colleges and seminaries of learning." This power, which has never been exercised, the college still has. Since its founding, however, the college has done some work of college grade. For 15 years the college has been definitely organized as a junior college.

#### Opposed To Liquor

From the beginning of its existence the college seems to have been opposed to alcoholic liquors. At a time when any measure to restrict the sale or use of liquors could hardly be expected to pass the General Assembly the following article was ratified in the first charter: "That it shall not be lawful for any persons or persons to retail spirituous liquors, or sell in any quantity less than five gallons to any student in said college within five miles of said college, and such selling and retailing within the dis-

### The Silver Lining

Darling, we are growing old.  
Though not left out in the cold;  
With four hundred bucks to spend  
Every month, we need no friend;  
Yes, my darling, we will be  
Always full of pep and glee.

To the night clubs we will go,  
Keeping young and gay, what-ho!  
When our hair has turned to gray  
Home will see us less each day;  
Life, my darling, will be great.  
While the youngsters pay the freight.

—News-Bulletin, Greeneville, Tennessee.

## BELIEVES DISTRICTS SHOULD HAVE EXPERT MAJOR CRIME INVESTIGATORS

### Solicitors And Other Enforcement Officers Unable To Ferret Out Truth Before Crime Is Covered

#### Lawyers At Civitan Club Agree And Disagree

The last meeting of the Civitan Club last Friday at the French Broad hotel was more spirited than usual. The crime of the murder of William Thomas in the county had just been committed that morning and it stirred Judge Guy V. Roberts to say some things which he said he had for some time thought—that in some way expert investigators should be available to be placed immediately on the scene of the crime where first hand evidence could be obtained before criminals have the time to cover their tracks. He made a motion that the club go on record as favoring such an officer, and that the secretary of the club write the Governor about the motion. Mr. Calvin Edney, who had recently become a member of the club, agreed that something should be done to get at the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about such crimes, but he did not agree that the state should go to the additional expense of having such an officer, deprecating the fact that politics plays too large a part in prosecutions generally and saying that he believed such an officer would be subject more or less to the powers that be in politics. Mr. Hendricks also spoke on the subject and all agreed that something should be done. However, the motion was withdrawn and the matter dropped for the present.

Prof. Dillard reported that efforts were being made to put through the projects mentioned at a previous meeting.

lance aforesaid by any person or persons shall subject such person or persons to a penalty of ten dollars for each and every offense against

the provisions of this section which said penalty shall be recovered by any person suing for same . . . one-half to the person suing and the other half to the use of the college." The college seems never to have received any revenue from this source. The restricting of the sale of liquors to lots of five gallons or more practically meant prohibition for the students of Mars Hill. In accord with the tradition of the college the legislature excepted Mars Hill with two other communities of the State in lifting the ban on the sale of beer.

The original charter of the college was amended in 1861, in 1885, and in 1895. In 1905 most of the old charter was repealed and a new one made, which was amended in 1923 and again in 1924.

to have carried a large amount of cash on his person—was seen that day with more than \$700 in currency, and it is believed the boys murdered the old man and robbed him.

After the above was in type, the Sheriff's department reported that these boys had confessed and signed a statement that they committed the crime. They were taken to the Buncombe county jail Monday for safe keeping.

### THREE ESCAPE FROM JAIL

Hal and George Wilson, brothers of Yancey county, who were being held in the Madison county jail in Marshall charged with the theft of an automobile, sawed the bolts from their cell door and escaped some time Monday night. Wallace Taylor, of Madison county, charged with violation of the prohibition law, also escaped, but returned to the jail Tuesday. A hack-saw blade was used to saw bolts, allowing the prisoners to open the door. The prisoners then escaped through a second-story window.

## MADISON MAN MURDERED FRIDAY

### Three Madison Youths Jailed Charged With Crime

#### Confess And Are Moved To Buncombe Jail

William Thomas, 74-year-old merchant of the Gunter Town section of Madison County, was found early last Friday morning murdered, his throat having been cut, from which he died before noon that day. Dr. W. E. Finley, of White Rock, when notified of the murder, immediately called Sheriff Guy English, who in turn, wired officers in adjoining counties, the result being that three youths were arrested at Shelby, N. C., and returned to the Madison County jail charged with robbery and murder. The three arrested were of Madison County—Arthur Gosnell, 18, and Oasis Gunter, 18, and Robert Thomas, 22, a grand-nephew of the murdered man. They were first lodged in the jail at Rutherfordton until Madison officers, deputies Eldridge Leake, Fred McDevitt, Arthur Gentry, and Henry Ramsey, could go for them. The youths were known to the deputies. It is expected the three will be tried at the February term of court, which will be next week.

