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Single FIVE CENTS

Officers Of Masonic Lodge Are Installed

Mercer Simmons was officially seated as master of Lincoln Lodge 127, AF & AM, as all newly elected officers of the Lodge were installed on Friday night in the new Masonic Hall on Northwest Court-square.



MERCER SIMMONS

Mr. Simmons succeeds Lloyd Cornwell at the organization's top post.

DR. PUGH IN CHARGE Dr. Charles Pugh of Gastonia, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina, was present and was in charge of the installation service.

Other officers installed were: Kemp P. Nixon, senior warden; Lloyd Cornwell, junior warden; J. H. Ross, treasurer; Frank P. Heaver, secretary; John P. Cornwell, senior deacon; Claude Chapman, junior deacon; D. W. Lingerfelt, Robert J. Leonhardt, stewards; R. W. Heafner, tyler; Jas. A. Shuford, trustee, three years.

Dr. Pugh complimented the Masons on their new building, recently occupied, and cited the Lodge for its fine work over years. Reference was made to the possibilities of forming a Demolay organization, sponsored by the Masons here. The organization is for boys 14 to 21.

CLINE OLDEST MEMBER Lincoln Lodge 127, AF & AM, is one of the oldest and most active Masonic lodges in the state. There are now approximately 160 members in the Lodge. The oldest member in point of membership years at Friday night's meeting was Guy E. Cline. He will complete his fiftieth year as a member in May of this year.

The Masonic lodge is now headquartered in its recently purchased remodeled building, formerly Robinson Estate, on North Court-square. The second floor is occupied by the Eastern Star chapter and will be utilized as a banquet hall and kitchen. The third floor is the main hall and meeting place for the Masons.

The Blue Lodge of Masons, Eastern Star and Knights of Pythias will also meet in the Masonic Hall for their regular meetings. Entrance to the hall is made by the stairway on the East side of the building.

Following Friday night's installation ceremony, refreshments were served by Eastern Star members in the banquet hall on the second floor. The first floor of the building is now being remodeled in preparation to being occupied by Dottie's Shoppe, a children's ready to wear firm.

Postmaster V. N. Fair Reminds Patrons Of Dispatch Schedules

Postmaster V. N. Fair of Lincolnton today released the following notice to postal patrons:

The last mail to leave Lincolnton in the afternoon is the Charlotte-Asheville Highway Post Office, which is scheduled to depart at 6:10 p.m.

Those business firms, and others, who desire to get mail on this last Highway Post Office should have their mail deposited in the Post Office not later than 5:45 p.m. This is the closing time for this department.

Mail deposited in the Post Office drop, or outside street mail box, is often deposited too late to be routed and tied out for this last departure and is delayed until the next day.

All business mail intended for the last departure should be deposited inside the Post Office in the outgoing drop not later than 5:45 to insure its departure.

Baptists Present Awards To Participants In Sunday School Attendance Crusade

Sunday, December 25, was the closing date of the third twelve-weeks Attendance Crusade in Sunday School at the First Baptist Church, with 122 members having perfect record of attendance for that period.

Forty-two members have had perfect attendance during all three crusades and will receive special recognition for loyalty.

BONDURANT PRESIDES Sunday morning, January 8, Joe Bondurant, Sunday School superintendent, was in charge of a brief service during the morning worship hour to recognize the 122 members and to award attendance badges to them. There were three types of awards, those who had

Death Claims John Rudisill

John Pinkney Rudisill, 90, of the Reepsville section, died this morning at a local hospital. Mr. Rudisill was born in Lincoln County March 6, 1865.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Reepsville Baptist Church. The body will lie in state thirty minutes prior to the services. Rev. Mark Yoder will officiate, assisted by Rev. Glenn Miller.

He is survived by four sons, John, Nathaniel, Zero, and Richard Rudisill; six daughters, Mrs. Minnie Houser, Mrs. Nora Schronce, Mrs. Florence Dellinger, Mrs. Annie Reynolds, Mrs. Lula Peeler and Mrs. Ethel Gilbert, 51 grandchildren and 60 great-grandchildren.

