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**ACTING POSTMASTER — J. Fuller Moseley**, above, local wholesale merchant, has been appointed acting postmaster here on the recommendation of Fifth District Representative John H. Folger. He will take office December 31 and serve until a permanent postmaster is appointed. Mr. Moseley succeeds French W. Graham whose death last week terminated his life-time appointment as head of the post office here.

## GUNMAN ROBS, BEATS VICTIM

W. A. Triplett, Merchant, Assaulted By Masked Man Early Friday Morning

ONE ARREST IS MADE

W. A. Triplett, prominent Wilkes County merchant, was brutally beaten and robbed early Friday morning by a masked gunman who gained entrance to the store through the rear that he was seeking medicine for a sick child.

Mr. Triplett, who lives in the rear of his store on Highway 421 west of North Wilkesboro, was awakened shortly after 4 a. m. by a voice at the door. After the man had begged for a bottle of castor oil for a sick child, he opened the door and a man wearing a black mask and armed with a gun rushed in, slugged him and took a pocketbook containing about \$350 according to the story told to officers.

After taking the money, the masked man took the bleeding storekeeper some distance away from the building and informed him that he was going to kill him, Mr. Triplett, told the officers.

The merchant begged for his life and the robber decided to take him inside and tie him. His legs were trussed up with strips of cloth, and he was left in the living quarters of the building.

After some time, he managed to extricate himself from his bonds and made his way to the home of Dr. W. R. Triplett some distance away, where his head wounds were treated. Dr. Triplett called officers at North Wilkesboro.

Leon West, of the Champion community, was arrested Saturday and charged with the attack and robbery, according to officers. West reportedly had a large sum of money on his person when he was taken into custody.

## COURT CLEARS OVER 60 CASES

Ten Divorce Decrees Are Given During December Term At Dobson

\$3,911 IN FINES, COSTS

A summary of the December term of Surry Superior Court prepared by Court Clerk Kermit Lawrence shows that 64 cases were disposed of, including 10 divorce decrees.

The records of the clerk's office disclose that a total of \$3,811.20 was received as a result of the term. Of this amount, a total of \$2,220 was in fines imposed which are being turned over to the school fund as provided by law. Of a total of 32 cases in which the defendants were taxed with the cost and, in most instances, fined, only one has failed to comply with the judgment. A commitment has been issued to send this defendant to the roads in accordance with the judgment.

The balance of the total amount collected was for court costs, including officers' and witness' fees and miscellaneous items such as alimony. The clerk's office is making an effort to disburse the officers' and witness' fees before Christmas, Mr. Lawrence reported. The portion of fees which, by law, go to the county general fund will be paid over at the end of the month as usual.

## LOCAL KIWANIS CLUB AUCTION SALE NETS \$487

Mule and Bird Dog Among Items Sold

BIRD DOG BRINGS \$25

Opening Bid On Mule Contributed By E. W. McDaniel Is 39 Cents

BOUGHT BY DR. JOHNSON

The Elkin Kiwanis Club last Thursday evening at its annual Christmas auction, staged at the YMCA, netted a total of \$487.00, the second largest amount ever to be realized at such an event since the auction was inaugurated a number of years ago.

As is the custom, club members contribute various items which are in turn auctioned off to the highest bidders. This year a bird dog and a mule were among the items (if a mule can be described as an item, especially the mule in question), put up for sale.

The bird dog, contributed by Hugh Chatham, and which came complete with lengthy pedigree, was sold to George E. Royall for \$25.00.

The mule, described as being a female and thought possibly to be the same mule which ran away with a buggy as recounted in an item from The Tribune's "53 Years Ago This Week" column several weeks ago, was purchased by Dr. Harry L. Johnson for \$10.00.

This fine animal was contributed to the auction by E. W. McDaniel, who operates a large farm on the outskirts of Elkin, and when it (or she), was put up for auction, received an opening bid of 39 cents. However, when it was learned the animal was fully equipped with everything but teeth and a desire to work, the bidding began to mount. However, Dr. Johnson, who no doubt

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## SCHOOL HEAD IS CLEARED

Caldwell Superintendent Gains Non-Suit In Charges Of False Pretense

BOOKS ARE CRITICIZED

R. L. Fritz, Jr., Caldwell County school superintendent, was cleared Saturday in Lenoir of charges of obtaining \$1,641.19 from the State Board of Education under false pretense when Judge Allen H. Gwyn announced a judgment of nonsuit.

Judge Gwyn issued a statement that the State had failed to establish criminal intent on Fritz's part but, in a supplementary statement, the court severely criticized bookkeeping methods he used in paying his wife and regular and substitute teachers at the Hudson school, of which he was superintendent.

Judge Gwyn said he hoped his nonsuit decision "may not be construed as legal justification for the methods employed" by Fritz in the school payroll.

The State offered testimony that Fritz used the names of persons not then teaching at the Hudson School to obtain money to pay school personnel for extra work during a teacher shortage. Fritz has repaid the money in full.