It is said that Thomas was known

## BONES OF BROTHER, DEAD 24 YEARS, BURIED WITH MURDERED MAN

### CROWDS TO HEAR SEC. WALLACE

#### Engage Seats Early Next Thursday

Eight hundred applications for admission blanks have come from sixteen counties of Western North Carolina to hear U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace at the general Lord's Acre meeting Saturday of this week, according to the Rev. James Clarke, who is arranging the meeting. The meeting will be in the Central Methodist church in Asheville beginning at 9:45 on the morning of Saturday of February 23. Mr. Clarke announced that the church has between one thousand and eleven hundred seats. Admission to the reserve seats will be by ticket only, and the tickets must be presented by 9:45. If any seats remain, they will be open to the public, it was announced. Buncombe county farm agent, A. W. Nesbitt, and a staff of vocational agriculture teachers, will act as ushers. The program will include testi-

## MADISON - HAYWOOD ROADS SHOULD BE HARDSURFACED

### TO BE IN ASHEVILLE NEXT THURSDAY



HENRY A. WALLACE U. S. Secretary of Agriculture

### Petitions Being Sent To Highway Commission About Road From Hot Springs To Lake Junaluska

#### SPRING CREEK, Feb. 16 (Special)

Efforts to get the State Highway commission to improve and hard surface the Spring Creek-Fines Creek township road in Madison and Haywood counties are being made by a large group of citizens in this section and Haywood county.

Several petitions making the request have been signed by many persons in this section, and approved by the Madison county commissioners. It is understood that similar petitions were signed in Haywood county and that the two counties will unite efforts to urge immediate improvements. Conferences are to be held in the near future with the district highway engineer.

Since the highway is expected to be one of the chief connections with the Appalachian Scenic Parkway for the citizens of Madison county and the extreme eastern section of Tennessee, special interest is being shown in the undertaking.

The Spring Creek-Fines Creek road, which is State Highway No. 209, is approximately 40 miles long. It connects U. S. Highway No. 25 at Hot Springs with N. C. No. 10 at Lake Junaluska. The highway traverses a section which produces a considerable number of beef cattle and is one of the best farming regions of Western North Carolina for grain and tobacco crops. About nine years ago the road was relocated and given a shale surface. Due to considerable heavy traffic since that time, the highway has become worn and the need for improvement has become essential.

In several places the road mentioned in the petition is not adequate for school bus travel. Six or eight busses operate in the section, serving the Hot Springs, Spring Creek, and Fines Creek schools.

Pavement of the highway would benefit greatly citizens in nearby communities, especially the Meadow Fork section of Madison county, where four elementary schools are located, and the upper section of Sandy Mush in Buncombe county, as well as several adjoining communities in Haywood county. It would also be of great benefit to the traffic to Max Patch Mountain, and would decrease the time it takes motorists to drive from adjoining sections to this tourist resort.

## Mars Hill Quint Sets World Record

### (SPECIAL)

The hundreds of fans that were present in the Mars Hill college gym Saturday night saw a new world's record made from the offensive standpoint. In defeating Textile college of Spartanburg, South Carolina, 48-24, Mars Hill ran her scoring record up to 1004 points for the season. A total of twenty junior college games have been played, fifteen won and five lost. The regular season has one game to go, that with Boone Freshmen, at Mars Hill this Wednesday night. Boone is the only Freshman team in North and South Carolina to defeat Mars Hill.

Much interest has developed over the state meet which is to be held in Charlotte this Friday and Saturday. Mars Hill is paired with Wingate, the game to be played at nine twenty-eight different states in the P. M. Friday. Mars Hill has played Wingate twice already and scored ninety-one points while Wingate has scored fifty-eight. At the half of both games the score was very close and Wingate has recently defeated some of the best teams in the state. Anything may happen in the Wingate game and should Mars Hill be off, Wingate has a good chance of winning.

Mars Hill has perhaps more reserve strength than ever before. It was the reserves that were able to hold Abbey in check and give the regulars a breathing spell. The reserves were leading Textile by ten points when the regulars were put into the fray. It is a tradition here that Mars Hill's basketball teams always have played great tournament basketball.

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FEB. 21 - 23

The annual Madison County high school Basketball Tournament will begin Thursday afternoon, Feb. 21, at 3:00 P. M. at the Walnut high school court. Six girls' teams and seven boys' teams will participate in the tournament. Much interest is being shown and large crowds are expected

to attend. The Spring Creek girls and the Walnut boys will be slightly favored in this tournament.

Coach Watson of Barnardville will be the official referee. A small admission fee of 10c and 20c will be charged.

## THE MARS HILL COLLEGE BASKETBALL SQUAD & COACH



Pictured above is the high scoring Mars Hill junior college basketball squad, which was seeded No. 1 for the state championship tournament here this week-end. Front row, left to right: Freddie Shands, Donald Parker, Carter Hawkins, James Marrell, James Earl. Back row: Coach Owen E. Roberts, Back row: Manager Robert King, Andy Chittam, Robert Fitzwood, Fort Anderson, Andy Krapp and Penna Bernan.

(Above cut courtesy Charlotte News)