Building Construction "Booms" Here In 1955

Building construction continued on the tempo of other businesses locally during the past year, good. Much improvement was noted over the previous year.

Charlie Randall, the city's building inspector, released his annual report today which showed construction activity last year was up considerably in 1955 over the previous year.

FORTY-TWO PERMITS ISSUED Forty-two building permits were issued during 1955 totaling \$508,623.00. Mr. Randall said, which was almost three times the \$193,815.00 construction totals for 31 permits in 1954.

Thirty-two residential permits were issued, totaling \$148,750.00; eight commercial permits issued, totaling \$256,873.00. One school building permit totaling \$80,000 and one church permit amounting to \$23,000, were issued.

Several more buildings were started in December, 1955. Inspector Randall stated, for which permits have not been applied. Mr. Randall points out the law requires an application for permit must be made before work can begin on a new building.

POST-WAR YEARS GOOD Construction work has been good, except for the one year 1954, in Lincolnton for the past eight years. The years following the war(s) showed building at a high peak; 1951 being the record building year.

Construction expenditure totals for the past eight years in Lincolnton are: 1948—\$456,521.00; 1949—\$637,215.00; 1950—\$627,219.00; 1951—\$654,894.00; 1952—\$412,535.00; 1953—\$525,338.00; 1954—\$193,815.00; 1955—\$508,623.00.

Township Farmers Invited To Social Security Meetings

A meeting for all farmers in Lincoln Township will be held on Wednesday night, January 11, at 7:30, in the county court house.

DISCUSS NEW LAW Joseph Walsh, District Social Security Manager, from the Gastonia Office will discuss the new law concerning farmers and Social Security. The new law requires that all farmers who have a net income of \$400 or more per year or a gross income of \$900 or more per year are required to pay Social Security.

Social Security is said to be the best old age and survival insurance available. A number of farmers in Lincoln County should qualify to draw benefits of \$30.00 or more per month by July, 1956.

Farmers wishing to secure Social Security cards may apply at any Social Security Office. A representative of the Social Security Office is at the Lincoln County court house every Thursday.

OTHER MEETINGS Social Security meetings for other townships are as follows; however, a farmer may come to any meeting he desires:

Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.—Howards Creek School.

Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.—North Brook No. II School.

Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.—Triangle School.

Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.—Asbury School.

No Legion Meeting On Friday Night

The American Legion meeting, scheduled for Friday night of this week, has been postponed, it was announced today.

In lieu of the Friday meeting, all Legion members are requested to attend the Civic Council-sponsored meeting next Monday night. This will be a very important meeting and a good representation of all clubs and organizations is being stressed. Any Legionnaire who can attend this meeting is asked to call Commander Paul Gabriel at RE 5-5548 after 6 p.m. today.

Rites Held For W. P. Rhyne

Wilbur Pressley Rhyne, 66, prominent and respected citizen of Iron Station, died early Saturday morning in a Lincolnton hospital after a short illness.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 4:00 in Warlick Funeral Home chapel with burial in Hollybrook cemetery. Rev. H. A. McCullough officiated.

Surviving are his wife, Eva Lineberger Rhyne, one daughter, Mrs. Mary Estor Modlin; four brothers, Dorsey and Paul, of Iron Station, Victor of Denver, and Claude of Lincolnton; one sister, Mrs. Verma Rhyne of Iron Station.

Fire Destroys Devine Home

Fire destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Devine of Lincolnton, Route 5, Buffalo Shoals road section, around noon last Saturday.

Part of the contents from only one room was all that was saved by the family from the blaze, which was reported to have started from the sudden flareup of a small stove.