Judge Gwyn's judgment of nonsuit relieved the jury, which sat through six days of testimony, of passing on the issues.

The action also opened the way for a move to reinstate the teaching certificate of the president of the North Carolina Education Association, who was dismissed as supervising principal of the Hudson School District after the State Board revoked the certificate.

## YMCA Not To Reopen Until December 29

The YMCA closed Monday evening and will not re-open until Monday, December 29, according to T. C. McKnight, general secretary.

The YMCA building obtains heat from the Chatham Manufacturing Company heating system and, since the Chatham plant is closed this week, no means of heating the YMCA building is available, Mr. McKnight explained.

The YMCA's regular program will be resumed Monday morning.



## WOMAN FOUND UNCONSCIOUS

Officers Seek Truck Driver Who Reportedly Pushed Ill Woman From Truck

NEAR PILOT MOUNTAIN

The identity of the truck driver who reportedly pushed an ill woman from the cab of his vehicle and left her lying by the road near Pilot Mountain last Thursday still had not been determined yesterday.

The woman, who identified herself as Mrs. Rena Terry, 24, was found unconscious one mile west of Pilot Mountain by Sheriff Sam Patterson. She was taken to the Martin Memorial Hospital in Mount Airy for treatment and later told officers that she had been pushed from a moving vehicle when she became ill.

The injured woman gave her

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## Tribune To Be Closed Three Days This Week

Although most business establishments in Elkin will be closed only two days, Thursday and Friday, for Christmas, The Tribune office will not re-open until Monday morning in order that employees may have a well-earned rest.

The newspaper observes very few holidays during the year, and it is felt that a three-day Christmas vacation is in order.

The paper is being issued on Tuesday this week, although the usual Thursday date line is being carried. This issue contains holiday greetings of merchants and business men of the section, and subscribers are invited to read each of them.

The usual publication date will be resumed next week with the January 1, 1948 issue.

The Tribune wishes all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## STILL RAIDING IS HAZARDOUS

Deputy Fractures Knee And Then Has To Dodge Bullets In Recent Episode

TWO STILLS NABBED

The task of raiding liquor stills is sometimes a hazardous business; you run the risk of getting a little lead thrown in your direction now and then.

Several deputy sheriffs from Mount Airy had such an unpleasant experience last Friday afternoon while raiding two stills near Lowgap.

None of the deputies were injured in the gunfire, though one of them, Chief Deputy Rex I. Tilley, suffered a fractured knee when he slipped on a creek-bottom rock and fell while on the search.

The man jailed was Amos Potts.

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## SURRY COURT DISPOSES OF FINAL CASES

Run-Of-The-Mill Charges Are Cleared In Final Days

HEAR ASSAULT COUNTS

Tribune Makes Error In Reporting Controversial Beer Mixup In Dobson

FULL DETAILS GIVEN

The Tribune regrets an error in last week's issue in which it was stated that Lucille Spencer, Dobson woman charged with violating prohibition laws, was fined \$100 and costs and given a 90-day suspended sentence. Actually, the State took a nol pros with leave in the case. The misstatement occurred through a newspaperman's error in transcribing the court record.

The case arose over a controversy between the town of Dobson and Mrs. Spencer, who operates a cafe just inside the town limits. Mrs. Spencer contended that her place of business was outside the town limits and that she, therefore, was not required to obtain license from the town council in order to sell beer. Dobson's governing body, with authority to issue beer license at its discretion to business establishments within the town, claimed that Mrs. Spencer was violating the law by selling beer without license.

According to Mayor Frank Freeman, there was also reliable evidence to show that Mrs. Spencer's cafe was not being operated in the best interests of the community and that if she had made formal application for license to sell beer, "the likelihood is that she would have been refused."

Action was brought against Mrs. Spencer and her husband, Buford Spencer, at the instigation of Dobson's town board. A survey by John Franklin indicated that the Spencer cafe was inside the town limits, as contended by the governing body, and Mrs. Spencer agreed to refrain from selling beer "unless and until proper license can be secured." On the basis of this agreement, the town board recommended that the case be nol prossed.

The State took a nol pros with leave, which means that action can be re-instated at any time upon motion of the solicitor with-

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# Plea For Aid Brings Liberal Response Here

## Many Gifts, \$290 In Cash Contributed



**HEADS MASONS**—Glenn Lewis above, has been elected Worshipful Master of Elkin Masonic Lodge 454 to succeed Graham Greene. He will take office in January. Other officers elected were Loman C. Richardson, senior warden; Fred Eidson, junior warden; Reece Gilliam, secretary; and Marion C. Whitener, treasurer.

The response to The Tribune's appeal for needy families last week has been generous. Up to noon Tuesday, a total of \$290.90 had been contributed in money, and many citizens had brought liberal gifts of food, clothing and toys.

On behalf of the families whose Christmas will be bright because of the contributions, The Tribune expresses its sincere thanks.

