

# The News-Record

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J. I. STORY, Managing Editor

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## Editorial

### LAW AND CIVIC APATHY NARROW THE JURY LIST

Few people really want to serve on juries. The responsibility is, for one thing, considerable. The pay — in North Carolina — is \$4 a day. The inconvenience, especially to jobholders, is obvious.

And yet, the jury system is basic to American jurisprudence. And, with all its flaws, it offers the best guarantee of justice that is available under the law.

It is important, then that juries be composed of responsible citizens — representative citizens — who honor their jury obligation as a sacred trust.

That doesn't always happen in North Carolina. Under the statutes, vast groups of people are not required to serve on juries.

Since 1885, various legislatures, acting at the instance of pressure groups, have exempted persons of one occupation or another until now about 50 per cent of the qualified residents of the state are exempt from jury duty. The result is that the calibre of juries often just doesn't measure up to acceptable standards.

This is a basic weakness in the state's courts, based as they are on the jury system. If juries are incompetent, the quality of justice suffers.

The list of exemptions has little rhyme or reason. It includes druggists, telegraph operators, train dispatchers, ministers, embalmers, funeral directors, employees of state mental institutions, members of professional or volunteer fire departments, printers, linotype operators, grist mill operators, rural mail carriers, postal clerks, broadcasting technicians and announcers, optometrists, registered and practical nurses, and railway engineers, brakemen, and conductors. It also takes in lawyers and members of the Civil Air Patrol and of the National and State Guard.

Although additions have been made to the list over the years, no occupational group once exempted has ever been removed. Unfortunately, many of the exempt occupations require special training and skills that make their people especially desirable as jurors.

In its 1958 study headed by J. Spencer Bell, the N. C. Bar Association recommended a sharp reduction in the number of persons exempted from jury service. The report said that, in principle, exemptions should be limited to lawyers and policemen whose special relation to the court made it improper for them to serve as jurors. It recommended that judges or jury commissioners have discretion to relieve cases of special hardships.

Such a drastic revision of exemptions should be made. Very few citizens are so busy or essential that they cannot spare a week's time every few years for jury service.

The Courts Commission, which is now devising methods to implement court improvement in N. C., should make recommendations for removing most of the exemptions from jury duty in time for action by the 1967 General Assembly. This reform is long overdue.

—Asheville Citizen.

### Carey L. Anders, Native Of County, Passes Tuesday

Carey Lattimer Anders, 70, of Erwin Hills Dr., Asheville, died Tuesday, July 20, 1965 unexpectedly in his home.

He was a native of Madison County and had lived in Buncombe County for the past 58 years. He was a retired employe of Burlington Industries, a former superintendent of the Marshall Cotton Mill, and the son of the late Alfred and Alice Bece Anders.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Bece Freeman Anders; a sister, Mrs. J. H. Goddard of Asheville; and 17 nephews and nieces.

Services will be held at 2 p. m. Saturday at the Chapel of Andrew's Episcopal Church in Asheville.

### Enjoy Picnic

The Barnard 4-H Club held its picnic Saturday, July 17 at 1:00 p. m. The club members met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fowler and then proceeded on a trip to Doggett Gap, with transportation provided by Mr. Clyde Randall. The picnic meal was enjoyed at Rocky Bluff Recreational Area.

Warren Roberts, reporter

### ITCHING LIKE MAD?

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### MRS. MARY EMMA GAGE PASSES; RITES TUESDAY

#### Widow Of Clarence Gage Buried In City Cemetery In Marshall

Mrs. Mary Emma Gage died Sunday night, July 18, 1965, in her apartment at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, following a brief illness.

She was 86. A member of the college staff since 1933, Mrs. Gage had served briefly as kitchen and infirmary supervisor before being made supervisor of the laundry. For many years she also served as church organist.

Born in Kingston, Tenn., Mrs. Gage and her late husband, Clarence M. Gage, lived in Madison County, where Mrs. Gage was active in school and church work. At the turn of the century she was associated with the former Bell School at Walnut, and she was also on the staff of the former Dorland-Bell School at Hot Springs before going to Warren Wilson College.

Services were held at the Bowman Funeral Home in Marshall at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday. Dr. G. Gordon Mahy of Warren Wilson College officiated. Burial was in City Cemetery here. William Connet of Swannanoa, together with four students from Warren Wilson, served as pallbearers.

Mrs. Gage is survived by a sister, Miss Clara Hood of Knoxville and a nephew and a niece.

### Mrs. Attie Hipps, 80, Dies Wednesday; Funeral Friday

Mrs. Attie Plemmons Hipps, 80, wife of Eli Hipps, Rt. 1, Hot Springs, died in an Asheville hospital, Wednesday, July 21, 1965, after a brief illness.

Services will be held at 11 a. m., Friday at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

The Rev. Don Wilder will officiate and burial will be in the church cemetery.

The body will be taken to the home at 3 o'clock this (Thursday) afternoon by Bowman Funeral Home, which is in charge.

### Decoration

The annual decoration of the Crooked Ridge Cemetery will be held Sunday, July 25 at 10:00 a. m. Everyone is invited.