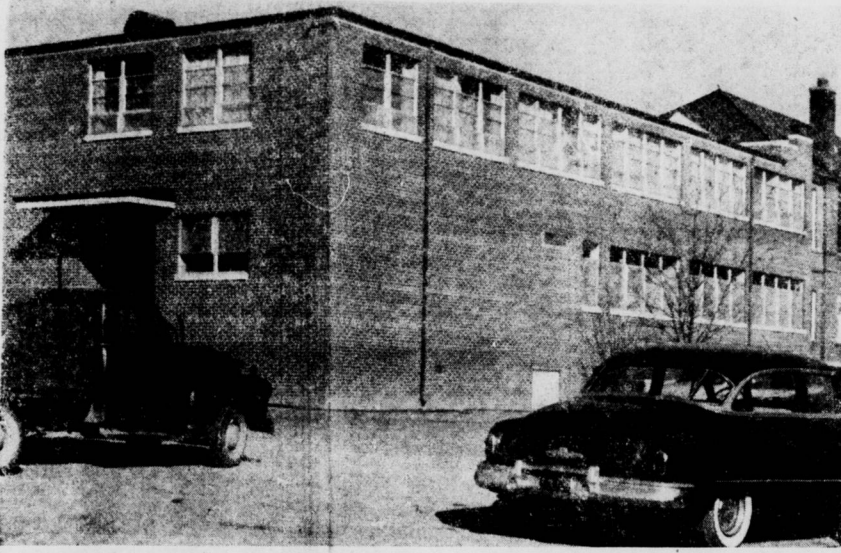
Mr. Devine, a former county commissioner, was not home at the time, only his wife and several of the children. The family is temporarily making their home with relatives.

Lincolnton firemen were called to the scene, but were unable to save the home.

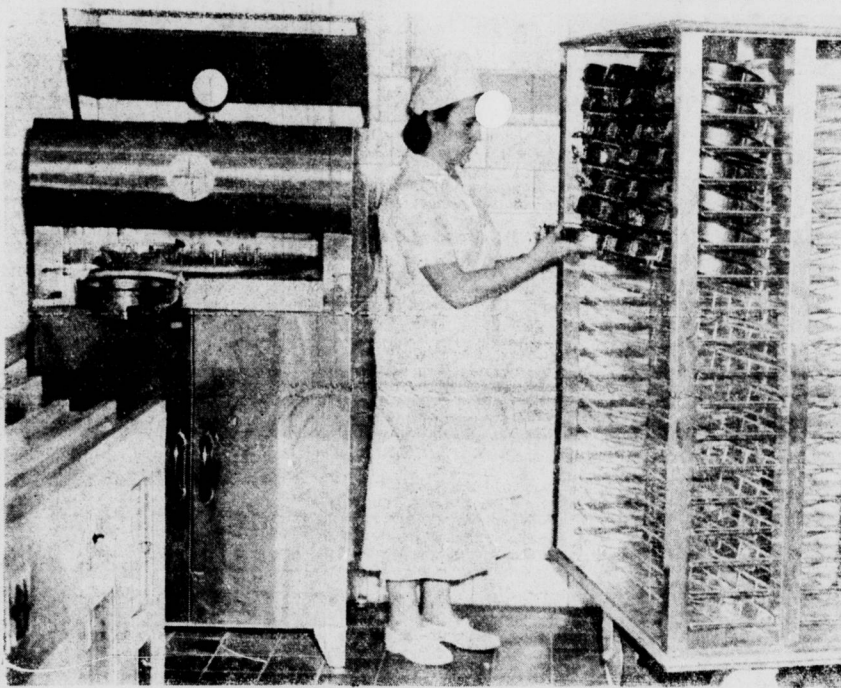
City firemen also answered two calls on Saturday night. One was to the Bruck Blanton residence in the city, where an oil stove had caused the house to catch fire. Damage was reported around \$100. The second call was to the Ezra Mace residence in the county, where a fire threatened to break out around a chimney.

At 1:30 this afternoon, firemen were called to the C. D. Stroup apartment on East Water Street, where a blaze had ignited in the kitchen. The Times had no report of estimated damages before going to press.

Crowds Throng To "Open House" Marking Hospital's Growth Here



PARTIAL VIEW of new multi-thousand-dollar wing at Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital, being toured today and tomorrow by the public at "Open House." The addition represents a year-long expansion and modernization program. (Times Photo by Frazier).