Appreciation is also expressed to Rev. Joseph Brown and others who helped investigate the needs of the families; to the Elkin Methodist Church, which turned over most of its "White Christmas" offering to the gift collection; and to J. D. Brendle and Early Combs, who cooperated in the project.

One of the many outstanding expressions of generosity was that of Mrs. Fred Harris' fifth grade. The members of the class came in a group to the newspaper office with gifts of canned goods, fruits and other contributions.

In addition to the seven families described last week, three others have been added to the list. One is a family whose home burned recently. The fire de-

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## NINE ARRESTED IN WILKES CO.

Are Charged With Possession And Sale of Non-Tax Paid Liquors

BY ALCOHOL TAX UNIT

Nine Wilkes County residents were arrested last week and charged with possession and sale of non tax-paid liquor, according to U. S. Commissioner Charles E. Ader.

Agents of the Alcohol Tax Unit made the arrests Friday, Mr. Ader said, as a result of a series of A. T. U. undercover investigations of illegal liquor activities in the section.

A hearing is scheduled for the nine alleged bootleggers January 16 before U. S. Commissioner Ralph Davis in Wilkesboro.

The following were arrested: LeRoy Preston Mathis of Ronda, Route 2, McKinley Blackburn and Alice Blackburn, his wife, Garnis Blackburn, and Henry Ford Shepherd, all of Shepherds Cross Roads; Jeff Mathis, Walt Johnson, and Aster Mathis, all of Ronda; and Willie Anderson of Roaring River.

The agents found 440 gallons of non tax-paid whiskey in the basement of Anderson's home, Mr. Ader reported, and 11,800 pounds of sugar in an out building near his home. This and cars belonging to Shepherd and LeRoy Mathis were all confiscated, Mr. Ader said.

He explained that Mathis was on probation at the time of his arrest and that he had been jailed to await investigation by the probation office in Greensboro and the fixing of bail by Judge Johnson J. Hayes, judge of Middle District Federal Court.

## Yadkin Man Faces Hit And Run Count

Kenneth J. Cheek of Yadkin County was charged with hit and run driving and driving without operator's license Sunday following a collision of his vehicle with a truck operated by M. T. Chamberlain, Route 2, Yadkinville.

The accident occurred in Jonesville early Sunday afternoon when Cheek's car sideswiped the truck as it was entering the highway from a side road. The impact sent the truck against the porch of a Negro home and knocked out a post from the porch, it was reported.

## Two Bound Over By Elkin Magistrate

William G. Cooper of Elkin and Delmar M. Vanhoy of Jonesville were bound over to the superior term of court following hearings before Justice of the Peace C. A. McNeill this week.

Cooper was charged with operating a car under the influence of liquor. His bond was set at \$500. Vanhoy was placed under bond of \$150 on a charge of reckless driving.

## CHOPLIN NAMED WILKES AGENT

Assistant Farm Agent of Burke County Elected To Fill Vacant Post

SUCCEEDS R. D. SMITH

J. P. Choplin, assistant county agent in Burke County, has been named by the Wilkes County board of commissioners to succeed R. D. Smith as Wilkes County agent. Mr. Smith resigned the post recently to accept a position with Klondike Farm north of Elkin.

The commissioners elected Howard Colvard, now Alexander County agent, as assistant agent in Wilkes to succeed Dwight D. Williamson, who resigned to become county agent of Yadkin County. Mr. Colvard will be returning to his home county in taking the post. He is a native of Wilkes and served as assistant agent in that county before going to Alexander County.

Mr. Choplin was reared in Yadkin and Forsyth Counties and was graduated from N. C. State College in 1930. He served as president of the student body at State and held a number of other prominent offices. He was a member of the Blue Key, Golden Chain, Alpha Zeta, the football team and was captain of the wrestling team. He was also a member of the poultry judging team which placed third in the international judging contest at Madison Square Garden.

After graduation he worked for a feed company and was later in county agent work in Richmond and Dare Counties. During World War II he served as chief of the livestock section of agricultural production in the military government of Korea. Discharged with the rank of captain, he received a citation for outstanding performance of duty in Korea.

## License Branch To Be Closed 3 Days

The Carolina Motor Club branch office at Butler-McLeod Motor Company in North Elkin will be closed Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week, according to Ernest McCrary, manager.

The office will re-open Monday morning for the sale of new license plates. The necessity for closing three days is due to the fact that the motor company, in which the office is located, will close for a three-day Christmas holiday, Mr. McCrary said.



**CHATHAM CHRISTMAS PARTY** — Above are three scenes from the Christmas Party held for Chatham Manufacturing Company employees in the Gilvin Roth YMCA Saturday morning. Top photo shows some of the estimated 2,500 employees as they were being entertained by the Briarthoppers, well-known radio musicians. The table at the left is loaded with fruits, nuts and candies, to which employees were invited to help themselves. In the lower left photo Dick Chatham, employment manager for the company, is handing a bonus check to Dave Woodruff, retired employee. The company paid the largest bonus in its history to employees, including workers retired on pensions. The lower right picture shows a group of company officials at the party.

(TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY BELL)