### Pioneer 4-H Club Met Monday

The girls of the Pioneer 4-H Club met Monday evening at 5:00 in the basement of the Bacchus McPeters home.

The club members decided to have a picnic, to be held at the home of Mr. Arthur Duck on the evening of August 6.

Tickets are to be on sale Saturday, July 24 at the home of Mrs. Patsy Davis.

Johnny Hensley, reporter

### MISS SARAH E. ELMORE PASSES SUDDENLY FRI.

#### Suffers Heart Attack While Driving In Downtown Asheville

Services for Miss Sarah Elizabeth Elmore, 60, of Mars Hill, who died of a heart attack Friday, July 16, 1965 while driving in downtown Asheville, were held at 2 p. m., Monday in Mars Hill Baptist Church.

The Rev. Charles Davis officiated and burial was in Mars Hill Cemetery. Pallbearers were Dr. Otis Duck, Jack Carter, Frank Resgan, Howard Bloomberg, Ken Worthington, Dr. Bruce Sams, Jim Maton, Harold Wood and Ruby Cooper.

Honorary pallbearers were deacons of the church, members of the Lions Club of North Carolina, and the staff of the North Carolina Commission for the Blind.

Miss Elmore attended Mars Hill College and graduated from Women's College at Greensboro. She worked for five years at the North Carolina School for Deaf, and 10 years as superintendent at Mill's Home Orphanage before taking a position as Western North Carolina Home Industries counselor for the N. C. Commission for the Blind.

She was a daughter of the late Edward Robert and Lillie Forester Elmore.

Surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Frances Patterson of Wilson, Mrs. E. O. Bryan of Mars Hill, and Mrs. N. C. Frederick of Kingston; and four nieces and a nephew.

Holcombe Funeral Home was in charge.

### Mrs. Mirah Ponder Passes Wednesday; Funeral Tomorrow

Mrs. Mirah Cumberland Ponder, 96, of Mars Hill Rt. 1, died in the home of a daughter, Mrs. C. F. Robinson, Wednesday, July 21, 1965, after a long illness.

She was a native of Madison County and the widow of the late Rev. Joe Sepsus Ponder.

Surviving in addition to Mrs. Robinson is another daughter, Mrs. L. G. West of Weaverville; 24 grandchildren, 72 great-grandchildren and 46 great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 2:30 p. m., Friday in Grapevine Baptist Church.

The Rev. E. F. Sprinkle and the Rev. Clifford Cable will officiate and burial will be in Grapevine Cemetery. Pallbearers will be grandsons and flowerbearers will be granddaughters.

The body has been taken to the home of Mrs. C. F. Robinson and will remain until the service hour. Holcombe Funeral Home is in charge.

### Renew Your Subscription To The News-Record

### Masonic Grand Lodge School Of Instruction Sat.

The Grand Lodge Masonic School of Instruction will be held this Saturday, July 24 at Bald Creek Masonic Lodge No. 397, located on the Burnsville Highway No. 19.

The School of Instruction will commence at 2:30 p. m. Lodges participating are Bald Creek No. 397, French Broad No. 292, Burnsville No. 717, and Vance No. 293.

Supper will be served by the members of Bald Creek Lodge. All officers and members of the lodges are urged to attend.

W. L. Lankford, P.M., is District Deputy Grand Master.

### Big Pine 4-H Club Met On July 13

The Big Pine 4-H Club met July 13 at the home of Leonard Massey. The boys visited Mr. Massey's tomato patch.

The next meeting will be held August 5. Everyone is to be at Mr. Massey's at 5:00 to go on a picnic. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Massey and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Buckner are the leaders; and Hubert Worley is reporter.

### Dinner Guests

Mrs. W. E. Deaver had as dinner guests last week the Rev. and Mrs. Jack Thomas and sons, David and Philip; also Mr. Bill House of Asheville and Mr. and Mrs. Mack Ramsey, Jr., and sons, Jim and Mackie.

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Four generations of the family of Mrs. Mary Blazer, 81, of Asheville assembled at the home of Mrs. Blazer's daughter, Mrs. Willie Mae Ramsey, of the Dry Branch section last Sunday.

Shown above, left to right, are Mrs. Mary Blazer, of Asheville; her daughter, Mrs. Willie Mae Ramsey; Mrs. Ramsey's daughter, Mrs. Rosie Lee Fisher, of Detroit, and standing in front is Mrs. Fisher's three-year-old son, Gary Lynn. Not present when picture was made was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Leonard Griffin of Mars Hill who is a great-great-grandchild of Mrs. Blazer's. In addition to the relatives from Michigan, Mrs. Lillie Radford of Arlington, Va., also visited here. Mrs. Blazer is quite proud of her eight children; 27 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson, all of whom are living.

### Ball Reunion To Be Held Sunday At W. M. Rice Home

The descendants of the late J. W. Ball and wife, Allie Gentry Ball, will hold their annual family reunion next Sunday, July 25 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Rice, Marshall Rt. 4. All relatives and friends are invited to bring a picnic basket and come enjoy the day with us. Lunch will be served on the lawn at noon.

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