RACK UPON RACK OF "Meal-Packs" are lined up here in the scientific new kitchen of Crowell Memorial Hospital, ready to convey food steaming hot to the 105 patient rooms. The racks are being loaded by Elvie Spivey. (Times Photo by Frazier).

Event Continuing Today And Tues. At Crowell Memorial

Long lines of visitors to Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital here yesterday were visibly impressed by the result of a year-long expansion program which has added a two-story, 22-bed wing to increase the hospital's bed capacity to 105.

Stores May Decide On Closings

An important meeting of the Merchants Association has been called for tomorrow (Tuesday) morning at 10 o'clock in the court room of the county courthouse.

Although nothing official was announced, it is believed closing schedules will be discussed and decided upon by member stores of the association.

In view of contemplated changes in schedules by some local firms, a uniform opening and closing schedule is the reported aim. The recent decision of Charlotte stores to disperse with the Wednesday afternoon closings and remain open six full days a week has had its effect here, and it unofficially is reported some firms also would be in favor of going on six-days-a-week schedules. However, most stores are said to be in favor of retaining Wednesday afternoon closings. One local firm, Conner Furniture Co., went on a six-day schedule last week, and some others may follow, if not now, then in the spring, reports indicate. The local drug stores also recently worked out cooperative schedules, whereby one of the stores is open all day Wednesdays, open certain hours on Sunday.

"SERVES WIDE AREA" The local hospital, which, according to those in a position to know, would reflect credit on a city or county much larger than Lincolnton and Lincoln County, carries a staff of 86 persons, exclusive of the medical and surgical staffs. It serves not only this immediate community, but an area covering miles around. The hospital long ago achieved a widespread reputation for friendliness and efficient service and treatment, and this reputation has been maintained over the years at the 43-year-old local hospital, which first opened its doors on March 11, 1907.

The hospital was opened on that far-distant day by the late Dr. L. A. Crowell, Sr., and Dr. R. W. Petrie. The first operation was a modest one, presenting an accommodation of eight to twelve beds, but the seeds for a steady growth were sown at that time.

Army Reservists To Hold Public Info Meet Here

In an effort to further the Army Reserve Recruiting Program under the provisions of The Reserve Forces Act of 1955, the office of The Senior Unit Advisor, United States Army Reserve will conduct a public information service to be held in Lincolnton at the Army Reserve Training Center located at 109 Sycamore Street on Jan. 16, 1956.

A representative of the Charlotte office will be available to the public from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the above date for the purpose of answering questions arising from draft age personnel, parents of young men who are approaching draft age, or personnel with prior service in any of the Armed Forces.

The Reserve Forces Law 262 concerning High School Juniors and Seniors between the age of 17 and 18½ will be explained fully. It is felt that this time, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., is the most convenient time, especially for High School personnel.

The Armed Forces Act of 1955, signed into law on Aug. 9, by the president of the United States is of deep concern to all persons between the age of 17 and 26, and in some instances, through age 35 for those persons who have had no prior military service.

HONEST CONFUSION

A small boy had to apologize for forgetting his aunt's birthday. He wrote: "I am sorry I forgot your birthday. I have no excuse, and it would serve me right if you forgot mine on Friday."

"Must" Have Blood At Unit Visit On Monday

By LEWIS E. EVERLINE, Lincoln County Blood Program Chairman

We are calling on you to give blood at the visit of the American Red Cross Bloodmobile on Monday, January 16. We must have your support if the visit is to be a success. We are seeking 150 pints of blood at this visit to try to make up some of the deficit that occurred at some of our past visits. This is a special plea to business men, factory workers, civic clubs, teachers, Home Demonstration Clubs, and others to get behind our call for blood and help us in this all-important service.

The Blood Bank cannot be of the service to the people of Lincoln County or to the other 29 counties

Crowds attending on the first day of a three-day "Open House" event learned on their tours of inspection that the expansion program was also a modernization program, since the first floor of the new addition consists of a staff dining room and a hospital kitchen which is the latest accomplishment in scientific design. Gordon Crowell Memorial Hospital now joins the ranks of big city hospitals in being equipped to prepare and dispense meals with dispatch and keep all items steaming hot from the ranges to the patient's room.

Large numbers yesterday responded to the hospital's invitation and from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., toured the new 89 by 40-foot wing, examining both floors, and comments overheard indicated that the visitors were excited and thrilled at what has been wrought since the project was begun late in January of last year. The planning had begun a year earlier.

"Open House" at Gordon Crowell Memorial continues today from 2 to 4 in the afternoon and from 7 to 9 this evening; and the same inspection hours will be observed again tomorrow, the final day of the formal "Open House."

Thirteen years later, in 1920, the hospital had received such public acceptance that a major building program was undertaken. The expansion added first and second floors to the northern wing. Again, five years later, in 1925, another expansion was begun. This was interrupted by the death of the late Dr. Gordon Crowell, a son of the founder.

CLINIC IS ADDED However, in 1926, The Clinic, the southern wing, was completed, and the entire building was brick-veneered. In 1952, an addition was made to The Clinic to provide additional office space for the growing staff of physicians. Also in 1952, the attractive and modern

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Free VFW Supper Set For Tonight A free supper to members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post will be served at the post home this evening at 7 o'clock, with the regular bi-weekly meeting to follow. All members have been urged to attend.

Miss Williamson Is Hurt In Alabama Wreck

Miss Leona Williamson of Boger City, a teacher at the Asbury Elementary school, received painful cuts and bruises in an automobile accident near Mobile, Ala., Thursday evening.

Miss Williamson was returning home from a Christmas and New Year holiday trip from Arizona with Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Proctor of Charlotte, formerly of Boger City, and Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Ennis of Benson, near Raleigh, when the accident occurred. The driver of the other car involved in the collision was charged with drunken driving. Miss Williamson and group

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LOHR L. REYNOLDS...

Railroad Trackman, Retiring, Looking Ahead To "Gardening, Fishing, Church"

By SMACK PROCTOR

With nearly a half century of railroading behind him, a Crouse man is looking ahead to relaxing, easy-going days of "gardenings, fishing and church work."

Lohr L. Reynolds parts from his first love-railroading-tomorrow (Tuesday, January 10) when he retires at the age of 65 from 49 years and eight months of work with the track department of the Seaboard Railway Co. His territory has been the Monroe to Rutherfordton line.

He first began working with the railroad at the tender age of 15, but in the true tradition of the profession he made a good one, and 45 of his 49 years plus on the rails has been served as a foreman of a track crew.

Mr. Reynolds says he could go on until age 70 with his work with the railroad, that he doesn't have to retire at 65, but he feels 65 is a suitable age to call it quits. "At my age, the weather conditions you have to work under outdoors gradually becomes harder on

WALTER HOOD OF DENVER...

Lincoln Native Back Home After Art Study In Rome

By MRS. GABRIEL SIGMON

Walter Hood, of near Denver, Lincoln County, has returned home after two years of study at the American Academy in Rome, Italy.

RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP It was while attending the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in March 1953, that Mr. Hood received the Abbey Mural

Fellowship of New York City which granted him the privilege of studying in Rome.

In May 1953, Hood also received the J. Henry Scheidt Traveling Fellowship from the Pennsylvania Academy for his splendid work in mural painting. The scholarship granted three months of study in South America, but was deferred

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you," he said, "and my work has kept me tied down on the road most of the time without much

leisure time at home with my family and friends. I suppose it's time I took a rest."

He recalls "not having missed a pay day since I've been on the railroad." The only time he's been sidelined from his work in those near-50 years was for a siege of typhoid, and a minor operation he underwent. "Missed about 4 months out of the whole time I've been with Seaboard because of these two things," he added.

What about physical accidents? None, he says. He could recall no serious derailments on his section during the 49 plus years, but a few on some other sections of the line.

"WORST TIME" However, things aren't easy for a railroad track or maintenance crew, he points out. He remembers in 1916, the time of the big floods, as the "worst time I've ever had." The railroad bridges were all washed away at that time, he re-

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LOHR L. REYNOLDS